

**Applied Sociology Thematic Group**  
*For the Sociology Practitioner*  
*Or Sociologists who work outside University*

**Contact email for September 2012**

Greetings All,

My thoughts this month have turned to the question of jobs for Practitioners of Sociology. At a time when jobs are hard to get, can a Sociologist get a job outside academia? A look at the job adverts and the on-line employment agencies sites, will occasionally produce results. For instance, Advertised by 'Jobsearch' this month at: <http://www.jobsearch.com.au/>

## **Senior Sociologist**

URS Corporation - 9020 - Brisbane QLD

Requisition Number: URS52922 Interest Category: Project/Program Management Interest Sub Category: Planning Job Title: Senior Sociologist Employment Category/Status: full-time Type of Position: Regular, Hire Country: Australia State/Province: Queensland City: Brisbane Minimum Requirements: Qualifications. Relevant degree and at least 8 years equivalent direct work experience. Current Driver's License in accordance with Queensland legislation. Effective and proactive management of time. From URS Corporation

URS is a professional services company providing engineering and environmental and expertise to businesses and communities within Australia and around the globe. Our Australian staff are dedicated to delivering technically excellent, cost effective, innovative and sustainable solutions tailored to specific project and client needs. We form a strong multi-disciplinary team bringing knowledge, talent, experience and passion to what we do. We operate with a global network of more than 50,000 personnel in 34 countries. In Australia we have 10 offices with more than 850 professionals. Offices are located in: Adelaide, Brisbane, Broken Hill, Canberra, Darwin, Melbourne, Newcastle, Perth, Sydney and Tatura.

*This position has now been filled.*

The Federal Government's Job Outlook web site for Social Professionals

(<http://joboutlook.gov.au/pages/occupation.aspx?code=2724>) describes their skills and the work they do as:

*"Social Professionals research and study human behaviour, society and institutions from current and historical perspectives, and verbally render spoken statements, and transcribe text and recorded spoken material from one language into another."* They then give a 'clear' indication of who these people are: "Historians, Interpreters, Translators and Social Professionals" but they do not define who is a social professional. TASA needs to take this up.

Another site:

(<http://www.myfuture.edu.au/the%20Facts/Work%20and%20Employment/Occupations/Details.aspx?Anzsco=272499H>) does identify Sociologists and tells the reader that they may perform the

following tasks:

- *observe and investigate social groups and subjects such as the family, the community, education, industrial relations, crime, politics, minority and ethnic relations, poverty and mass communications*
- *research, collect and analyse data, often using computers*
- *record and interpret facts and figures and write reports*
- *undertake systematic interviews of selected individuals*
- *live in the community being studied to assist their own understanding.*

Jobrapido (<http://au.jobrapido.com/>) lists (12 Sep) the following jobs for Sociologists:

### Social Scientist (Rural sociology)

Company name not available, [www.nrmjobs.com.au](http://www.nrmjobs.com.au) , 12 Sep 2012, East Maitland

### School Administrator

Australian National University, [www.anu.edu.au](http://www.anu.edu.au) • 11 Sep 2012, Canberra

### Human Resources Manager, Western Australia

URS Corporation , [www.urscorp.com](http://www.urscorp.com) , 11 Sep 2012, City Of Perth

### Academic writers needed - Academic Writing

Elance, [www.elance.com](http://www.elance.com) , 3 Sep 2012, Australia

### Sociology Research - Research Academic Writing

Elance, [www.elance.com](http://www.elance.com) , 1 Sep 2012, Australia

Other sites, such as '[seek.com.au](http://seek.com.au)' or '[careerone.com.au](http://careerone.com.au)' offer nothing. In the wider sphere the American Sociological Association offer a good service on available non-academic jobs. For instance, take a look at '[gfkamerica.com/careers/index.en.html](http://gfkamerica.com/careers/index.en.html)'. The British Sociological Association also advertises jobs. Mostly academic but there are government and private industry jobs amongst them. TASA needs to keep an eye on the job market in Australia. Press for the acknowledgement of sociology as an employable qualification, and for sociological identification where sociological skills are required for jobs.

Another site you may find of interest is *Beyond Academe*: <http://www.beyondacademe.com/>. It's geared toward History graduates but its discussion about looking for jobs beyond academia applies to most humanities and social science graduates. We need to believe and see to it, that B.A. degree with a sociology major does have value beyond academia.