



Job Title:	Casual Research Assistant	Reports to:	Dr Kalissa Alexeyeff
Department/Group:	School of Social and Political Sciences	Dates:	2-31 January 2018
Location:	Melbourne	Travel Required:	No
Salary Range:	\$40-\$45 per hour	Position Type:	Contract
How to apply: Please send cover letter and CV to amanda.gilbertson@unimelb.edu.au by midnight Fri 24 November. Shortlisted applicants may be asked to attend a brief interview in the week 27 Nov – 3 Dec 2017.			
Job Description			

Role and Responsibilities

A research assistant (RA) is required full-time 2-31 January 2018 to help with a literature review on the concept of social norms as used in academic and NGO literature on gender-based violence and gender inequality more broadly. With guidance from the research team, the RA will be expected to:

- Identify relevant academic literature
- Identify relevant literature produced by large development organizations such as Oxfam, the World Bank, and DFID
- Produce an annotated bibliography of texts selected by research team
- Create a timeline mapping the emergence of the term, its spread and changes in its use over time.
- Assist in organizing a workshop

A full-time RA is preferred (40 hours per week) but hours can be negotiated. Start and finish dates are also negotiable, but this work will need to be completed by mid-February.

Project Description

Gender inequality is increasingly understood as a problem caused by social norms, with transformation of social norms becoming the dominant model for promoting gender equality globally. This project investigates the genealogy of 'social norms' in order to understand its suitability for tackling complex formations of inequality within which gender-based violence is embedded. We will explore the origins of the concept in public health research and then trace the historical, geographical, economic, and interdisciplinary trajectories of 'social norms' and its influence on contemporary development practice. Our preliminary investigations suggest that the concept is used differently in different geographic locations and within different disciplinary traditions and practice-based interventions.

We contend that these transformations in the concept have consequences for how the causes, nature and solutions to gender inequality and GBV are imagined. We will identify the terms social norms has displaced (such as culture, attitudes and values), the limits of the concept (its individualizing, depoliticizing and culture-blaming potentials and well as its potential inadequacy for capturing the plurality of inequalities and violence) and its potentially laudatory effects. Outcomes will inform both academic and policy usage of 'social norms'.

Qualifications and Education Requirements

Required:

- A degree in a social science discipline
- Experience of independent research (e.g. Honours/Masters/Doctoral thesis)

Desirable:

- Familiarity with literature in Gender Studies, Development Studies and/or Public Health.
- Experience producing literature reviews.