

PhD Studentship: Gender Identity and Education for Sustainability in UK Secondary Schools

Project description

Education is often seen as the most effective tool societies have in dealing with future challenges such as environmental crises. While education for sustainability has been integrated into school primary curricula and its impact researched, examination of education for sustainability in UK secondary schools has received little attention. The recent Schools Strike for Climate saw secondary school students around the globe engaged in protest around the lack of political action on climate change, but international studies suggest there is an 'eco-gender gap', with levels of environmental concern being higher among young women. The examination of this relationship between gender identity and pro-environmental attitudes and behaviour during adolescence, however, is under-researched. This project will explore the 'eco-gender gap' and consider how this might be addressed through education for sustainability in UK secondary schools.

The proposed aims of this project are:

- To evaluate how gender identity impacts pro-environmental attitudes and behaviour amongst adolescents in the UK;
- To explore how gender identity and intersectional factors interconnect with education for sustainability in the UK secondary education sector;
- To develop a series of secondary school teaching materials designed to address the eco-gender gap.

The successful candidate will have skills in qualitative and/or quantitative research methods and have a robust awareness of the key sustainable development goals, and/or education for sustainability more broadly. They will develop their theoretical framework and research design for the project and will have flexibility in shaping their study, in consultation with the supervisory team. This project will appeal to a candidate with experience in gender studies, geography, education, sociology or a related social science discipline. Experience in the education sector is also desirable.

Funding

DMU is offering a fully-funded 3-year PhD scholarship for this work, **commencing on 1st October 2021**. The stipend is pegged to the UKRI rate, currently at £15,609 per annum. **Lead Supervisor** is Dr Erika Cudworth (erika.cudworth@dmu.ac.uk).

Applicants must:

- Possess a UK Honours degree with at least an upper second class (or overseas equivalent), a Masters Degree or an academic or professional qualification plus experience in their sector or industry.
- Demonstrate competence in the use of the English language. Please see section 5b [here](#) for further details on meeting our English language entry criteria.

How to apply

Please go to the [scholarships page](#) which outlines the 2-stage process for applying for these scholarships.