

Call for Applications

The Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts & Sciences and The British Academy Knowledge Frontiers Symposium

Thursday 19 and Friday 20 March 2020
The British Academy, 10-11 Carlton House Terrace, London, SW1Y 5AH

Introduction

1. The British Academy and the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts & Sciences are inviting applications for early career researchers in the humanities and social sciences to attend a research collaboration symposium on the broad theme of the Anthropocene. 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. The humanities and social sciences can bring key insights to understanding the role of human behaviour in changing the world's environment, climate and biodiversity. Through initiatives such as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the proposed European Green Deal, the world is committing to undertake profound social and environmental transformations. This indicates the importance of understanding why the world is like it is today and how human interaction with our planet past, present and future has impacted life on Earth.
3. The Anthropocene highlights the importance of our current time as a turning point in the history of humanity. It indicates the value in analysing the direction of human societies and the trajectories on which they have developed and will continue to develop. It indicates also the importance of understanding the impact of the environmental change on the health, security and prosperity of humanity whilst also suggesting potential new imaginaries, fears and dystopias.
4. This will have a profound impact on how we live and the environment in which we experience our daily lives. It creates new demands and opportunities for the humanities and social sciences, as well as citizen science, to interrogate the drivers, narratives about and controversies around such predicaments, and to contribute centrally to identifying ways forward. This raises new dilemmas around, and ways of understanding, the relationships between human and non-human natures, including how these could be re-theorised and what moral, ethical, political and practical implications might flow from such rethinking.
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 different programmes and activities of the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts & Sciences and the British Academy.

The Symposium

7. The symposium will bring together around fifteen early career researchers from the UK and fifteen from the Netherlands (understood as up to seven years after obtaining a PhD) from across the humanities and social sciences to discuss key questions around the theme of the Anthropocene. The symposium is designed specifically to encourage collaboration and networking. 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. Over the course of the symposium there are further networking sessions set up to facilitate the development of collaborations and proposals. 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 blog posts that will be compiled into a series dedicated to the symposium. Further information about such opportunities will be provided at the symposium.

Eligibility

10. For the purpose of this symposium, early career is defined as being within a seven-year period from the award of a doctorate. Participants must be based at research institutions either in the Netherlands or the UK. Participants must have fluency in spoken and written English.
11. Participants must be able to travel on dates and times, and on trains or other modes of transportation chosen by the British Academy and the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts & Sciences.
12. 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.
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:
 - 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

15. Applicants should provide:
 - A completed application [form](#)
 - A CV (in English) which should not exceed two pages
16. Applications should be sent to p.lewis@thebritishacademy.ac.uk no later than 17.00 GMT on Wednesday 29 January 2020.
17. We will seek to notify successful applicants in February 2020.

Logistics

18. The symposium will take place in London, the United Kingdom, from 19-20 March 2020 with arrival on 18 March 2020. The costs of travel, visas and accommodation for participants will be covered. Participants should attend the entire symposium programme and be available to travel on trains chosen by the British Academy.

Further Information

19. Further information is available from p.lewis@thebritishacademy.ac.uk

About The Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts & Sciences

The Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences was founded in 1808 as an advisory body to the Dutch Government – a role that it continues to play today. The Academy derives its authority from the quality of its members, who represent the full spectrum of scientific and scholarly endeavour and are selected on the basis of their achievements. It is also responsible for fourteen internationally renowned institutes whose research and collections put them in the vanguard of Dutch science and scholarship.

As the forum, conscience, and voice of the arts and sciences in the Netherlands, the Academy promotes quality in science and scholarship and strives to ensure that Dutch scholars and scientists contribute to cultural, social and economic progress. As a research organisation, the Academy is responsible for a group of outstanding national research institutes. It promotes innovation and knowledge valorisation within these institutes and encourages them to cooperate with one another and with university research groups.

The academy has three main roles:

- serves as a learned society representing the full spectrum of scientific and scholarly disciplines;
- acts as a management body for national research institutes;
- advises the Dutch Government on matters related to scientific pursuit.

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.