

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

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| **Proposed Title:** An evaluation of the Improving Access to Psychological Therapies (IAPT) service: Understanding the effectiveness of psychological interventions offered on Black and Minority Ethnic communities. |
| **School:** Social Sciences (Department of Psychology) |
| **Proposed Supervisory Team:**  Dr Athfah Akhtar  Dr Panagiotis Rentzelas  Dr Silvio Aldrovandi |
| **Abstract:**  Statistics show that individuals from BME communities experience comparable, if not higher levels of CMHDs. However, there is no clear evidence to show how well individuals from BME backgrounds engage with psychological interventions and whether these interventions are effective in treating this population. The aim of the PhD will be to use the rich data that is collected by IAPT services which currently is underutilised. Through this PhD the prospective candidate will apply innovative statistical data analysis techniques to see whether evidence-based psychological interventions offered by IAPT services are effective in treating common mental health disorders (CMHDs) for BME groups. |
| **Research Environment:**  This project will be one of three flagship PhD studentships of the recently launched *Birmingham Data Lab*, part of Birmingham City University’s School of Social Sciences. The Data Lab was established in 2019 to examine the important social issues facing Birmingham using large data sets, investigating questions which are relevant to the public and private sector during the next decade of dramatic structural and social change. The Data Lab employs in-house research and large data set skills within the School of Social Sciences to target the research questions of most concern and highest priority for local communities and stakeholders. |
| **Candidate Requirements:**  **Essential:**  As this project will involve working with schools, a suitable candidate will only be appointed subject to a full, clear, enhanced DBS check  BSc Psychology (Hons) Degree (2:1)  Computer proficiency (Microsoft office, SPSS)  Good communication skills  Good writing ability  PG Cert or willingness to gain  Undergraduate level quantitative statistical analysis  Effective oral and written communication skills  Ability to work as a member of a team with shared goals  Interpersonal skills, ability to relate to others with tact and diplomacy  **Desirable:**  First Class BSc Psychology (Hons) degree  MSc in Psychology or Psychological Research Methods  Experience of working with mental health populations or in NHS mental health services.  Candidates who are quantitative focussed and experienced in large data sets. |
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