

Swiss – South African Joint Research Programme (SSAJRP)

Call for Proposals Visiting Research Fellowships

2014 – 16

Grant period:	2014 - 2016
Research areas/disciplines:	Critical Diversity Studies (Transdisciplinary Research) Human Mobility and Urban Diversity Studies (Transdisciplinary Research)
Total investment	CHF 300'000 per Visiting Research Fellowship
SSAJRP Grant:	175'000 CHF
Additional Third Party Funding:	125'000 CHF
Submission deadline:	20 January 2014

Background

Building on a first and successfully concluded funding period from 2008 to 2012, the mutually financed Swiss - South African Joint Research Programme (SSAJRP) will enlarge its scope by facilitating the establishment of Visiting Research Fellowships linked to Research Chairs appointed under the South African Research Chairs Initiative (SARChI) to foster collaborative research in areas of mutual interest to the two countries.

South Africa, within its aim to internationalize its Higher Education and Research landscape implemented the SARChI that calls for the best researchers worldwide to fill positions of strategic relevance to the country. For the areas of Migration and Diversity, two research chairs have been reserved exclusively for the cooperation with Switzerland. After identifying the South African research chair holder's through a competitive process the Swiss side is now inviting applications for a Visiting Research Fellow to complement and contribute to each of the chair's activities.

SSAJRP Visiting Research Fellowships

The SSAJRP Visiting Research Fellowships are open to established researchers with international standing whose work links to the areas of Human Mobility and Urban Diversity or Diversity Studies.

In the field of migration the research focus is dedicated to developing comparative perspectives on how mobility and heightening social, cultural and economic diversity are reshaping the politics of rapidly transforming communities across the global south. Through examinations starting in South Africa and extending across Africa and elsewhere, this chair seeks to identify and explain emerging forms of political subjectivity and authority in spaces characterized by continued mobility. The successful Visiting Research Fellow will be undertaking collaborative research with the SARChI chair holder Professor Loren Landau.

In the field of critical diversity studies, many approaches to studying diversity remain focussed on bringing in representative numbers of marginalised groups into organisational settings which remain essentially unchanged. This approach in fact forecloses much of what needs to happen to meaningfully shift power relations and bring about greater equity and inclusion. Research needs to be undertaken that operates at a deeper level of social analysis, rendering visible how particular differences, subjectivities and relations are being constituted in intersecting asymmetrical conditions, how and by what means subversion, resistance, collusion, complicity and other responses to shifting centres and margins are enacted, and how they can be reframed, (de)(re)constructed in order to create enabling environments in equitable and affirming ways. The successful Visiting Research Fellow will be undertaking collaborative research with the SARChI chair holder Professor Melissa Steyn.

Application Procedure

The SSAJRP Visiting Research Fellowships are open to applicants currently holding a position at a Swiss University or University of Applied Sciences, or an equivalent Swiss research institution, who wish to spend three to six months each year, over three academic years at the South African partner institution of this partnership research fellowship programme, that is the University of the Witwatersrand in Johannesburg. To apply, candidates must send a comprehensive *Curriculum Vitae*, a one page outline of the proposed collaborative research programme where applicants also inform about additional sources of funding that they intend to involve for Year 2 and 3 of the project as well as a

covering letter to dorina.kuehner@unibas.ch by 20 January 2014. The covering letter should explain the reasons for applying, give an overview of the current research work done by the applicant and indicate the synergies and outcomes that the applicant wishes to achieve by accessing the Visiting Research Fellowship post.

Applicants are advised to contact the SARChI chair holders namely Professor Loren Landau: SARChI Chair in Human Mobility and Urban Diversity or Professor Melissa Steyn: SARChI Chair in Critical Diversity Studies and to consult with the SARChI chair incumbent when preparing their applications.

The review of the submitted applications will take place within the month following submission and the results will be announced by the middle of February 2014. The successful applicants will be required to submit a research proposal for collaborative research to complement the research programme of the SARChI Chair. These proposals will be subject to peer review and the collaborative research work will commence in April 2014.

Societal context of the identified research disciplines

Diversity and migration have become a tremendously important issue for societies:

Our contemporary social condition is characterised by diversity, given the new complexities brought about by rapidly changing internal demographics, the assertion and recognition of previously and currently marginalised groups within nation states, and the ever-accelerating interconnectedness of communities across the globe. The result is that many of the ways in which we have historically approached social challenges are not adequate to the deepening challenges of "being different together." Social imaginaries have been constructed along intersecting lines of difference and otherness that centre the interests of some at the expense and exclusion of others, which is problematic for a stable future. While this is probably true across the globe in the 21st century, South Africa, specifically, has undertaken a transformation agenda that cannot be achieved without addressing historical and current issues of difference and otherness.

The chair in migration studies will begin its work at a time when human mobility is rapidly transforming African cities' composition and position in overlapping circuits of commerce, information and values. People's on-going search for profit, protection and onward passage sees the newly urbanised, international migrants, and those displaced by gentrification converging in peri-urban slums and inner-city tenements. While individuals may come and go from these of underserved and under-researched sites, their actions and interactions are generating a new type of city and a novel urban politics. These are the frontlines of Africa's future politics. If nothing else, the pace of change and levels of heterogeneity questions the clear distinction between host and guests, categories that inform the metaphors of hospitality, welcome, and asylum found in the philosophy of Derrida, Kant, Taylor and others. Going further, it questions that nature of place based social and political communities as the foundation for both politics and political analysis. By empirically identifying and theorising a set of under-explored and largely undocumented human dynamics, the initiative launched under the chair's auspices will both identify practical governance challenges while contributing to more sophisticated understandings of levies its own theoretical ones.

Grant details

Each Visiting Research Fellowship is supported for a period of three years based on a complementary financing model.

- In the first year, the Visiting Fellow is granted funding by the programme of CHF 100'000. A max.70% of it can be used as salary costs. Remaining 30% for mobility purposes and project running expenses.
- For Year 2 and 3, the applicant will have to provide complementary funding. 50% of total costs for the second year, 75% of total costs for the third year.

Year	Fellowship	Funding SSAJRP	Complementary Funding Applicant
1	100	100%	0
2	100	50%	50%
3	100	25%	75%

The ratio of the grant use remains the same for the entire period of the visiting fellowship scheme: Max. 70% to cover the salary component of the Visiting Research Fellow, max. 30% for mobility (including travel and subsistence costs of the Visiting Fellow for periods spent at the University of Witwatersrand) and project running expenses incurred for collaborative research undertaken at this place.

The South African SARChI Chair holders will receive grant funding from the National Research Foundation and will cover their travel and subsistence costs for scientific visits to the Research Fellow at his/her institution in Switzerland.

Mobility funding within SSAJRP

For the period 2013 – 16 successful candidates are invited, once their joint activities with their South African counterpart has started, to submit further funding requests for PhD mobility. SSAJRP mobility funds cover travel costs of outgoing students from Switzerland and cover subsistence costs of students coming from South Africa to Switzerland. Per diem rates are in accordance with Swiss National Science Foundation rates in use.

Furthermore, Visiting Fellows together with their South African partners and Research Chair holders are invited to consider funding of the Swiss Excellence Scholarship funding scheme (former ESKAS stipends) that applies to PhD mobility as well and covers stays in Switzerland for up to 2 years.

For further information contact

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