

Postdoctoral Position

Work-Related Suicide: An International Social Justice Analysis



Number of positions: 1

Workplace: University of Ottawa, Faculty of Social Sciences, Department of Criminology

Contract Period: 3 years (36 months)

Expected date of employment: 1 October 2025

Proportion of work: Full Time

Salary: \$53,000 – \$55,000 per year (plus paid opportunity to teach)

Level of education: Doctorate (within 5 years of having completed a PhD)

Applications will close at 11:59 pm on Friday, August 22.

About the position

We are looking for a postdoctoral researcher to join an international and interdisciplinary research team undertaking an international analysis of work-related suicides from a social justice perspective. This research project, funded by the Wellcome Trust, aims to deepen the understanding of causes and contexts of work-related suicide in three national contexts: the United Kingdom, France, and Canada. The project is grounded in a social justice perspective, focusing on issues of justice, recognition, equity, responsibility, and prevention for both suicidal individuals and bereaved families.

You will be hired as a postdoctoral researcher and will actively contribute to a qualitative research programme, including case identification, interviews, research analysis, document analysis, and data analysis. You will also contribute to broader research activities and deliverables, including publications, reports, conferences, and the dissemination of results online and on select social media platforms. Travel will be required to conduct interviews, attend international conferences, and participate in research team meetings. This is an action-oriented project, and we seek to use our research findings to support policy change and improve lived experiences.

Activities

You will conduct interviews with research participants who have experienced suicidality or bereavement due to suicide. You will work with the team to analyze qualitative and quantitative data in France and help prepare research articles and reports. You will also contribute to a comparative analysis of different systems regarding the causes and consequences of work-related suicide. Further responsibilities include supporting our online and social media publications, interacting with policymakers and stakeholders at national and international levels, and participating in the creative, diverse, and impactful dissemination of research results involving various socioeconomic and cultural groups and a wide range of stakeholders.

Qualifications and Skills

Essential (these are the skills that you must be able to demonstrate that you have experience of)

- Experience with qualitative and interdisciplinary research in sensitive areas, acquired through a PhD or equivalent experience.
- Experience conducting interviews on sensitive topics.
- Experience in data collection, organization, and analysis.
- Evidence of contribution to research and scholarship through publications or relevant project work.
- Ability to collect and utilize research data using qualitative methods.
- Excellent interpersonal and communication skills, both written and oral.
- Ability to communicate effectively with a wide range of stakeholders.
- Strong data management and organizational skills.
- Experience producing results for the web and social media.
- Commitment to a positive and supportive research culture and the principles of equality, diversity, and inclusion.
- Fluency in French is an asset

Desirable (these are the skills that its desirable to be able to demonstrate that you have experience of)

- Lived experience of suicidality, whether through personal, professional, or bereavement experience.
- Experience in suicide research.
- Experience in research on the workplace or work-related studies.
- Experience collaborating with external partners such as policymakers, unions, charities, and campaign groups.
- Experience working on transnational projects.

Work Context

This position offers a unique opportunity to collaborate with an interdisciplinary and transnational research team, acquire practical experience with advanced methodologies, and contribute to impactful research that bridges academic work and real-world policy. You will be based at the University of Ottawa, Department of Criminology, and work under the supervision of Professor Steven Bittle. You will be part of a supportive and socially active research team, working closely with the principal investigator Professor Sarah Waters (University of Leeds), co-investigators Dr. China Mills (Healing Justice London) and Professor Loïc Lerouge (University of Bordeaux), as well as two research assistants and a project coordinator.

The University of Ottawa is the largest bilingual (English-French) university in the world. Located in the heart of Canada's capital, we have ready access to the great institutions of this country. Situated in the Faculty of Social Sciences, the Department of Criminology is nationally and internationally recognized for its cutting-edge approach of various social justice issues.

The University of Ottawa offers a range of resources to postgraduate fellows including professional skills development and training in post-secondary education through the Center for University Teaching. Moreover, as a post-doctoral student, the successful applicant will be offered the opportunity to teach an undergraduate class.

Work location

Based in Ottawa, ideally the selected candidate will reside nearby, although we are open to discussing hybrid working arrangements. The position also involves national travel to meet interviewees and international travel for attending team meetings and research dissemination events.

To apply

Application is by way of a **CV and responses to the following questions** (answers should be no more than 500 words per question):

1. Tell us about your interest in work-related suicide as a social justice issue.
2. How does this role and research project relate to your experience (Lived and/or learned)?
3. Share an example of your own research/work which makes you proud (for example, reflecting on process and/or impact).

Your CV should include relevant experience (from paid work and/or community work), including details about research experience, outputs (including publications and reports, if relevant), dissemination, and impact.

Applications should be sent by email (with ‘Work-Related Suicide Researcher application’ in the subject line) to: Steven Bittle, Professor, Department of Criminology, University of Ottawa: sbittle@uottawa.ca

Your CV & answers to the above questions should be saved in pdf format with your name.

CLOSING: Applications will close at 11:59 pm on Friday, August 22.

INTERVIEWS: Interviews for successful applicants will be held the week commencing Monday September 15th. Interviews will be held over zoom with a panel of 3 people.

If you have questions about this position, please contact sbittle@uottawa.ca.