

Applications are invited for a full-time **PhD studentship in Social Anthropology** at the University of Bristol in the Department of Anthropology and Archaeology. The studentship will form part of a **UKRI Funded (ERC selected) Project entitled *INFRACURSIONS: Deregulated Infrastructures of Extraction in Rainforest Frontiers*** and will work under the supervision of Dr Amy Penfield.

Project overview:

INFRACURSIONS aims to develop a comparative study of ‘incursion economies’ defined as deregulated economies based on invasion of global frontiers and that result in environmental destruction. The study will focus on clandestine land grabbing, illegal logging, and prospector mining in Amazon frontiers and will gather data from anthropology, geography/GIS, and social policy to answer the following questions:

1. What historical factors have led to incursions and what are the environmental impacts?
2. What are the motivations and experiences that underpin incursion economies?
3. What social and technical arrangements facilitate the existence of incursions?
4. How do incursion economies intersect?

Data collection will take place in Peru, Bolivia and Brazil, using predominantly actor-centred methodologies.

Research methodology:

The doctoral fellow will form part of the research team but with a specific research focus on local institutions (activist associations and other civil society organisations) that deal with bureaucratic and legal procedures on a regular basis. This research will contribute to a work package that investigates legal frameworks within the context of informal extraction. Institutions could include logger syndicates, landholder or squatter associations, mining cooperatives or federations for extractivist rights. The doctoral fellow will also be expected to undertake policy research in their region of research.

Your Tasks:

- You will undertake **fieldwork on one of the three incursion economies (illegal logging, mining or land grabbing) within a particular country**. You are encouraged to bring your own ideas to the topic and to help shape research on the research questions outlined above.
- You will complete a PhD thesis under the supervision of the Principal Investigator (PI), Dr Amy Penfield.
- You will contribute to the outputs of INFRACURSIONS, most notably by (co-)authoring publications; co-organizing workshops, conferences and lecture series; presenting your results at international workshops and conferences; and contributing to the project’s website and social media accounts.
- You will assist the team with administrative and organizational support.
- You will actively contribute to the activities of the Department of Anthropology and Archaeology at the University of Bristol in general.
- You will, where appropriate, share research data and collaborate with other team members.

What we are looking for:

- We are seeking a student with a good first degree (at least 2:1) and preferably a Masters (or equivalent) in Anthropology or a related topic area such as human geography, Latin American studies, social science, 3rd sector expertise or other closely related field (to be completed by the start date of the position).
- You are familiar with anthropological research methods. Training in ethnographic methods will be provided but some prior familiarity or experience is desirable.
- You are highly motivated to work on your case study as an early career researcher and to be an active member of an international research team.
- Ideally, you are already acquainted with South American/Amazon politics, history and/or policy and have relevant research experience.
- You are capable of producing high-quality written work in English and/or Spanish/Portuguese.
- You have experience in conducting independent research to completion, including skills for identifying and articulating a research programme, obtaining and synthesising relevant knowledge, analysing data, and writing and presenting results for dissemination.
- You have excellent language skills in either Spanish or Portuguese.
- You have very good communication skills.
- You are willing to do fieldwork in a country in South America that comprise the project case studies (Brazil, Peru or Bolivia) but make a case for a different region you believe could be appropriate.

What we can offer you:

- We offer you a full-time position for four years as doctoral fellow, subject to positive evaluation after one year.
- You will be part of an exciting new Incursion Economies research group and a cutting edge four-field anthropology department with a strong focus on Latin America and the Caribbean.
- You will be provided with office space and a computer at the University of Bristol, and will receive funding for fieldwork, and for attending workshops and conferences.
- You will be automatically enrolled in the [University of Bristol Doctoral College](#), which organises specialist courses and transferable skills seminars, as well as general support for doctoral researchers at the University of Bristol.

Funding:

The successful candidate will be supported for 4 years full-time, which will include:

- A maintenance stipend in time with UKRI (£18,622 in 2023/24).
- Tuition fees at the Home rate [additional costs waived for Overseas students as per ERC funding policy].
- An opportunity to gain paid experience as a Teaching Assistant in Anthropology (subject to availability, qualifications and completing of relevant training).
- Allowances for research expenses, including computer and recording materials, and travel and subsistence costs towards fieldwork.

How to apply:

To apply for this opportunity, you must submit an application for the Anthropology and Archaeology PhD for September 2024 entry. You can begin the process of submitting your application here: <http://www.bristol.ac.uk/study/postgraduate/apply/>. In the Fee Information section, please state that you are applying for **PhD studentship in Incursion Economies**.

This project is only available for full-time students. The closing date for applications is 3rd June 2024. The student will be expected to start by September 2024.

Your application must include the following documents as listed on the Anthropology and Archaeology PGR Admissions Statement:

- References
- Degree certificate(s) and academic transcripts
- English language certificates/other evidence
- Curriculum Vitae (CV)

But the application must also include the following:

- In place of a statement of purpose, please include a **letter of motivation** in which you state your interest in this particular position and how you fit the criteria (**no more than one side of A4**).
- In place of a research statement, please include a **research proposal** specific to this project, including a proposed region, institution, research questions, analytical framework and list of references (**no more than three sides of A4**).
- A copy of your **MA thesis**. If the thesis is not yet complete, please submit a part of it (at least an abstract, the introduction and a full chapter) or another substantial piece of academic writing (such as a section of an undergraduate dissertation, MA research paper, publication, etc.) that demonstrates your ability to communicate academic ideas and research in scholarly fashion. Please upload via the section labelled "**Admissions Documents (Miscellaneous)**".

Equal opportunity is University Policy. We invite applications from candidates from all backgrounds and ethnicities.

For questions about this vacancy, please contact Dr Amy Penfield: amy.penfield@bristol.ac.uk, quoting "PhD INFRACURSIONS" in the subject line.

For questions about the application process, please contact the Faculty of Arts Postgraduate Research Admissions Office: artf-gradschool-admissions@bristol.ac.uk.

Selection Timeline:

- Application deadline: **3rd June 2024, 23h59 GMT**.
- All candidates will be notified until **mid-June 2024** whether they will be invited for an interview.
- Shortlisted candidates will be interviewed **mid- to late-June 2024**. This will happen via videocall.
- Final candidate will be informed of the outcome by **late-June/early-July 2024**.

- Studentship start date is ideally **September 2024** (but can be negotiated).