

**Faculty of Business, Law and Social Sciences**

|  |
| --- |
| **Proposed Title:**  Coercion and controlling behaviours in intimate relationships: An exploratory study |
| **School:** School of Social Sciences |
| **Proposed Supervisory Team:**  Dr Natalie Harrison (School of Social Sciences/Department of Psychology)  Dr Chrisa Pornari (School of Social Sciences/Department of Psychology)  Dr Deborah Earnshaw (School of Social Sciences/Department of Psychology)  Dr Laura Hammond (School of Social Sciences/Department of Psychology) |
| **Abstract:**  Coercive and controlling behaviours were introduced into the UK definition of domestic violence in 2015. This is defined as; “Any incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive or threatening behaviour, violence or abuse between those aged 16 or over who are or have been intimate partners or family members regardless of gender or sexuality” (Home Office, 2015). Since its implementation, recorded offences have steadily increased; in the year ending March 2018, 9,053 were recorded (ONS, 2018). When observing Crown Prosecution Service statistics, there were 5 offences where prosecution commenced in the year ending March 2016, this increased to 309 offences in the year ending March 2017, and they increased to 906 offences in the year ending March 2018 (ONS, 2019). However, this is likely to be the tip of the iceberg, as many incidents remain unreported or unrecognised.  The PhD will aim to explore and further understand coercive and controlling behaviours. The research will investigate this through mixed methods research studies. The combined outcome of this project will be a PhD thesis providing a comprehensive insight into coercive and controlling behaviours, specifically focusing on how people understand and make sense of these. Upon completion the successful student should emerge as a qualified and highly competitive candidate for further academic work. |
| **Research Environment:**  The student will become a member of the Crime and Society research centre within the School of Social Sciences. The Crime and Society Research Centre aims to investigate and develop understanding of societal, criminological and psychological processes underpinning crime, criminality and criminal justice proceedings and criminal case outcomes, through the creation and dissemination of excellent and impactful research, innovation and scholarship, as defined in the School of Sciences Research Strategy, which adheres to and promotes the university’s core values at each and every stage, from inception through to a lasting legacy. The centre itself has many active researchers and all work produced is expected to have a significant impact and influence on communities, particularly when highlighting discrimination and individualities.  All centres have a strong outward focus, both developing interdisciplinary links and collaborating with partners at local, national and international levels. |
| **Applicant Requirements:**  **Essential:**   * 2:1 or higher BSc. Psychology (BPS accredited) degree * MSc in Forensic Psychology * Good understanding and insight of intimate partner violence. * Good understanding of both quantitative and qualitative research methods * Good writing ability * Good communication skills   **Desirable:**   * Advanced experience of quantitative and qualitative data analysis * PGCert in Teaching and Learning |
| **Contact: Name, e-mail and telephone number:**  Dr Natalie Harrison  [Natalie.Harrison@bcu.ac.uk](mailto:Natalie.Harrison@bcu.ac.uk)  (+44)121 331 7253  Dr Chrisa Pornari  [Chrisa.Pornari@bcu.ac.uk](mailto:Chrisa.Pornari@bcu.ac.uk)  Dr Deborah Earnshaw  [Deborah.Earnshaw@bcu.ac.uk](mailto:Deborah.Earnshaw@bcu.ac.uk)  Dr Laura Hammond  [Laura.Hammond@bcu.ac.uk](mailto:Laura.Hammond@bcu.ac.uk) |