

Research fellowship on “For a Multivocal History of the Attitudes Towards Non-human Animals in South Asia. Ethics, Practices, Symbolism. Investigating New and Unsolved Issues” - Università Ca' Foscari Venezia

(Italian law 30 December 2010, n.240, art. 22 and subsequent amendments and additions)

The present document in English is to be considered as a mere summary of the main provisions of the notice of competition which is available in Italian at the following ([link](#)) The text in Italian is the official text of the notice of competition for all legal intents and purposes and, in the event of non-conformity with the present document, it shall prevail.

Description

The Department of Asian and North African Studies at Università Ca' Foscari Venezia invites applications for a fellowship in:

- **Title:** For a Multivocal History of the Attitudes Towards Non-human Animals in South Asia. Ethics, Practices, Symbolism. Investigating New and Unsolved Issues
- **SSD e/o settore concorsuale:** L-OR/17
- **Responsabile scientifico e tutor:** Prof. Antonio Rigopoulos; Prof. Thomas W. P. Dahnhardt
- **Durata:** 12 months
- **Abstract:**

The project is focussed on the interface between human and animal and must concern itself with at least one of the six study subjects:

1) ANALYSING CLASSIFICATIONS, CONTINUITY AND MIRRORINGS.

Starting with the ancient classifications of living beings found in Brahmanical literature, this area investigates the social stratification, control and hierarchical differences present among both animals and humans. It also explores the phenomenon of imitation of animal behaviour in yogic and ascetic traditions, emphasising an attempt at reintegration into a larger, more fluid set of living beings.

2) DETERMINING THE MEANINGS OF THE DIVINE ANIMAL.

The theriomorphic and therioanthropic concept of deities is analysed to understand their morphologies, classifications in texts and specific symbolism. The attribution of 'vehicles' to deities and their relationships is also addressed, exploring contrasting and harmonious connections on various planes.

3) REDEFINING THE GENESIS AND INTERRELATIONS OF NONVIOLENCE AND VEGETARIANISM.

This area focuses on the origins and evolution of concepts such as ahimsā (nonviolence) and vegetarianism, analysing their interconnections with Vedic religiosity and interpretations in different traditions such as Buddhism, Jainism and Brahmanism. Such an investigation also offers insights to contribute to contemporary discourse on vegetarianism.

4) INVESTIGATING THE OUTCOMES OF INDO-MUSLIM INTERACTION.

It explores how Indian Islam conceived of the human-animal relationship, focusing on the theory of Muslim or infidel animals and the works of Indo-Persian authors who dealt with zooanthropological phenomenology.

5) COLONIAL DISCOURSE AND THE NARRATIVE LEGACY.

Through an examination of English legislation in India on animal protection and representations of human and non-human colonisers in imperial literature and positions on public health, ethics and nutrition, define the role of these representations in the construction of colonial rule and in contemporary Indian narratives.

6) CASE STUDIES ON CONTEMPORANEITY.

The facets of vegetarianism in today's India are examined, reflecting on its social, cultural and political impact.

Another study deals with the interactions between some indigenous communities in north-east India and their view of the interaction between humans and animals, also offering an environmental analysis perspective.

This project promises to shed new light on the complex relationship between humans and animals in historical and contemporary India, highlighting the multiple cultural, religious and social facets that define its nature and complexity.

A knowledge of Italian language, both written and oral, of level C2 and of English language, both written and oral, of level B2 is required for the assignment.

The project is part of the PRIN project "**For a Multivocal History of the Attitudes Towards Non-human Animals in South Asia. Ethics, Practices, Symbolism. Investigating New and Unsolved Issues**" conducted jointly by the Department of Asian and North African Studies (DSAAM) and the research units at University of Milan, University of Turin and University of Bologna

The research may be carried out in English.

The fellowship is intended to provide the successful candidate with the opportunity to pursue his/her own research while benefiting from the range of expertise at Università Ca' Foscari Venezia.

Who can apply

Prospective candidates are expected to hold a master's degree and have a CV suitable for the requested research activities

Ca' Foscari encourages applications from researchers with positive evaluation in all the criteria in individual proposals such as Marie Skłodowska Curie Actions - Individual Fellowships/ERC Starting Grants/FIRB (Italian Fund for basic research investments)/SIR (Scientific Young Independence Research) or similar. Researchers having successfully completed Marie Skłodowska Curie Actions - Individual Fellowships/ERC Starting Grants/FIRB (Italian Fund for basic research investments)/SIR (Scientific Young Independence Research) or similar funded projects are warmly encouraged to apply.

Duration of contract: 12 months (approximately starting: March 1st, 2024).

Stipend: The research fellowship amounts to 19.367,00 Euros per year, including taxes and social charges.

Deadline for submission of applications: January 15th, 2024, 12.00 noon

How to apply:

Candidates should submit:

1. The application form;
2. A motivation letter (max 1 page) along with their CV in European format, duly dated and signed, both to enclosed as a one single.pdf file. ([link](#))
3. A copy of a valid identity document (either Identity Card or Passport);
4. (If available) Evaluation Summary Reports of Marie Skłodowska Curie Actions - Individual Fellowships/ERC Starting Grants/FIRB (Italian Fund for basic research investments)/SIR (Scientific Young Independence Research) individual proposals having passed all the evaluation thresholds;
5. (If available) Details of Marie Skłodowska Curie Actions - Individual Fellowships, ERC Starting Grants, FIRB (Italian Fund for basic research investments)/ SIR Scientific Young Independence Research funded projects;
6. All documents, qualifications and publications relevant for the selection procedure (please, see the notice [link](#)).
7. Short-list of publications

All the schemes of the quoted documentation are available on the website ([link](#)).

How to submit your application

Applications should be submitted by the online procedure, available on the notice webpage ([link](#))

Or submit here: <https://apps.unive.it/domandeconcorso-en/accesso/dsaamprinrig231> **By inserting their Italian Tax Code.**

Foreign citizens not yet in possession of the Italian Tax Code can use the following link <https://apps.unive.it/utills/cf> to obtain a temporary one and be able to proceed with the request.

The candidate, after the uploading, will receive a submission number and an e-mail acknowledging receipt of his/her application.

The candidate if necessary could access the procedures for updating any data and materials by the link provided by the e-mail, in any case any updates must be made no later than the deadline (January 15th, 2024, 12.00 noon)

Please note that the University can be contacted for any support needs by the candidate until 24 hours prior to the deadline.

Please note that in case of a high number of applications and / or weight of the materials loaded by the candidates the system might become slower, Therefore it is suggested not to start the process close to the deadline.

NB: the University does not take on responsibility for wrong or late communication of addresses, nor for any communication problem not depending on the University.

Evaluation

Up to 100 points, specifically:

For qualifications, publications and possible tests, from 0 to 60;

For interview, from 0 to 40.

Selection procedure

The short-list of the candidates admitted to the tests/interview and the related calendar, or any postponement, will be published on the University's webpage on January 24th, 2024 ([link](#)).

Information and contacts

Candidates may find further details about the application process and the research project in the official call published on the following ([link](#))

For further information please email: ricerca.dsaam@unive.it