REVISED Call for Applications

**CIFAR and The British Academy
Knowledge Frontiers Symposium**

November & December 2020

Introduction

1. CIFAR and the British Academy are issuing this revised call for applications inviting applications for early career researchers in the humanities and social sciences to participate in virtual research activities on the broad theme of 'Security.' The aim continues to be to organise a physical symposium to continue these virtual research activities in due course as and when that proves feasible.

2. These activities aim to encourage and establish international engagement and collaboration between early career researchers based in Canada 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. These activities will aim to draw on the insights of the humanities and social sciences to explore varied understandings and experiences of security, and how security can be and has been conceptualised, represented, lived and addressed. Security is, and has always been, a major factor determining the shape and contours of the lives and cultures of people, communities and nations. The study of security can bring to bear insights from across the humanities and social sciences including literature, philosophy, religion and history. Security can be understood in many ways and at different societal, cultural and economic levels. Security itself can also have positive and negative connotations with direct and indirect effects and impacts.

4. CIFAR and the British Academy are particularly interested in the following themes:

    - Notions and representations of security;
    - The drivers of security and insecurity;
    - The relationship between security and governance, security and justice, and security and freedom.
    - These topics and others are intended as a starting point for discussion and collaboration.

   Notions and representations of security: Our own security is of fundamental concern to each of us, however, notions of security differ widely between individuals and within and across societies, economies and politics both today and in the past. State security for example has been juxtaposed with human security, whilst a lack of security can be seen as ungoverned space or governance by other means. The notion of security and its various representations is thus often contested and challenged. For example, the securitisation of policy challenges such as climate change, health, inequality and terrorism has provoked significant debate in recent times. In some cases, both today and historically, notions and representations of security have been used to support the stability of some but also to legitimise the insecurity of others.

The drivers of security and insecurity: The root causes of insecurity in different contexts across time and place are varied. What lessons can be drawn from the interactions between cultural, historical, economic and political factors in driving security and/or insecurity? With no single straightforward cause, what drives (in)security and the relationships this has with prevailing socioeconomic factors? This is key to our understanding of how individuals, governments and non-governmental actors perceive their own security and cope in contexts of insecurity. For example, in a context of conflict or crisis how can, and how historically has, the relationship between security and insecurity be assisted or exacerbated by local and international interventions, and what impact can this have on those living there? Drivers of insecurity can have also long histories and stories that can affect the trajectory of peace and conflict.

Security and governance, security and justice, security and freedom: Security is often synonymous with authority and the monopoly of violence. Security is not, however, an isolated concept and it vitally interacts with other nodes of power, cultural activity, social norms, philosophies, religions, economic functions, and traditional practice. The interrelationship of security with other forms of activity, life and study is important to our understanding of how security is perceived and experienced. The relationship between security and governance, security and justice, and security and freedom is one part of this discussion. How have and are the tensions between these concepts remedied or not? How can the understanding and interplay of such concepts impact positively or negatively the experience of those living in different contexts? And how have these concepts been understood differently over place and time, and with what implications?

Virtual Activities

5. CIFAR and the British Academy aim to bring together around thirty early career researchers (understood as up to ten years after obtaining a PhD) based in the UK and Canada from across the humanities and social sciences to discuss key questions around the theme of 'Security'. The virtual activities will be designed to encourage collaboration and exchange between early career researchers.

6. The virtual activities will enable participants to share their research plans and collaboration ideas through a series of sessions that facilitate discussion, feedback and collaborative thinking. CIFAR and the British Academy plan to organise these virtual sessions over the space of a few weeks in November and December most likely. Most virtual sessions will be two hours long with two sessions per week expected.

7. In order to stimulate collaboration and networking, small-scale 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 for participants to share and discuss their ideas for collaboration over the course of the virtual sessions. 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.

8. 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 such as in the Journal of the British Academy or a more policy-oriented briefing.

Eligibility

9. 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).

10. Participants must be based at institutions in Canada or the United Kingdom, or be part of the CIFAR Azrieli Global Scholars programme.

11. Participants must have fluency in spoken and written English.

12. Participants must be able to participate in at least 75% of the virtual sessions. If this is not met it will result in a participant not being eligible for the seed funding available. Given the time difference between the UK and Canada the sessions are expected to take place in the late afternoon and early evening UK time, and early morning Canada time.

13. UK-based attendees may only participate in two British Academy Knowledge Frontiers Symposia in any 24-month period.

Selection Criteria

14. 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

15. Applicants should provide a completed application form, including:
    - A CV which should not exceed two pages;
    - A one-page summary of their initial thoughts on the theme of security which could include discussion on one or more of the three outlined topics above;
    - An outline of what disciplinary and interdisciplinary skills and/or experience they would contribute to the symposium; and how the symposium could help to develop their own research and career.

16. Applications must be submitted online using the British Academy's Grant Management System (GMS), Flexi-Grant®.

17. The deadline for submissions is Wednesday 16 September 2020 at 17.00 (UK time).

18. Please note that this application form is the same as the one that some applicants will have completed, and does not need to be restarted or resubmitted if the application is in process or has already been submitted.

19. We will seek to notify successful applicants by early October 2020.

Further Information

Further information is available from Christina Moorhouse at c.moorhouse@thebritishacademy.ac.uk

About CIFAR

CIFAR is a Canadian-based, global research organization that convenes extraordinary minds to address science and humanity's most important questions. By supporting long-term interdisciplinary collaboration, CIFAR provides researchers with an unparalleled environment of trust, transparency and knowledge sharing. Our time-tested model inspires new directions of inquiry, accelerates discovery and yields breakthroughs across borders and academic disciplines. Through knowledge mobilization, we are catalysts for change in industry, government, and society. CIFAR's community of fellows includes 19 Nobel Laureates and 400 researchers from 22 countries. In 2017, the Government of Canada appointed CIFAR to develop and lead the Pan-Canadian AI Strategy.

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.