



DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH LITERARY STUDIES

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Call for Applications: Postdoctoral Fellowships

English Literary Studies, University of Cape Town

The Department of English Literary Studies at the University of Cape Town, is calling for qualified persons to apply for a Postdoctoral Fellowship as part of a project on *“Entanglement, Mobility and Improvisation: Culture and Arts in Contemporary African Urbanism and its Hinterlands”*.

The Project

The project seeks to move beyond the current scholarship on African cities that have focused on African cities as little islands, separated from their hinterlands – the rural other. Working through a range of cultural formats and artistic genres, the project hopes to surface the defining features of these urban spaces and their rural hinterlands. The cities identified for this study are, Kampala, Pretoria, Johannesburg, Cape Town, Accra, Nairobi and Lagos. These cities share African roots, but are also distinctive, because of their shared colonial/apartheid histories, their multiplicity of old and invented languages, their innumerable waves of immigrants from their rural hinterlands but also some whose origins readily violate national boundaries, and who continue to bring labour, culture and new creative economies; and the sometimes tragic structures of oppression that these cities have undergone. The project aims to examine how looking at the cities from the perspectives of the rural and specifically through the mobility of people, ideas, cultural forms and arts between the cities and the rural spaces, we are able to grasp, both intellectually and viscerally, the intricate workings of urban spaces and their hinterlands in Africa.

The areas of study include, but are not limited to, literature, visual arts, film, philosophy and cultural studies. Applicants should focus their projects within the broad scope of culture and the arts.

The fellowship consists of a tax-free bursary of R 300 000 per annum, non-renewable.

Eligibility

Awarded **on condition that the prospective Postdoctoral Fellow has not previously held comprehensive professional or permanent academic position**, this fellowship is also subject to the following conditions of eligibility:

- Must have completed a doctorate.
- Must have attained their doctorate no more than five years prior to their appointment as postdoctoral fellows.
- Must have a PhD in any discipline related to English/African literature, arts, culture and heritage studies.
- Must have worked in the area of urban and rural studies, with a focus on literature, arts, cultural studies.
- Preference will be given to candidates working particularly on **Bulawayo**.

Application Deadline: 15 January 2024

Your application should include full Curriculum Vitae, three referees with contact details, no more than a three-page motivation for research interest and a sample of writing (Max. 10000 words), which should be sent to:

Applications queries should be directed to:

A/Professor Polo Moji

Principal Investigator – University of Cape Town

E-mail : Polo.Moji@uct.ac.za