THE UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER

PARTICULARS OF APPOINTMENT

FACULTY OF HUMANITIES

SCHOOL OF ENVIRONMENT, EDUCATION & DEVELOPMENT

GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE (GDI)

RESEARCH ASSOCIATE FOR TRANSNATIONAL LIVED CITIZENSHIP PROJECT

Salary: £32,816 p.a. (Grade 6.1)

Hours: 1.0 FTE

Duration: Fixed term from 1 February 2020 until 31 January 2023

Location: Oxford Road, Manchester

Responsible to: Dr Tanja Müller

Enquiries about the vacancy, shortlisting and interviews:
Dr Tanja Müller (tanja.mueller@manchester.ac.uk).

Overall Purpose of the Job

This is a post-doctoral position for the ESRC-funded project: Transnational lived citizenship: Practices of citizenship as political belonging among emerging diasporas in the Horn of Africa. The post-holder will play a central role in the project working closely with the Principal Investigator, Dr Tanja Müller, and Co-Investigator, Dr Oliver Bakewell, to help refine the project design, develop research instruments and undertake fieldwork in Addis Ababa, Khartoum and Nairobi. The post holder will be the focal point for networking with project partners and other stakeholders in the region. They will contribute to analysis, writing for academic publications and dissemination activities.

Background to the project: It is increasingly acknowledged that the world is characterised by a high degree of mobility. Subsequently, social, political and economic processes and outcomes within nation states are significantly impacted by migration, making it untenable to understand political processes solely by looking at actors within states. In this context, many homeland states have developed diaspora engagement strategies. In parallel, in the context of transnational movements, concepts of citizenship have expanded beyond the nation state, and citizenship is understood in various ways as a relational practice that moves beyond legal status, but focuses on concrete, often everyday interactions. Examining such acts of citizenship makes it possible to analyse citizenship as a practice related to homelands, hostlands or the wider transnational social field in often interconnected and overlapping ways.
In this project we bring a critical analysis of these strands of literature together, and in proposing a re-defined concept of transnational lived citizenship, investigate how practices of citizenship among emerging diasporas constitute political belonging – to the homeland but also the hostland and the transnational social field. In a further step, we investigate what forms of political engagement may emerge from such practices.

In order to address the above theoretical and empirical gaps in the literature, we have chosen the Horn of Africa as a case study region, as the Horn is a prototypical example of an origin-area of out-migration. Focusing on emerging diasporas from Ethiopia and Eritrea who reside in key cities of the wider region will allow us to understand how migration shapes citizenship practices, political belonging and engagement, and this in turn will speak to the wider debates on patterns of migration and transnationalism.

Through mapping, life history interviews, semi-structures interviews, focus groups, and participant observation we will examine citizenship practices as expressions of political belonging and how they translate into political engagement by those who have emigrated from Ethiopia and Eritrea to the cities of Khartoum, Addis Ababa and Nairobi, all three of which are important transit spaces for some and more permanent residence spaces for others. Data gathered during the fieldwork component of the research will allow us to empirically map when, where, why, how and by whom various forms of transnational engagements are made.

The School of Environment, Education and Development and Development

This represents one of the most innovative academic structures of The University of Manchester. It forges an interdisciplinary partnership combining Geography, Planning and Environmental Management, the Manchester School of Architecture, the Manchester Institute of Education, and the Global Development Institute (GDI), thus uniting research into social and environmental dimensions of human activity. The School has nearly 200 academic and research staff (within a total staff complement of 270); over 1000 undergraduate and over 2000 postgraduate students, of whom around 330 are research students.

Faculty of Humanities

The Faculty of Humanities (http://www.humanities.manchester.ac.uk/) is made up of five Schools: Environment, Education and Development; Law; Social Sciences; Arts, Language and Cultures; and the Alliance Manchester Business School. With 36 discipline areas, a total income over £230m per annum, over 16,800 students, some 1290 academic and 680 professional support staff, the Faculty is equivalent to a medium-sized university in the UK. REF 2014 results confirmed The Faculty and the University of Manchester as a genuine international powerhouse, with exceptional performances in a wide range of disciplines (http://www.manchester.ac.uk/research/ref-2014).

The University

The University of Manchester, formed in 2004 by bringing together The Victoria University of Manchester and UMIST, is Britain’s first chartered university of the 21st century. With some of the highest quality teaching and research, and the broadest spread of academic subjects, the university will be able to compete with the best universities in the world. The University’s vision for the future is the creation of a 21st century institution that will become an international
research powerhouse and a favoured destination for the world’s best students, teachers, researchers and scholars. The merged University was established with an unprecedented £430 million capital programme to enhance research and teaching facilities and improve the campus. The University is the largest single-site higher education institution in the country, offering students a greater choice of degree programmes and options, and even better facilities and support services. A landmark document, Towards Manchester 2020, sets out the dynamic plan for making The University of Manchester one of the top 25 universities in the world by that date. Manchester offers extensive provision for research. Library facilities include the John Rylands University Library and the Manchester Central Reference Library. The John Rylands library is the largest non-legal-deposit academic library in the United Kingdom, providing services and resources to students, researchers and academic staff as well as members of the public, schools and commercial companies. It holds the widest range of electronic resources of any UK Higher Education library. General information about the University may be found on the University website (www.manchester.ac.uk).

The City and the Region

Manchester is one of the great European cities and the University’s main campus is within walking distance of the city centre. The city’s architecture represents one of the high points of Victorian achievement. The modern city is a major centre of banking, commerce and manufacturing, and hosts MediaCity UK, the country’s most significant centre for creative and digital businesses. Manchester has a highly cosmopolitan atmosphere and its cultural life is internationally renowned. Within a fifteen minute walk of the campus there are three outstanding professional theatre companies, the halls of the Hallé and BBC Philharmonic orchestras, the HOME arts centre and other cinemas, and Europe’s fastest-growing Chinatown. Amongst developments enriching the area’s cultural life have been: the opening of The Lowry at Salford Quays; the Bridgewater Concert Hall; Urbis, the Imperial War Museum North, designed by Daniel Libeskind, and the refurbished City Art Gallery.

Manchester is renowned internationally for sport: it is a venue for Test cricket and the home of Manchester United and Manchester City. The Commonwealth Games were held in Manchester in 2002. The University is a stakeholder in the Commonwealth Pool – now known as the Manchester Aquatics Centre – which offers on campus, world-class swimming facilities. Housing is varied, plentiful and, by English standards, moderately priced. There are excellent schools across the region. Manchester is well served by a major international airport, with direct scheduled flights to many destinations in Europe as well as North America and Asia. Manchester Piccadilly railway station has been refurbished and is served by inter-city and other train services – with a direct link to Manchester Airport. The expanding network of Metrolink tram services offers an alternative mode of public transport from certain parts of the conurbation. Some of the most beautiful countryside in Europe is just over a thirty minute drive from the University, in the Peak District National Park, while the Lake District and Snowdonia are also within easy reach.

Environmental Sustainability

SEED is committed to environmental sustainability and encourages all colleagues to sign up to the 10,000 Actions signature programme available to all staff. Along with the sustainability seminar series, this provides an introduction to sustainability issues, as well as the opportunity to receive your carbon literacy certificate. SEED also take action as a team through Green Impact, or you can take individual action as a sustainability champion. By signing up to receive the social responsibility newsletter you can keep up-to-date with sustainability news across the University.
Key Responsibilities, Accountabilities or Duties:
The successful candidate will be responsible for:

- Conduct a thorough literature review at the outset of the project (first three months) and more generally undertake literature and database searches, and to be able to interpret and present the findings in relation to the aims of the research project;
- Mapping diaspora networks of Eritrean and Ethiopian migrants in Addis Ababa (Eritrean migrants only), Khartoum and Nairobi – this will require research stays in each setting (up to six months combined stay in the Horn region in the first year of the project);
- Identifying around 30 individual interviewees from these networks in each setting and conduct interviews/observations over an anticipated period of two months in each setting (mostly in year 2 of the project);
- Organise a pre-interview planning workshop with local academic and other partners (including from diaspora networks) before fieldwork commences;
- Transcribe/Write up all interview/observation data in a format that enables analysis in NVivo by all project participants;
- Conduct initial analysis of interview/observation data after each fieldwork stint is completed;
- Organise dissemination workshops and other activities as outlined in the project document;
- Contribute to the project website, twitter and associated social media outlets;
- Attend conferences to present project findings alone and/or jointly with other project members and participate in national and international meetings, as required by the programme;
- Publish and co-publish project findings in relevant journals and other publication outlets;
- Assist in data management and storage by maintaining appropriate databases and keeping accurate records (written and computerised) to ensure that data are stored securely;
- Maintain confidentiality of all electronically stored personal data in accordance with the provisions of the Data Protection Act (1998);
- Comply with relevant policies and regulations with due regard to financial matters, harassment, equal opportunities, public interest disclosure, health and safety, intellectual property and patenting, data protection or any other rules, regulations or codes binding on the member of staff;
- Prepare a full Ethics application before the start of any fieldwork activities;
- The post also requires the post-doc to spend 20% of their time in non-project based tasks at the Global Development Institute, usually related to teaching on the Institute’s Masters programme;
- The duties of the post outlined above are not exhaustive, and the postholder will be expected to be co-operative and flexible, undertaking such administrative and other duties as may from time to time be reasonably expected of a member of research grade staff in a university;

These duties will be subject to review in line with the changing requirements of the project, the Department, and with the development needs of the postholder as identified through regular review/appraisal processes;
The above list of responsibilities is not exhaustive and the jobholder may be required to undertake other duties commensurate with the level of the role, as reasonably requested by their line manager.

The candidate should provide evidence in their application that they meet the criteria listed below.

PERSON SPECIFICATION

Essential Knowledge, Skills and Experience:

- PhD (or near completion of doctorate, with a set date for submission) in an appropriate subject area, such as International Development, Sociology, Geography, Anthropology or Political Science or Migration Studies or another relevant social science field
- Knowledge and understanding of current research in migration and diaspora studies, including in sub-Saharan Africa and the Horn of Africa in particular
- Knowledge and experience of working in the Horn of Africa, ideally with Ethiopian and/or Eritrean populations
- Substantive experience of conducting fieldwork in sub-Saharan Africa (ideally in one or more of the countries/cities included in the research project)
- Language skills in Amharic and/or Tigrinya (or any other local languages)
- Understanding of the research process and experience of working on international collaborative research projects
- Ability to organise and prioritise own work within the project timetable
- Ability to spend up to six months combined in any given calendar year in the cities of Addis Ababa, Nairobi and Khartoum as required by the project
- Ability and enthusiasm for working in an interdisciplinary environment, with a good understanding of, and affinity with, qualitative methods and insights from different social science disciplines;
- Excellent communication, presentation and writing skills in English;
- Excellent analytical and writing skills, including contributing to research reports and other non-academic outputs;
- Excellent organisational skills and the ability to take the lead in organising events with a variety of stakeholders
- Publications in internationally recognised journals or demonstrated potential for such publications

Desirable Knowledge, Skills, Experience and Qualifications:

- Experience of team work across diverse disciplinary and geographical settings
- Experience of teaching at postgraduate (Masters) level