



## Call for Applicants: “Network of Excellence for Qualitative Research in the Social Sciences: South Africa and Southern Africa”

The Forced Migration Studies Programme (FMSP), WITS University and the Institute of Development Studies, University of Sussex, invite applications from early career scholars and advanced graduates to participate in a collaborative qualitative and multi-methods training network. The project “Network of Excellence for Qualitative Research in the Social Sciences” is funded by the EU’s EDULINK program and will expose approximately 120 early career scholars to cutting edge developments in qualitative and multi-method research.

The network supports research related to Governance, from an interdisciplinary perspective. Working together with partners in the United Kingdom, Denmark, Ghana, Tanzania, the United States, and Germany, we have brought participants into a transnational research collaboration under the mentorship of leading experts in the field. The Network has hubs in Ghana, South Africa, and Tanzania, and over the course of a year will combine ‘in-residence’ workshops, on-line learning through a Virtual Research Unit, and a short fieldwork component. Last year, as part of this network, the FMSP trained over 20 researchers from across Southern and East Africa and is now supporting the research of early career scholars in South Africa, Kenya and Mozambique.

This year, new applicants from across Southern Africa are encouraged to apply to FMSP, which will host three intensive ‘in residence’ workshops in Johannesburg. Each workshop is 3 days long. Funding is available for selected workshop participants to conduct short research projects at the conclusion of the workshop series. Selected applicants may also be eligible for paid research positions within the Forced Migration Studies Programme.

This Network provides researchers the opportunity to develop their own research projects/interests through in-depth and open-ended research collaboration and through participation in the following research initiatives at the FMSP:

### **International Policing, Mobility and Crime in Africa**

This project examines how the internationalisation of policing is transforming the way cross-border movements are policed in Southern Africa. We explore how transnational policing agendas have been instigated, discussed and implemented across policing institutions in Europe, South Africa, Zimbabwe

and Tanzania. Building on research partnerships with the South African government, we examine how policing 'up close' using multi-sited, ethnographic research.

### **Policy Formation and Social Reconfiguration in African Cities**

This project addresses the politics of spatial redistribution of people and power in six African cities: Johannesburg, Cape Town, Maputo, Lubumbashi, Nairobi, and Kinshasa. As Africa's cities grow, they are generating new social configuration and patterns of power, authority and belonging. With decentralisation, local authorities are gaining new resources and authority over these urban spaces, potentially challenging the dominance of national governments in policymaking and regulation. But as they become formally empowered, they must confront translocal processes—including human mobility—over which they may have little influence. This initiative makes sense of how mobility is transforming urban governance by shifting policy networks, altering the flows of information and resources, and generating new political subjectivities and forms of citizenship.

The first phase of the network will involve a three-part workshop series that is structured around three components of research design, beginning with (a) Ethnographic Methods and the State **(11-13<sup>th</sup> of May)**, (b) Qualitative methods **(28-30 July)** c) Discourse analysis **(2-4 August)**

The Network will cover all the costs of the selected participants. Applicants must be junior faculty members of Southern African institutions of higher education or early career scholars/ advanced graduates working in the Humanities and Social Sciences. Interested applicants should submit a detailed CV and a brief (1 page) motivation that explains their interest in one or more of our three research initiatives and how participation in the network and its activities will contribute to their research and career development. Applicants with clear ideas of a future research project will be preferred.

\*NB Successful applicants must attend all three workshops to be considered for support.

Applications should be sent to [soraya.kola@wits.ac.za](mailto:soraya.kola@wits.ac.za) by 25<sup>th</sup> April 2010.

Based in Johannesburg, the *Forced Migration Studies Programme* is an independent, interdisciplinary and internationally engaged Africa-based centre of excellence for research and teaching that shapes global discourse on human mobility, development and social transformation.

The *Institute of Development Studies* is a leading global institution for research, teaching and communications on international development. IDS hosts five dynamic research teams, eight popular postgraduate courses, and a family of world-class knowledge services. These three spheres are integrated in a unique combination – as a development knowledge hub, IDS is connected into and is a convenor of networks throughout the world.

Additional information on the project “Network of Excellence for Qualitative Research in the Social Sciences: Sub-Saharan Africa” can be found at: <http://www.qrmafrica.org>.



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