

Call for Applications

UK-US Early Career Research Collaboration Workshop

Saturday 10th–Sunday 11th February 2018
136 Irving Street, Cambridge, Massachusetts, USA

Introduction

The British Academy is inviting applications for early career researchers in the humanities and social sciences to attend a research collaboration workshop on the broad theme of violence. The workshop format will enable the exchange of ideas across disciplinary as well as national boundaries with the aim to help create and build exchange, cooperation and partnership between the researchers attending in the short- and long-term.

This workshop is a part of an initial phase of activity that the British Academy is undertaking with partners internationally to encourage discussion and collaboration between early career researchers based in the UK and elsewhere in the world.

The British Academy currently has five international research and policy themes that guide its international engagement. One of these is in relation to ‘Conflict, Stability & Security’. Through this theme the Academy aims to illustrate the importance of in-depth and broad understanding of the historical, linguistic, cultural and socio-economic context, as well as the importance of perspectives from the philosophical to the demographic when examining and responding to conflict and insecurity overseas.

In this context, the British Academy will be taking forward a project on violence, which will seek to examine and re-conceptualise our understanding of violence and the politics of suffering by exploring the identities, semantic configurations, mythologies, attitudes, histories and such phenomena that create the imagined space for narratives of violence to take root and flourish and structure the moral economy in different contexts. This will be achieved by engaging with the less tangible, ephemeral carriers and atmospheres of violence, as well as the less visible structures of violence that may underpin them, and how these are absorbed and ritualised in everyday culture. The project aims to understand why narratives of violence are so powerful, persistent and ubiquitous, what they do and why. This will be taken forward through a series of activities focusing on topics such as recognising violence, violence as a process and addressing violence.

Purpose and Focus

Violence is a near ever-present reality for much of humanity, but there are significant limits to how narratives and experiences of violence are understood in the public imagination and policy process. This workshop will look to explore how violence is defined and conceptualised by fostering an interdisciplinary discussion of some key themes related to our understanding of violence, and considering the implications for research and policy engagement.

The aim is not to present a comprehensive history of a common understanding of violence, but to provide a platform for a variety of perspectives from different disciplines on a selection of connected themes. These are aimed at encouraging a broader and deeper understanding of violence and the conditions in which its various forms may thrive.

In this workshop, it is planned that the theme of violence will be explored through sessions focussing on commemoration and memory in the context of violence; dignity and violence; and violence and language. The format of the workshop will allow for extensive discussion and debate with considerable time set aside for this and wider networking opportunities.

The workshop is designed specifically to encourage collaboration and networking between early career researchers based in the UK and in the USA. In advance of the workshop, participants will be able to discuss their research and exchange ideas between themselves; begin to discuss the session themes; and make connections for possible future activity. To incentivise collaboration, the British Academy will, for example, make available some small seed funding at the end of the workshop to support collaborations between UK-based and US-based scholars. This will be available on a competitive basis for research proposals formulated by participants, which will be presented in a group session on the final afternoon of the workshop. This funding is only one of the ways in which the Academy will provide mechanisms for participants to continue the conversations and research ideas developed through the workshop and of course the participants will be welcome to discuss and collaborate outside any Academy support.

The workshop will also provide an opportunity for participants to learn more about the different funding schemes through which the Academy supports early career researchers, the policy areas the Academy focuses on, and future opportunities for collaboration.

The Workshop

The workshop will take place in Boston, in collaboration with the American Academy of Arts & Sciences and the American Philosophical Society, from 10th-11th February 2018. The British Academy will meet the costs for travel, accommodation and subsistence for all participants over the course of the workshop.

Participants will be expected to attend the entire programme of the workshop, and be available to travel at the times chosen by the British Academy on Friday 9th February and Sunday 11th February. If participants do not attend the whole workshop there will not be able to apply for the seed funding available.

For these purposes, early career is defined as being within a seven-year period from the award of a doctorate.

Application Process

Applicants should provide a CV which should not exceed two sides of paper. Applicants are also asked to provide a *justification* (not exceeding two sides of paper) explaining:

- Why they are interested in violence based on their research and/or teaching areas;
- What disciplinary and interdisciplinary skills and/or experience they would contribute to the workshop; and,
- How the workshop could help to develop their own research and career development.

Applications should be sent to c.moorhouse@britac.ac.uk no later than 5pm (GMT) on Wednesday 6 December. The Academy will seek to notify successful applicants by the New Year.

Further Information

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