

Call for Applications

Virtual Knowledge Frontiers Symposium The British Academy

9-10 May 2022

Introduction

1. The British Academy is inviting applications for early career researchers in the humanities and social sciences to participate in virtual research activities on the broad theme of 'Mobilities', in partnership with The Alexander von Humboldt Foundation.
2. These activities aim to encourage and establish international engagement and collaboration between early career researchers based in Germany 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. The symposium will aim to draw on the insights of the humanities and social sciences on the theme of 'Mobilities', exploring how mobilities have shaped, are shaping, and will shape our environments – both social and natural – and our interaction with them, through time. Mobilities will be explored at the individual, community and societal level, interrogating not only how senses of mobility – and immobility – influence perceptions of self, but also our engagement and interaction with other forces, including through structures of power and the ways in which power and inequalities inform control of mobilities.
4. It will also examine how representations and narratives of mobilities have been used over time, and how – and for what purposes – mobilities have been conceptualised to understand, explain and engender change. It will explore how mobilities have the potential to be imagined, represented and managed, drawing on a range of knowledge bases and perspectives to explore innovative responses to both the challenges and opportunities mobilities present.
5. The symposium will seek to bring a highly interdisciplinary lens to this work, exploring mobilities in their widest possible sense, not with the objective of drawing conclusions to the issues outlined above, but to generate new understandings across disciplines of these crucial questions and broaden discussions around them.

Virtual Activities

6. The symposium aims to bring together around forty early career researchers (understood as up to ten years after obtaining a PhD) based in the UK and Germany from across the humanities and social sciences to discuss key questions around the theme of 'Mobilities'. The virtual activities will be designed to encourage collaboration and exchange between early career researchers.
7. 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. The virtual activities will take place on 9-10 May 2022.

8. In order to stimulate collaboration and networking, seed funding will be provided by the British Academy following the symposium. This funding is designed to facilitate collaborations that are formed directly from the symposium.
9. Participants will also be eligible to apply for CONNECT, a follow-up programme for participants of Frontiers of Research Symposia offered by the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation. It provides allowances for short working visits in Germany or in the United Kingdom that can be taken up at any time following the symposium.
10. In addition to the ability to apply for this funding, 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

11. 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). This eligibility will be viewed flexibly in order to take into account instances such as career breaks. Applicants are encouraged to contact the British Academy with any questions they may have related to eligibility.
12. Participants must be based at institutions in the United Kingdom.
13. Participants must have fluency in spoken and written English.
14. Participants must be able to participate in the entirety of the symposium over the two days.
15. UK-based attendees may only participate in two British Academy Knowledge Frontiers Symposia in any 24-month period.

Selection Criteria

16. 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

17. 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 'Mobilities';
 - 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.
18. Applications must be submitted online using the British Academy's Grant Management System (GMS), [Flexi-Grant®](#).
19. **The deadline for submissions is Wednesday 16 February 2022 at 17.00 (UK time).**

20. We will seek to notify successful applicants by early March 2022.

Further Information

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

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.