SELF FUNDED PHD OPPORTUNITY

Working title: Understanding the “blue-light” personality: An exploration of the socio-psychological characteristics and competencies of emergency services personnel in the UK.

Abstract
This project will attempt to identify the characteristics and competencies of a range of emergency services personnel (i.e. paramedics, A & E doctors, police officers, and firefighters). The sampling focus would be on individuals whose role is both time-pressurised and stress-inducing due to the nature of the profession. This project could adopt a quantitative self-report cross-sectional survey design in order to explore a variety of socio-psychological constructs that have previously been linked to performance in emergency service roles (i.e. personality, coping skills, emotional intelligence, resilience and decision-making style). The study could focus on identifying a combination of both static (i.e. fixed) traits/characteristics and dynamic (i.e. potentially trainable) characteristics/skills possessed by emergency services personnel in the UK. An additional element of the study could also explore relationships between the aforementioned socio-psychological constructs and levels of stress, well-being and burnout to establish whether certain combinations of traits/characteristics predict higher levels of burnout/negative wellbeing within emergency service personnel. Of additional interest is the potential role of gender and whether the blue-light socio-psychological profile and levels of stress/wellbeing/burnout differ across male and female emergency services personnel. The findings of this study will have various implications for emergency service providers. These include informing the selection and training protocols for new personnel, identifying potential training needs of existing personnel and providing opportunities to develop training programmes designed to enhance the resilience and coping skills of personnel working within blue-light professions.

Proposed Supervisory Team:

- Dr Amy Grubb (School of Psychology) (Director of Studies)
- Dr Holly Andrews (Business School)
- Dr Kazia Anderson (School of Psychology)