RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMME 2011/12: CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

The AKU-ISMC 2011-2012 Research Fellowship Programme offers a unique opportunity for Fellows to pursue research within an intellectually stimulating and supportive environment. The duration of the Fellowship is one calendar year, commencing September 2011. During this time, Fellows are expected to carry out research projects which relate to one of the Institute's major research themes and to coordinate a research workshop leading to a publication. For 2011/12 the theme addressed will be the Construction of Knowledge about Muslim Cultures and Societies. Within this broad theme, Research Fellows are sought who will carry out research related to the topic: 'Remembering the first century of Islam.'

Remembering the first century of Islam

The seventh century witnessed the birth of a new religion and a new empire in the Late Antique Near East. Fellows will explore the creation and function today of memories about this pivotal turning point in world history. Potential areas of research include:

· Examining the roles that memories about the first century are playing in building national, regional, ethnic, religious, and other forms of solidarity and belonging;

· Outlining strategies that create and also destroy shared memories about the first century in a wide variety of mediums, including those that appeal to mass audiences, such as film and the internet;

· Contributing to theoretical reflection on memory, identity, and knowledge about the past.

Fellows should ideally have a research interest in early Islamic history and a willingness to engage with the theoretical literature relating to memory. Fellows will pursue this research project and contribute to the organisation of a workshop that aims to result in a publication.

Details
Candidates receive a stipend in the range of £27-31000 and also a research budget of £500. A return flight is paid for international Fellows. Please note that accommodation in London will need to be independently organised by the Fellow. Other benefits include: office space, access to computer facilities, and access to AKU-ISMC's library and the libraries of neighbouring academic institutions.

During the course of this academic year, the Institute will facilitate scholarly dialogue among the Research Fellows and AKU-ISMC Faculty. During the course of their Fellowship, Fellows will be expected to participate in the educational and research programmes of the Institute by delivering occasional lectures and seminars.

Candidates should have:

* A PhD in the Humanities or Social Sciences;
* A high degree of experience, interest and competence in the research area outlined in the Call for Applications;
* A high level of proficiency in communication skills, written and verbal;

For a job description and application form, please see the career opportunities section of the AKU-ISMC website (http://www.aku.edu/job/onlinejobs/).

Closing date for applications for the 2011/12 programme is 30th May 2011. Shortlisted candidates will be invited to attend an interview, to be held in early June 2011. Successful candidates are expected to take up their post on 12th September 2011 or soon after.

More information about AKU-ISMC's research themes can be found on our website: http://aku.edu/ismc/research-aku-ismc.shtml

For informal questions about the Fellowship, please contact ismc.research@aku.edu

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Dr Andrew J Newman