

**Call for Applications****Australian Academy of the Humanities and The British Academy  
Knowledge Frontiers Forum**

Monday 11-Tuesday 12 November 2019  
Brisbane, Queensland, Australia

**Introduction**

The British Academy and the Australian Academy of the Humanities are inviting applications for early career researchers in the humanities and social sciences to attend a research collaboration forum on the broad theme of 'the future'. The forum 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**

At a time of unprecedented social, cultural, environmental and technological change, the perspectives of humanities and social science researchers in understanding the role of cultural forces (histories, identities, ethics, narratives, values) in imagining and living the future are needed as never before. The urgent need for these perspectives is increasingly being recognised as many of the greatest challenges facing humanity will not be technological, but rather social and cultural.

The 'future' is also shaping the approach and methodology of humanities and social science disciplines with the emergence of big data, large-scale humanities infrastructures, immersive technologies and digital heritage. Shifting disciplinary boundaries, the proliferation of diverse communities of knowledge, practice and thought suggest the need for inquiry into the nature of knowledge and evidence, and their formative requirements and professional moorings today and in the future. This requires an interdisciplinary and international outlook, as well as of effective co-design and co-production of knowledge between the expert and the lay or the theoretical and the applied.

The forum invites participants to think of 'the future' across different times and contexts to explore and address the need for creative interventions in social and environmental crises, how communities of the past have managed (or otherwise) rapid social upheaval and technological change, and whether we can humanise the digital future.

It is expected that the futures theme will be explored through sessions focusing on:

- Futures of the past, such as experiences of rapid social and cultural change, evolving notions of heritage, and how imaginations of the future can be rooted in our pasts;
- Environmental futures, such as humanities and social science approaches to climate change, migration, natural disasters and global inequalities;
- Co-designing and co-producing knowledge in the future, such as examining how valid knowledge, knowledge associations and evidence are developed, communicated and disseminated, and the factors which can serve as barriers in different political, historical, linguistic or cultural settings.

Recognising the contribution of Indigenous knowledge to discussions of the future, applications from Indigenous researchers working across these thematic areas are encouraged.

The forum format will allow for extensive discussion and debate, with considerable time set aside for this and wider networking opportunities.

The forum will also provide an opportunity for participants to learn more about the different programmes and activities of the Australian Academy of the Humanities and the British Academy.

### **The Forum**

The forum will bring together up to forty early career researchers from the UK, Australia and the Pacific region (understood as up to seven years after obtaining a PhD) from across the humanities and social sciences to discuss key questions around the futures theme. The forum is designed specifically to encourage collaboration and networking between early career researchers. In advance of the forum, 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.

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 forum 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 forum to ensure participants are fully aware of the opportunity and requirements.

In addition to funding a number of collaborative proposals, the forum 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 forum theme, either through individual papers or in partnership with other forum participants, record audio outputs or write posts that will be compiled into a series dedicated to the forum.

### **Application Process**

Applicants should provide:

- A CV which should not exceed two pages;
- A one-page summary of their initial thoughts on the theme of the future which could include discussion on one or more of the three outlined sessions above;
- A one-page justification of why they are interested in the theme of the future based on their research and/or teaching areas; what disciplinary and interdisciplinary skills and/or experience they would contribute to the forum; and how the forum could help to develop their own research and career.

Applicants must submit these documents in Word format individually, and combined as a PDF.

Applications should be sent to [international@thebritishacademy.ac.uk](mailto:international@thebritishacademy.ac.uk) no later than 5pm GMT on Wednesday 10 April 2019. We will seek to notify successful applicants by early May 2019.

The forum is designed to coincide with the 50<sup>th</sup> Annual Symposium of the Australian Academy of the Humanities. The theme for the Symposium is [Humanising the Future](#), and forum participants will be invited to engage in a range of events planned that week.

### **Further Information**

Further information is available from Charlie Bush at [c.bush@thebritishacademy.ac.uk](mailto:c.bush@thebritishacademy.ac.uk).

### **About The Australian Academy of the Humanities**

The Australian Academy of the Humanities is the national body for the humanities in Australia, championing the contribution that humanities, arts and culture make to national life. The Academy provides independent and authoritative advice, including to government, to ensure ethical, historical and cultural perspectives inform discussions regarding Australia's future challenges and opportunities. We also promote and recognise excellence in the humanities disciplines.

The Academy plays a unique role in promoting international engagement and research collaboration, and investing in the next generation of humanities researchers. The Academy was established by Royal Charter in 1969, and is one of Australia's four Learned Academies. We are an independent, not-for-profit organisation with a Fellowship of over 600 leaders and experts in culture, history, languages, linguistics, philosophy and ethics, archaeology and heritage.

### **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.