

RESEARCH PROJECTS

General Considerations.

A few general considerations may be advanced:

1. The scope of each project must be considered as being elastic. A subject may widen out as it is attacked, and may best be treated in this way: or more detailed attention to certain aspects may be more desirable, and a limited piece of research more effective. But there should not be too much restriction as to method at the outset and in this initiatory stage it is probably better to outline an enquiry in wide and "ideal" form. Case studies and limited sample enquiries have great value and must gradually become a part of the work done, but the field of unemployment investigation has been so little worked over in Montreal as yet that it is best not to treat problems too narrowly.

2. Generally speaking, the projects should bear a definite relation to the general research programme. It is important that they should not become too greatly "departmentalised". The key to the research is that we are endeavouring to deal with the multiple aspects of a complex problem.

3. There is room and need, also, for flexibility as to method. A great deal of the research, it is presumed, in effect means simply an extension of the post-graduate work and organisation. And where a research student is engaged on a project, the general requirements for the M.A. degree (if he or she is working for this) can probably be fulfilled without much modification.

It might, however, be the case that one or some of the projects could be better undertaken by other methods. Provided always that the cooperation of the Director, and the sanction of the Executive Committee