Mainstreaming Gender and Socio-cultural Inclusion in Global Change

Calling for experts based in South Africa in the fields of Gender and/or Socio-cultural and/or Global change

With the aim of identifying innovative approaches to mainstreaming gender and socio-cultural inclusion within global change research, this project aims to bring together academics from different disciplines, primarily those who have expertise in gender theories and methodologies, socio-cultural epistemologies, and those with technical and scientific academic expertise in global change.

The motivation of this NRF funded project arises from the need to address gaps in research and knowledge development in the South African Global Change arena with regard to gender and socio-cultural paradigms. It also arises from the need to increase the engagement and capacity of women and women researchers to the development of knowledge in this field nationally, and to enhance inter-disciplinary and trans-disciplinary knowledge production. Gender and socio-cultural paradigms are both highly relevant and impactful knowledge fields that have been under-served within the South African Global change research agenda. A key purpose for this project is thus, to advance the frontiers of existing knowledge in these themes, and to facilitate and advocate for the growth of the research capacity required to enhance the delivery of this strategic national research and development goal.

This project serves as a pilot initiative aimed at initiating discussions and preliminary research on how gender theories, socio-cultural epistemologies, methodologies, approaches, and
concepts can be used to mainstream gender and socio-cultural paradigms within global change research.

We are looking for 10 experts in the fields of gender methodologies and/or socio-cultural research and/or global change research who will together form the Expert Reference Group for this project. **If you are interested in being part of this group you should be aware of the following:**

- Those interested will need to be available to attend an expert reference group brainstorming session whereby the primary themes for the National Workshop in October will be discussed and finalised. The expert reference group meeting will take place in Pretoria 11-12 August 2014. Those travelling from outside Gauteng will be given provisions for travel and accommodation.

- Be available to attend a three day workshop in November 2014 whereby the themes discussed at the expert reference group meeting will be developed with a broader group of participants (young emerging scholars/researchers and experts with a passion for capacity-building). Transport and accommodation provisions will be made for those travelling from outside of Gauteng.

- Participants at the workshop will be expected to submit papers for review prior to attending the workshop. As part of the expert reference group you will be required to review papers under your respective themes and be willing to provide guidance and mentorship where needed, particularly to emerging scholars.

- As part of the expert reference group you will be required to assist following the workshop, in the compilation of papers presented at the workshop, ensuring that they all speak to our overall aim of identifying innovative approaches in mainstreaming gender and socio-cultural inclusion in global change research.

- Those wishing to be involved should be keen to explore innovative inter-disciplinary research and be willing to commit their time, without pay, to the development of an
inclusive, transformative and empowering research agenda which would strategically mainstream gender and socio-cultural paradigms within the critical debates of global change.

The primary goals of this project are to transform, empower and capacity build, the generation of new and inclusive knowledge paradigms and to facilitate discussions and collaborative research interactions between academics across disciplines. This serves as the beginning of what we hope will become, in future years, a project with an enhanced scope, foot-print and strategic impact beyond South Africa.

Those interested in participating in the Expert Reference Group should submit their CVs and a one page motivation letter stipulating what they will be able to contribute. All applications should be submitted to the Project Leader in the HSRC – Prof. Phindile Lukhele-Olorunju (plukhele-olorunju@hsrc.ac.za) by 17:00 on the 14th of July 2014.

If you wish to discuss this call further and need more information or clarification, please contact the Project Leader on 012 316 9755, or the Project Senior Researcher – Dr. Elizabeth Rasekoala on 073 951 3202.

Successful applicants will be notified on the 25th of July 2014