



Cambridge/Africa Collaborative Research Programme

APPLICATION PACKAGE

Thank you for your enquiry about the Collaborative Research Programme for the period October 2012– March 2013.

The Centre of African Studies, with the generous assistance of the Leverhulme Trust and the Isaac Newton Trust, is pleased to announce a Collaborative Research Programme to be held at the University of Cambridge.

Applications are invited for Visiting Research Fellowships to take effect from October 2012. The maximum duration of a Fellowship is six months and is non-renewable.

Fellows will have access, by agreement, to the holdings of Faculty and Departmental libraries, to the library of the Centre of African Studies and to the University Library, which houses the extensive collection of materials relating to the history of the Commonwealth formerly housed in the Royal Commonwealth Society Library in London.

Fellows will be affiliated to a College in Cambridge. Each award is worth up to £10,000, out of which travel, accommodation, maintenance costs and medical insurance will be paid by the Centre on behalf of the fellow. The Centre is not able to provide additional sums for the travel and living expenses of anyone accompanying the Fellow to Cambridge. The sum is not subject to tax in the UK.

The Fellowships for October 2012 will be centred on the theme of *Art and Museums in Africa*.

Applications are invited from all disciplines and are open to scholars and others in academia, research institutes, NGOs, museums and libraries (candidates without a PhD must demonstrate equivalent status). Preference will be given to candidates with a distinguished research profile who are permanent residents in Africa and who have active research interests in the area or areas advertised for the Fellowships. Applicants from non-English speaking African countries are also encouraged, provided candidates can demonstrate a competent grasp of English. It is expected that applicants would be intending to come to Cambridge to work on a project building on existing research for which a period of residence in Cambridge is demonstrably appropriate, although the initiation of a new piece of work will not be ruled out where there is a realistic expectation that it could be substantially advanced by the end of the tenure of the Fellowship.

Short listed candidates will be invited to submit a substantial piece of written work as part of their application.

All documents must be written in English

In order to apply for a Fellowship you will need to send an application to the University of Cambridge, Centre of African Studies, The Mond Building, Free School Lane, Cambridge CB2 3RF, UK by 1 October 2011 and to arrange for your references to arrive at the Centre at the above address **before the same date**. Your application must be complete and in Cambridge by 1 October 2011 in order to be considered for a Fellowship. The Director is not able to consider applications that are not complete.

Applicants should note that neither applications nor references should be sent via email and should make arrangements accordingly.

This application package contains the following:

- a copy of the notice of award;
- guidance on the information required in your curriculum vitae;
- guidance on the type of project details required;
- guidance for you to pass to your referees.

Your application must include the following:

- your curriculum vitae including details of publications;
- your project details;
- a photocopy of your PhD certificate (if applicable);
- a photocopy of the pages of your passport containing your personal details;
- three references to be sent direct by your referees to the Director, University of Cambridge, Centre of African Studies, The Mond Building, Free School Lane, Cambridge, CB2 3RF, UK.

Please note all applicants will be notified by post of the outcome of their application.

Completed applications must reach:

**University of Cambridge
Centre of African Studies
The Mond Building
Free School Lane
Cambridge CB2 3RF
UK**

by 1 October 2011



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Art and Museums in Africa

African art has long been globally famous but has also been controversial both intellectually and politically. Most obviously, the scramble for African art engaged in by western museums and art collectors has been condemned as an appropriation, as has the borrowing of forms and motifs derived from African arts by European modernist artists. Within disciplines such as art history and anthropology, there has been much argument about appropriate methods and concepts for the study of African art traditions. In the epoch of decolonization efforts were made to establish new museums in African states, relevant to local aspirations and new national cultures. Over the same period efforts have been made to revive customary art practices, and to create new craft industries, sometimes in the context of post-conflict and AIDS-prevention community projects. Over the last 50 years modernist and contemporary arts have also emerged and have gained increasing international recognition, while typically lacking secure financial or institutional support within African states.

This theme aims to support a wide range of interests in historical and contemporary arts in Africa and in changing practices in local and national museums and art institutions.

Applicants should note that for security reasons neither applications nor references can be accepted via email and should make arrangements accordingly. The closing date for completed applications is 1 October 2011 and applications received after this date will be declined. The appointments will be made by the end of March 2012 and all applicants will be notified of the result.

The University follows an equal opportunities policy and does not discriminate according to race, gender, sexual orientation, or disability.

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GUIDANCE ON THE INFORMATION REQUIRED IN YOUR CURRICULUM VITAE

Please ensure that your curriculum vitae contains the following information in addition to the other information you will wish to present:

- your full name and title;
- your date of birth;
- your gender;
- your nationality;
- your correspondence address until September 2012;
- your occupation in the academic year 2011-2012;
- your email address;
- the titles, dates and places of any Fellowships or awards you have held since completing your PhD (if applicable), or will have held before October 2012;
- the names and addresses of the people you have asked to be your referees.

You should particularly note that you should, yourself, ask your referees to write in support of your application. The Director cannot do that for you. You should ensure that you provide your referees with a copy of your curriculum vitae and project proposal.

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GUIDANCE ON THE PROJECT PROPOSAL

Please ensure that your project proposal includes the following:

- a note as to why residence in *Cambridge* is particularly appropriate for your topic. You might mention relevant library resources or sources or particular academic staff whom you would hope to consult;
- a note of the aims and range of work you would hope to complete in the six months in Cambridge. The Director expects that many applicants will be continuing or completing research they have already begun. If you intend to begin a new area of research please explain how much of the topic you would be able to cover and how you would complete the work once back in your home country;
- a note of the likely outcomes of your work in Cambridge, for instance the completion of a manuscript, submission of articles etc.

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GUIDANCE TO REFEREES

You have been asked by the applicant to write a confidential reference to the Director of the Centre of African Studies for a Visiting Research Fellowship in 2012/13. The Director wishes to thank you in advance for your assistance which is crucial in maintaining the standard of the competition. The Director would be particularly grateful if you were good enough to include in your reference your advice on the areas given below:

- the quality of the applicant's work to date;
- the applicant's suitability for the proposed area of research;
- the extent to which the project proposal prepared by the applicant would benefit from residence in *Cambridge* as opposed to any other location;
- the importance of the proposed research;
- the extent to which the applicant will be able to meet their aims in the period available to them in Cambridge.

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