



POSTDOC RESEARCH FELLOWS (4 POSTS) (1 year contract)



HUMA - INSTITUTE FOR HUMANITIES IN AFRICA
FACULTY OF HUMANITIES

HUMA - Institute for Humanities in Africa at the University of Cape Town in South Africa in collaboration with LASPAD – Le Laboratoire d’analyse des sociétés et pouvoirs / Afrique-Diasporas at Gaston Berger University in St. Louis, Senegal invites applications for four one-year post-doctoral fellowships in African scholarly publishing and dissemination.

The four postdoctoral research fellows will work as part of a research team on the Open Society Foundation funded project entitled “Strengthening African Academic Publishing and Dissemination”. The objective of this continent wide study is to critically assess the state of scholarly publishing and dissemination in Africa, with a particular focus on identifying the kinds of interventions that need to be carried out to strengthen Africa’s scholarly publishing and knowledge dissemination infrastructure. Specifically, the project seeks to understand how the knowledge economy and industry is positioning itself with respect to AI and rapid global innovations and technological advances in scholarly publishing and dissemination such as digitization, open access, open science, research for development, PoD, Plan S, amongst others.

The successful candidates will work with the research team in research design, data collection and analysis, writing, knowledge mobilization, project management and dissemination in one of four regional clusters and field sites:

1. North & Arabophone Africa
2. West, Central & Francophone Africa
3. East, Swahili & Anglophone Africa
4. Southern & Lusophone Africa

Applicants must clearly indicate the regional cluster, which they are applying to coordinate, clearly demonstrating the research experience they have in these regions, networks established and that will be relied upon to facilitate fieldwork and the relevant/proper documentation that they have and/or can deploy for frequent and flexible mobility in the countries located in the specific region and field sites.

Requirements:

- Completed PhD in a scholarly publishing or knowledge production discipline, particularly in the Social Sciences or Humanities;
- Demonstrable fieldwork experience in Africa beyond home country or country of residence, particularly in the region they are applying to facilitate;
- Experience with a range of social science and/or humanities research methods, as well as scholarly publishing research methods and methodologies, including storytelling, participant observation, arts based and qualitative/quantitative methods;
- Knowledge of and working experience with scholarly publishing organizations or endeavours;
- Knowledge of African scholarly publishing and dissemination contexts/environment;
- Superior writing skills, including the ability to write clear language, and non-academic- friendly documents;
- Superior organizational skills;
- Ability to work in a multicultural team and supervise research assistants;
- Proficiency in spoken and written: (1) French & Arabic for applicants focusing on North & Arabophone Africa; (2) English & French for applicants focusing on West & Central Africa; (3) English and Swahili for applicants focusing on East & Swahili Africa; (4) English & Portuguese for applicants focusing on Southern & Lusophone Africa;
- Evidence of publications in recognised peer-reviewed journals, Working Papers in recognised scholarly Working Paper series, blogs and policy briefs;
- Strong networks and experience working in other parts of Africa and globally;
- Good knowledge of research centres, networks, and universities in Africa.

Award Conditions & Responsibilities:

- The fellowship will commence on February 1, 2021;
- All HUMA Fellowships are open to international candidates, but African and diasporic candidates are encouraged to apply, particularly women;
- Preference will be given to applicants who graduated with the doctoral degree from universities other than those of the host institution;



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- Preference will be given to applicants who were awarded the PhD degree no earlier than 2016 and who are not yet in full time, permanent academic or research posts, and who have not previously held a postdoctoral fellowship;
- This is a sedentary residential fellowship involving travel. The successful applicants must be available to work on site at one of the two partnering institutions at HUMA - University of Cape Town in South Africa, and at LASPAD - Gaston Berger University in St. Louis, Senegal, and in the designated field sites in one of the four clusters; Successful candidates will join the Institute remotely and take up their residency when Covid-19 regulations permit;
- Domestic/international travel will be expected, approximately at least 25%; some travel is directly related to fieldwork, but also to attend team conferences, retreats and meetings— and may occasionally include travel to places with difficult conditions;
- It is crucial that the applicants' research interests are in line with those of HUMA, the project and the host institute.
- Successful candidates will be expected to undertake the agreed research, as stipulated above, as well as optional but limited teaching duties as part of professional development; they will mainly be required to conduct research as part of a larger research team; attend and participate in workshops, seminars and other activities in the Institute; assist with the planning and organisation of one or more workshops; undertake light supervision of students;
- Successful candidates will be expected to produce appropriate scholarly output or publish an appropriate number of papers, as determined by the Institute; they will research, write and revise blogs and academic papers for publication as Working Papers and for submission to journals and or books; and produce radio podcasts and videos on the project for diverse publics;
- Postdoctoral research fellows may not hold any other fellowships without the permission of the Director of the Institute, and, may not undertake employment of any nature without the permission of the Director of the Institute;
- The HUMA Postdoctoral Fellowship is considered a PRIMARY AWARD and cannot be held in full concurrently with any other award without the prior consent of the Institute. A maximum of 50% (R150,000) of the value of the award can be held concurrently with other postdoctoral fellowship(s) up to the overall limit of income from all sources of R460,000;
- Successful candidates will be required to enter into a Memorandum of Agreement with the Institute; and comply with the University's approved policies, procedures and practices for the postdoctoral sector;
- All HUMA fellowships require good interpersonal skills and a commitment to collegial modes of working.

Value and tenure:

- The value of the Fellowship is fixed at R300, 000. The Fellowships carry no benefits and are compliant with the SARS rules for tax exemption;
- Fellows will be eligible for research costs (fieldwork travel)
- Awards are tenable for one year, subject to submission of satisfactory quarterly progress reports, collegiality, teamwork and active participation in the Institute's programme of work.

Application Procedure:

To apply, please email the below documents in a single file (in English or French) to: huma@uct.ac.za

- a motivation letter describing candidate's research interests and suitability for the fellowship, clearly indicating how your research interests contribute to the Institute's intellectual agenda;
- The applicant's full curriculum vitae that includes a full list of publications/research output, presentations at seminars and conferences and grants/awards obtained;
- The names, email addresses and contacts of three academic referees who have taught, supervised, and collaborated with the candidate at university. References will be requested from those short-listed;
- 2 scholarly writing samples;
- 2-3 pages proposed methodology framework, plan and timeframe for triangulated fieldwork to be undertaken employing both quantitative and qualitative research techniques and strategies; the plan should include a critical reflection on plans to undertake fieldwork remotely within the context of lockdown and covid-19.

*****Please note that late and/or incomplete applications will be disqualified. Only short-listed candidates will be contacted. Eligible candidates will be considered by a sub-committee convened by the project coordinators and partnering Institute Directors. As part of the recruitment process, shortlisted candidates will be invited for an



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interview between 21 to 31 January 2021. Successful candidates will join the Institute remotely and take up their residency when Covid-19 regulations permit.

For enquiries about this advertised position, related project and host Institutes, contact:

Either:

(1) Divine Fuh (divine.fuh@uct.ac.za) for inquiries in English and fellowships to be held at HUMA UCT [East, Swahili & Anglophone Africa, Southern & Lusophone Africa],

OR

(2) Mame Penda Ba (mame-penda.ba@ugb.edu.sn) and Rachid Id Yassine (rachid.iy@ugb.edu.sn) for inquiries in French and fellowships to be held at LASPAD UGB [North & Arabophone Africa, West, Central & Francophone Africa].

The closing date for receipt of all applications is 5pm (17H00) on Friday 21st January 2021

The University of Cape Town reserves the right to disqualify ineligible, incomplete and/or inappropriate applications, to change the conditions of award and/or to make no awards at all.