



THE SAWYER SEMINAR SERIES, 2009 – 2010

DOCTORAL & POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWSHIPS (12 MONTHS)

“Knowledge Diversity & Power: Science, the Indigenous Movement & the Post-Colonial University”

Applications are invited for two doctoral fellowships and one postdoctoral fellowship in the Department of Social Anthropology at the University of Cape Town. Funded by the Andrew W Mellon Foundation’s prestigious Sawyer Seminar programme, Sawyer Fellows will have the benefit of 12 months of participation in an international seminar series, while pursuing an active programme of research.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The idea that ‘indigenous knowledge’ constitutes an episteme contrary to that of ‘Science’, is widely held. Yet the division simultaneously sacralises and devalorises the indigenous. In moments of sacralisation, ‘indigenous knowledge’ tends to be held to be above critical reasoning; in moments of devalorisation, it tends to be cast as the irrational Other of scholarship. The stalemate between the two positions makes it particularly challenging to engage productively with the diversity of human intellectual heritage. The Sawyer Seminar Series on Knowledge Diversity & Power aims to initiate an ongoing scholarly dialogue on knowledge diversity and power across disciplines and regions, particularly in relation to health, law, environmental knowledge and the sciences. Such a dialogue will be broad in scope: taking account of regional political economies of knowledge; cosmologies and ontologies, epistemes, and embodiments. The series aims to initiate debates that move beyond simplistic forms of relativism and to establish grounds for a more productive interaction of different forms of knowledge within the University, and the Polis.

Via the fellowship programme, we aim to encourage innovative research that will further these goals. Proposals are sought from researchers with an interest in contemporary anthropologies of knowledge in a range of fields. Comparative and interdisciplinary research is encouraged. Regions of particular interest include the continent of Africa, as well as Brazil, India, Australia, New Zealand, Japan and China.

1. CRITERIA AND PROCEDURE FOR THE POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWSHIP

Applicants in the process of preparing completed research for publication will be preferred. The specific area of focus will be mutually agreed upon between the Fellow, the Principal Investigator and/or the Supervisor appointed by the Department of Social Anthropology.

The tenure of the fellowship is 12 months and the value is R130 000, which includes any relocation costs, plus an additional R20 000 for travel and research.

Conditions of Award

- Only applications from individuals who have obtained the PhD degree within five years, and who have not yet held any permanent academic posts, will be considered.
- The fellowship should be taken up between 1 July 2009 and 30 June 2010. Formal progress reports, written by the Fellow and endorsed by both the Principal Investigator and the HOD, are due in the sixth and twelfth month of award.
- The Fellow will be required to participate actively in the Sawyer Seminar programme, give occasional guest lectures and seminars, submit at least one paper for publication by the Seminar Series by the concluding date of the fellowship and present research findings to the annual meeting of Anthropology Southern Africa.
- Although successful candidates will be permitted to take up part-time employment (maximum 15 hours per week), they may not hold other scholarships, or take on salaried/full-time employment concurrently.
- Successful applicants will be required to comply with the University’s approved policies, procedures and practices on postgraduate funding for the postgraduate sector.
- The University reserves the right not to make an award, and to cancel, withdraw and recover any funds paid out to award-holders who do not comply with the Conditions of Award.

2. CRITERIA AND PROCEDURE FOR THE DOCTORAL FELLOWSHIPS

Doctoral Fellows will develop an anthropological research project, preferably with interdisciplinary linkages, on a particular area of knowledge with the agreement of the Principal Investigator and/or the Supervisor appointed by the Department of Social Anthropology.

The tenure of the fellowship is 12 months and the value R90 000, which includes any relocation costs, plus an additional allowance of R20 000 for travel and research.

Conditions of Award

- Proposals must develop the theme of the UCT Sawyer Seminar Series.
- Candidates should preferably be in possession of a Master’s degree in the Humanities. Candidates who already hold a Doctoral degree are ineligible to apply.
- Doctoral students must register and complete their PhDs in the Department of Social Anthropology at the University of Cape Town. Interdisciplinary collaboration with appropriate Departments at UCT is encouraged.
- Fellowships must be taken up for a continuous 12-month period between 1 February 2009 and 31 December 2010. Formal progress reports, written by the Fellow and endorsed by both the Principal Investigator and the HOD, are due in the sixth and twelfth month of award.
- Fellows will be required to participate actively in the Sawyer Seminar programme and to give occasional guest lectures and seminars, submit at least one paper for publication by the Seminar Series by the concluding date of the fellowship, and present research findings to the annual meeting of Anthropology Southern Africa.
- Although successful candidates will be permitted to take up part-time employment (maximum 15 hours per week), they may not hold other scholarships and/or salaried/full-time employment concurrently with the Sawyer Fellowship.
- Successful applicants will be required to comply with the University’s approved policies, procedures and practices on postgraduate funding for the postgraduate sector.
- The University reserves the right not to make an award, and to cancel, withdraw and recover any funds paid out to award-holders who do not comply with the Conditions of Award.

To apply, please send a project proposal (1 500 words maximum), a short bibliography (one page maximum), a full curriculum vitae and letters from three referees, to the Department of Social Anthropology, University of Cape Town, Private Bag, Rondebosch 7701, by 30 November 2008

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