

**Call for Applications****The Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei and the British Academy  
Knowledge Frontiers Symposium****Inequalities**

7-8 October 2020  
Rome, Italy

**Introduction**

1. The Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei and the British Academy are inviting applications for early career researchers in the humanities and social sciences to attend a research collaboration symposium on the broad theme of ‘Inequalities’.
2. The symposium aims to incentivise and establish international engagement and collaboration between early career researchers from Italy and the United Kingdom from a broad range of disciplines within the humanities and social sciences, encouraging the exchange of ideas across both disciplinary and national boundaries.

**Purpose and Focus**

3. This symposium will aim to draw on the insights of the humanities and social sciences to explore the way that inequalities in all of their many and various manifestations – a fundamental feature of human existence throughout historical and pre-historical time - can be and have been conceptualised, represented and addressed.
4. Inequalities have been and are regularly a central feature of political discourse, whether explicitly or implicitly. Yet while often evoked, there is limited consensus on, or even recognition of, the multitude of forms of inequalities and their varied impacts, both geographically and temporally. How might we build a comprehensive understanding of inequalities, the spatial and temporal scales at which and over which they most clearly manifest, and the processes that shape them. How can a re-examination of different aspects of inequality lead to a more nuanced approach to this major issue? What is the relationship between different forms of inequality? In what ways could a more holistic understanding of the different types of inequalities and the way they interact, their origins and their effects in the wider global context contribute to the development of more innovative ways of comprehending and disentangling the effects of inequalities on individuals, communities and societies? And are there potential dangers in the elimination of inequalities from society?
5. The transmission of identities and social structures over time through culture and heritage can both challenge and perpetuate inequalities. How might we understand the articulation and representation of conceptions of inequalities – economic inequalities, gender inequalities, inequalities of education and opportunity, decision-making power in societies – in relation to the complexities surrounding established social and political structures? To what degree can the exploration of these complexities be assisted through the

expression and representation of inequality in both literature and visual art? How might these representations be considered in comparative and/or historical contexts? How are the conceptions of inequalities narrated, and how are these narratives utilised in movements towards reducing inequalities? How may senses and histories of identity be implicated in the pursuit of greater equality?

6. The symposium format will allow for extensive discussion and debate, with considerable time set aside for this and wider networking opportunities.
7. The symposium will also provide an opportunity for participants to learn more about the work of the Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei and the British Academy.

### **The Symposium**

8. The symposium will bring together around thirty early career researchers (understood as up to ten years after obtaining a PhD) based in the UK and Italy from across the humanities and social sciences to discuss key questions around the theme of 'Inequalities'. The symposium is designed specifically to encourage collaboration and networking between early career researchers. In advance of the symposium, participants will be able to discuss their research and exchange ideas among themselves; begin to discuss the session themes; and make connections for possible future activities.
9. In order to incentivise long-term collaboration and networking, seed funding will be made available for which participants can apply. These collaborations must be international in their composition and can be either partnerships or groups. Time will be set aside on the final day of the symposium for a 'sandpit' style session in which participants write up their proposed collaboration and submit applications by the end of the session. The application form for seed funding will be circulated in advance of the symposium to ensure participants are fully aware of the opportunity and requirements.
10. In addition to funding several collaborative proposals, the symposium will aim to provide opportunities for a range of other outputs. Participants, for example, could contribute to a publication focused on the symposium theme, either through individual papers or in partnership with other symposium participants, record audio outputs or write posts that will be compiled into an online blog series dedicated to the symposium.

### **Eligibility**

11. For the purpose of this symposium, early career is defined as being within a ten-year period of the award of the applicant's doctorate (or equivalent research experience).
12. Participants must be based at institutions in Italy or the United Kingdom.
13. Participants must have fluency in spoken and written English. The symposium will be conducted in English.
14. Participants must be able to travel on dates and times, and on trains, flights or other modes of transportation chosen by the British Academy and the Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei.

15. Attendance is mandatory for the entire symposium. If this is not met it will result in a participant not being eligible for the seed funding available.
16. UK-based attendees may only participate in two British Academy Knowledge Frontiers Symposia in any 24-month period.

### **Selection Criteria**

17. Applications will be assessed against the following criteria:
  - Proven research interest and/or experience in the symposium's theme;
  - Commitment to interdisciplinary engagement and research;
  - Value of symposium to applicant's career development.

### **Application Process**

18. Applicants should provide a completed application form (including a CV which should not exceed two pages).
19. Applications must be submitted online using the British Academy's Grant Management System (GMS), [Flexi-Grant®](#). The deadline for submissions is Wednesday 17 June 2020 at 17.00 (UK time).
20. We will seek to notify successful applicants by the end of July 2020.

### **Logistics**

21. The symposium will take place in Rome, Italy, from Wednesday 7 to Thursday 8 October 2020 with arrival on Tuesday 6 October 2020. The costs of travel and accommodation for participants will be covered following agreement in advance with the organisers.

### **Further Information**

Further information is available from Hugo Clarke at [h.clarke@thebritishacademy.ac.uk](mailto:h.clarke@thebritishacademy.ac.uk).

### **About the Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei**

The Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei, founded in 1603 by Federico Cesi, is the oldest scientific academy worldwide. The Academy promotes excellence through its Fellowship which included, among many other prestigious names, Galileo Galilei. The members are divided in two Classes: one for mathematical, physical, and natural sciences; the other for social sciences and humanities. The Academy's mission is to promote, coordinate, integrate and disseminate scientific knowledge in its highest expressions in the context of cultural unity and universality. To this end, the Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei organizes national and international conferences, meetings and seminars and encourages academic cooperation and exchange between scientists and scholars at the national and international level. The Academy promotes research activities and missions, confers awards and grants, and

publishes scientific reports. Since 1992, the Academy acts as scientific adviser to the President of the Italian Republic.

### **About the British Academy**

The British Academy is the UK's national body for the humanities and social sciences – the study of peoples, cultures and societies, past, present, and future. The British Academy's purpose is to inspire and support high achievement in the humanities and social sciences throughout the UK and internationally, and to promote their public value. We have three principal roles:

- A fellowship of distinguished scholars from all areas of the humanities and social sciences, elected by their peers, that facilitates the exchange of knowledge and ideas and promotes the work of our subjects.
- A funding body that supports the best ideas, individuals and intellectual resources in the humanities and social sciences, nationally and internationally.
- A forum for debate and engagement that stimulates public interest and deepens understandings, that enhances global leadership and policy making, and that acts as a voice for the humanities and social sciences.