

Call for Applications

Council for British Research in the Levant and The British Academy Knowledge Frontiers Symposium

Belonging

Sunday 26 – Tuesday 28 January 2020
Amman, Jordan

Introduction

1. The British Academy and the Council for British Research in the Levant are inviting applications for early career researchers in the humanities and social sciences to attend a research collaboration symposium on the broad theme of *Belonging*. The symposium aims to incentivise and establish international engagement and collaboration between early career researchers 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

2. Senses of belonging shape the way in which individuals, communities and societies understand, articulate and imagine themselves as well as how they interact with the world around them. Multiple senses of belonging allow the exploration of connections between space, place and identity, enabling questions on what it means to (not) 'belong' and how such belonging – or exclusion – is produced, maintained, expressed and represented.
3. This symposium will seek to bring a highly interdisciplinary lens to this work, exploring senses of belonging and identity in relation to borders and boundaries - physical, psychological, social, economic, aesthetic, ideological and political in its widest sense. It could explore the way that heritage and memory are conceptualised, how literatures of place and origin narratives are developed, the role that emotion plays in perceptions and senses of belonging, or how a sense of belonging may be implicated in relations of power. Identities are often defined and reinforced in relation to a proximate other; this symposium will also consider the implications of this for how communities engage or have engaged with both internal and external forces.
4. All of these sessions will draw on the broad range of disciplines and expertise present to re-evaluate our understanding of belonging, the forces that affect this, the ways it is manifested, and the ways that this can be harnessed for both good and ill.
5. The symposium format will allow for extensive discussion and debate, with considerable time set aside for this and wider networking opportunities.
6. The symposium will also provide an opportunity for participants to learn more about the work of the Council for British Research in the Levant and the British Academy.

The Symposium

7. The symposium will bring together up to forty early career researchers from the UK and the Levant (*al-Mashriq*) from across the humanities and social sciences to discuss key questions around the theme of *Belonging*. 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.
8. 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 makeup, 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.
9. In addition to funding a number of collaborative proposals, the symposium will aim to provide opportunities for a range of other outputs. Participants, for example, could be invited to 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 a series dedicated to the symposium.

Eligibility

10. For the purpose of this symposium, early career is defined as being within a seven-year period of the award of the applicant's doctorate (or equivalent research experience).
11. Participants must be based at institutions in ODA-eligible countries in the Levant (*al-Mashriq*) or the United Kingdom.
12. Participants must have fluency in spoken and written English.
13. Participants must be able to travel on dates and times, and on flights or other modes of transportation chosen by the British Academy and the Council for British Research in the Levant.
14. 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.
15. UK-based attendees may only participate in two British Academy Knowledge Frontiers Symposia in any 24-month period.

Selection Criteria

16. Applications will be assessed against the following criteria:

- a. Proven research interest and/or experience in the symposium's theme;
- b. Commitment to interdisciplinary engagement and research;
- c. Value of symposium to applicant's career development.

Application Process

17. Applicants should provide a completed application [form](#) (including a CV which should not exceed two pages).
18. The deadline for submissions is Friday 27 September at 17.00 (UK time). All applications must be sent to international@thebritishacademy.ac.uk.
19. We will seek to notify successful applicants by the end of October.

Logistics

20. The symposium will take place in Amman, Jordan, from 26-28 January 2020. The costs of travel, visas and accommodation for participants will be covered following agreement in advance with the organisers.

Further Information

Further information is available from Georgina Fitzgibbon at g.fitzgibbon@thebritishacademy.ac.uk.

About the Council for British Research in the Levant

The Council for British Research in the Levant (CBRL) is the UK's academic hub for the study of the Middle Eastern countries of Jordan, Palestine, Israel, Lebanon, Syria and Cyprus – across the social sciences and humanities.

Affiliated to the British Academy, we are an independent, not-for-profit charity that conducts, supports and promotes world-class research ranging from Palaeolithic archaeology to contemporary social science. Our activity started in 1919 with the founding of the British School of Archaeology in Jerusalem. Today, CBRL has an administrative office in London and two regional research institutes: the Kenyon Institute in East Jerusalem and the British Institute in Amman and strong networks across the other countries of the Levant. Our two institutes are the home of British research and intellectual life in the region, serving both international and local academic communities.

Our mission today remains as it was in 1919; to support research on, and increase understanding of, the Levant and its people, past and present.

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.