



12 October 2015

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

RESEARCHERS WISHING TO PARTICIPATE IN A RESEARCH PROJECT ON HISTORICAL TRAUMA AND ITS INTERGENERATIONAL REPERCUSSIONS

Interested candidates are hereby invited to submit an application to participate in an exciting new research project led by Professor Pumla Gobodo-Madikizela and coordinated by the Institute for Justice and Reconciliation (IJR) on understanding manifestations of historical trauma in South African society.

BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE

From 2015 to 2016 IJR will be collaborating with Professor Pumla Gobodo-Madikizela who is leading a project funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation titled '*Trauma, Memory and Representations of the Past: Transforming Scholarship in the Humanities and the Arts*' (see <http://traumareconcil.ufs.ac.za/content.aspx?id=41>). The overall aim of this expansive project is to generate enhanced understanding of how the trauma of those who experience gross human rights violations and genocide plays out in subsequent generations and how and where individual and collective traumatic memories intersect. It is envisaged that enhanced understanding of this important question will shed light on the extent to which trauma-affected sections of the population are able to successfully engage in cross-group reconciliation efforts.

The project aims to build various and multi-disciplinary collaborations and partnerships with a wide variety of academic institutions, civil society organisations as well as a diverse selection of renowned South African artists in order to engage the topic at hand through a broad spectrum of different media.

As such, IJR is now recruiting 10-12 individuals who are interested in and passionate about the subject matter at hand and who are willing and able to participate in this project on a part time basis over the next year. Researchers will be required to conduct primary research (individual interviews, focus-group interviews) as well as analysis in three research locations in the Western Cape. Researchers will work as part of a carefully composed team that will receive ample intellectual guidance as well as logistical support from the host organisations as well as the many partners who are already part of the project. This is a unique opportunity to participate in an exciting exploratory research project aimed at contributing new insights into the way South Africa understands and engages with the impact of the past on the present.

REQUIREMENTS FOR PARTICIPATION

1. A post graduate degree in the Humanities or Social Sciences.
2. Some experience in conducting primary qualitative research (i.e. conducting interviews, leading focus groups, oral history skills etc).
3. Demonstrated ability to communicate and engage sensitively with a wide spectrum of people; especially those adversely affected by various forms of trauma.
4. Excellent analytical and writing skills.
5. Ability and willingness to work as part of an inter-disciplinary and diverse team.
6. Ability to interrogate personal narratives with the aim of deepening and enhancing the ability to engage with the nuanced and often painful issues at stake.
7. A willingness to participate in a one week preparatory training workshop to take place in the beginning of January 2016 in Cape Town.
8. The project is seeking candidates able to conduct interviews in one of the following languages: English, isiXhosa and Afrikaans.
9. All research sites are located in and around the Cape Town area.

To apply for participation in this project, please submit the following documents to Mrs Anthea Flink (aflink@ijr.org.za) by close of business on Friday 23 October:

- A 1-2 page motivation explaining why you are interested in participating in this project and how you feel you can contribute to it
- A CV clearly outlining relevant work experience
- The full name and contact details of 2 contactable references

If you have any queries, please email the IJR Project Coordinator Ms Friederike Bubenzer fbubenzer@ijr.org.za.