



## Translating Cultures: Research Development Networking Call

**Closing date for proposals: 4pm, Tuesday 29 November 2011**

### Introduction

Translating Cultures is one of four emerging themes currently being developed by the AHRC. As part of this development process, the AHRC wishes to commission a number of small awards. Proposals are sought for awards to support networking and collaborative development activities that specifically address the four research questions posed by the Translating Cultures theme (see below).

It is hoped that these awards will: stimulate debate in response to the key research challenges raised by theme; build partnerships between the academic and non-academic communities in response to these challenges; support research relevant to issues of political, social and economic need; inform future strategy concerning the shape, focus and priorities of the theme; and be of value to researchers undertaking research through the theme in the future.

Applications are invited from researchers from any discipline or subject area across the arts and humanities. The AHRC particularly welcomes proposals from Early Career Researchers through this call. Cross-disciplinary work is encouraged, though proposed activity must fall principally within the arts and humanities subject domain. Work taking an international perspective and where feasible linking with international partners is also encouraged. Proposals must:

- **Directly address one of the four research questions detailed below** and;
- Be collaborative, ideally involving a minimum of **two HEI's** and **one non-academic** institution

The AHRC is not expecting to fund fully formed research projects, but is seeking innovative and creative proposals that take a collaborative approach to developing the research questions posed by the Translating Cultures theme. Fit to the theme will be an important assessment criterion.

Award holders will be expected to produce a summary report at the end of the award outlining their findings and making recommendations for future development in the particular research question explored.

Funding of up to **£30,000** is available on a full economic costs basis with the AHRC meeting 80% of the FEC. Awards should last for a maximum of **6 months** and will be expected to start in **February 2012** and be completed (and a final report submitted) by the end of September 2012.

We expect to invite the successful applicants to attend a workshop in 2012 along with award holders funded under the current highlight notice in our Networking and Fellowships schemes and relevant projects funded under our standard responsive mode schemes that address issues pertinent to Translating Cultures. The aim of this workshop would be to identify any themes, gaps and new opportunities that would benefit from further investigation and possible funding calls. Receipt of an award under this call would not



guarantee success in any future calls; however, we would expect you to participate in the workshop to discuss the future shape of the theme.

### **The Translating Cultures theme**

The 'Translating Cultures' theme addresses the belief that the need for diverse cultures to understand and communicate with each other is stronger than ever, and that 'translation' is an essential tool in ensuring that languages, values, beliefs, histories and narratives can be mutually shared and comprehended. It is proposed that we need to consider not only the complex mechanisms of translating one language into another, but also more broadly how cultural exchange and transmission functions in a variety of circumstances and periods, including communication and miscommunication, multiculturalism, toleration and migration.

These issues have enormous policy relevance. The UK needs its policy-makers, intelligence services, legal system and police force to be fully informed about the cultural, linguistic and ethnic diversity of its multi-faceted diasporic communities. We also require diplomats, charitable organisations, senior military officials and businesses who can engage sensitively with a highly complex global cultural landscape. Research in these fields informs knowledge of strategically significant parts of the world, such as Afghanistan, India, Iraq and South America, and helps us engage in true dialogue with our near neighbours in Europe in government, business and cultural matters. Furthermore, the global significance of the UK creative economy—including institutions such as the BBC World Service and the forthcoming Cultural Olympiad—will need to build upon a deeply informed engagement with cultural dynamics and diversity. In terms of skills and capacity, the Translating Cultures theme will reinforce the next generation of language-based area studies in fields of international strategic significance, and it will influence the development of modern languages curricula at a time when economic success and cultural diplomacy have a great dependency on linguistic skill.

### ***Aims and Objectives***

The central aim of the Translating Cultures theme is to:

***Support outstanding research that creates a new body of knowledge about strategically significant areas of the world and critically engages with the process of language acquisition and representation. Findings will be disseminated across the academic community and engage non-academic partners to increase public awareness and build capacity in areas of governmental, social and business need.***

Specifically, the objectives of the scheme are:

- To develop the breadth of languages and inter-cultural dialogue as research areas, including the exploration of more contemporary concerns such as youth language, on-line language and popular language and identity, as well as issues relating to language heritage, and language use in areas such as business, communities and security / law enforcement



- To support the development of new cross-disciplinary work that facilitates inter-cultural understanding by, for example, enabling language and inter-cultural researchers to work with other disciplines such as medicine, computing and engineering
- To focus the concept of 'culture' in the context of the theme, supporting research that addresses issues such as the role of religion, poverty and the environment in cultural relations
- To explore translation and interpreting as a strategically important area of academic research
- To explore the role of languages and translation in diplomatic and political relationships in the context of increased multi-polarity, including those within and between established and emerging powers such as China, India, Brazil and Russia
- To develop new work on inter-cultural dialogue that is global in its focus, ensuring that it is not concentrated exclusively on European languages
- To encourage greater collaboration between individual language disciplines, and the development of shared collaborative research opportunities and priorities, in order to address issues from broader perspectives and promote efficiency through the concentration of excellence
- To support, but not duplicate, associated AHRC research programmes such as Religion and Society and Diasporas, Migration and Identity, as well as associated cross-council programmes such as Global Uncertainties
- To support the development of Early Career Researchers as the next generation of research leaders in languages and cultural dialogue, enabling them to demonstrate the importance of the research area across the academic sector, to external partners, and publicly
- To engage non-academic partners in the scheme, helping to address knowledge gaps and areas of political, social and economic need with partners in government, the third sector and business communities
- To nurture new partnerships and collaborations – across institutions, across disciplines, across sectors and internationally - that are sustainable over time and create a greater range of impacts
- To develop partnerships with a range of academic and non-academic bodies internationally, supporting translation flows and, where possible, creating new collaborations and providing access to other sources of funding
- Through engagement with appropriate partners, to explore the impact of limited language provision across the academic sector, including at school level, and to share knowledge and expertise in developing an understanding of the demand for such skills and knowledge



- To build capacity in key areas encompassed by the theme, paying particular attention to language needs and cultural understanding across government departments and to build enhanced, sustainable relations between government and the academic community
- To provide opportunities for postgraduates and researchers to spend a short period of time working outside of academia, including the provision of internships and placements, in order to enhance their perspectives, develop their research skills, and contribute to their future career options
- To engage fully with stakeholders within the UK that have an interest in language capacity, using their expertise to identify demand and skills gaps, and to involve them in the scoping of aims and outputs
- To work with other funding partners, notably the ESRC, BA, and HEFCE, to ensure that there is an integrated and collaborative approach to research in this area across the research funding community

### **Research Questions**

In consultation with the theme's Advisory Group, the AHRC has produced the following four research questions, which will inform the development of the theme in the initial phase. As above, any proposals submitted to the Research Development Networking call in Translating Cultures should address one of these questions.

- 1) How can research into languages and cultures contribute to our understanding of, and progress in, international diplomacy and engagement in the context of increasingly multi-polar interactions and emergent global and inter-regional relations, particularly those within and between Europe, Russia, India and China?
- 2) How can research into languages and cultures develop our understanding of contemporary issues and interactions such as youth culture, popular culture, inter-generational relations and diasporic culture and of written and oral culture, both in the past and in the contemporary context of digital media and communications?
- 3) How can research into languages and cultures contribute effectively to key public policy concerns such as economic growth, security, immigration and the environment and how can this support the work of NGOs, third sector organisations and other bodies, including community groups concerned with language and intercultural issues?
- 4) How can research into languages and cultures help to build capacity and develop understanding of the process and nature of translation and interpreting across cultures, dialects and sectors (e.g. government/business/communities)?

### **Nature of the Networking and Collaborative Activity**

The call is intended to support collaborative networking activity that explores the key themes, issues and challenges arising from one of the four research questions. This



activity may aim to explore the full breadth of one of the questions or to focus on a specific enquiry that a particular question presents. We do not expect to receive applications that address more than one question.

Proposed activity should aim to stimulate debate across boundaries and sectors, exploring new areas and where appropriate, taking creative and innovative approaches. Activity should seek to interrogate the strategic importance of research into languages and cultures and to identify the key research challenges through which the theme will be delivered subsequently.

Networking activity through this call may take a range of forms and we are open to proposals that involve a wide range or combination of activities that support the subject matter and proposed outputs. It might include, for example, seminars, workshops, conferences, public engagement activity and on-line fora. In all cases, proposals should justify why this activity has been suggested and the value added by the component partners.

All funded projects will be expected to produce a summary report outlining the findings of the networking activity and providing recommendations for the future development of the Translating Cultures theme.

### **How to apply**

This call document should be read in conjunction with the Research Funding Guide <http://www.ahrc.ac.uk/FundingOpportunities/Documents/Research%20Funding%20Guide.pdf> which gives details about applying for AHRC funding, including eligibility requirements, information about costings and completing the proposal form.

**Detailed guidance on completing the Case for Support and other attachments is provided in Annex A.**

All proposals must be completed and submitted by the deadline of **4pm on Tuesday 29 November 2011**.

You should submit your proposal using the Research Councils' Joint electronic Submission (Je-S) System (<https://je-s.rcuk.ac.uk/>). To prepare a proposal form in Je-S log-in to your account and choose **New Document**, then select **AHRC** as the Council, **Standard Proposal** as the Document Type, **Development Grants** as the Scheme, **Translating Cultures Development Awards 29 November 2011** as the Call/Type/Mode and then 'Create Document'. Je-S will then create a proposal form, displaying the relevant section headings. Using the 'Help' link at the top of each section will provide guidance relevant to that section of the form. **Please take care when choosing the Call/Type/Mode as other similar options will be presented in the drop-down list.**

Please note that the proposal form for this scheme will be available in Je-S from **18 October 2011**.

Details of which Research Organisations have registered to use Je-S are available from [http://www.so.stfc.ac.uk/jes/jes1/RODetails\(Web\).pdf](http://www.so.stfc.ac.uk/jes/jes1/RODetails(Web).pdf).



Note that clicking 'submit document' on your proposal form in Je-S initially submits the proposal to your host organisation's administration, not to AHRC. Please remember to allow sufficient time for your organisation's submission process between submitting your proposal to them and the Call closing date.

Please note that in order for the AHRC to coordinate any other work surrounding the activities, **all awards must have a start date between 1 February and 1 March 2012 inclusive**. Starting certificates must be returned to AHRC within 7 days of the start date.

Funded applicants will be expected to produce a summary report outlining the outcomes of their activities upon the completion of the award (and by 30 September 2012 at the latest).

Award holders' HEIs will also need to complete a Financial Expenditure Statement at the end of the award in order for the AHRC to reconcile the project costs. Further information will be provided by the AHRC towards the end of the award period.

#### **Assessment process and criteria**

Proposals will be subject to light touch peer review by a small assessment panel involving members of the Translating Cultures Advisory Group and of the AHRC's Peer Review College.

The following will be taken into account when assessing proposals:

- the extent to which the proposal meets the specific aims of the call
- the extent to which the proposal fits the **Translating Cultures** theme
- the quality of the research process outlined, including: research agenda, participants, sustainability and appropriateness of methods
- the significance and importance of the thematic area to be explored
- the extent to which the proposed activities will build on and add value to existing research
- the extent to which the proposed activities will generate genuine and productive interaction across boundaries (e.g. disciplinary, conceptual, theoretical, methodological and/or international), including the potential for them to lead to advances in knowledge and understanding in the fields concerned and/or new high quality cross-disciplinary research projects
- the extent to which the potential outcomes justify the costs
- whether the Principal and Co-Investigator demonstrate the requisite skills and experience to manage the proposed activities, and whether there is a sufficiently broad range of expertise and experience amongst the other named participants
- the extent to which there are effective plans for management of the activities and the monitoring of progress, including whether a realistic timetable and reasonable costs are presented which will achieve the aims and objectives of the proposal



- whether the proposal demonstrates an appropriate strategy for the dissemination and exploitation of any outcomes, including the extent to which plans are in place to extend collaboration once the award has ended
- the extent to which what is proposed will have an impact beyond the lifetime of the award

### **Award announcements**

Applicants will be notified of the outcome of their proposal by mid January 2012.

### **Reporting and Dissemination**

As a minimum requirement, award holders will be expected to set up a webpage for their project within its first month providing a summary of planned activities and reports of any events, presentations, papers or other materials emerging from activities. Proposals involving more interactive uses of digital technologies will be welcomed.

Award holders will be expected to produce a summary final report at the end of the award outlining their findings, lessons learnt and future plans. These reports should be published on the webpage (with public access maintained for at least 18 months after the end of the project) and will be used by the Translating Cultures Advisory Group to help further develop the theme.

Whilst it is recognised that the exploratory nature of these awards may make outputs more difficult to specify at the outset, broader dissemination of outcomes through both traditional academic routes, digital media or broader public engagement activities is strongly encouraged.

### **Contacts**

Enquiries regarding the type of activities that can be supported through this call should be directed to either:

Adam Walker, Strategy and Development Manager (Languages and Literature)  
[a.walker@ahrc.ac.uk](mailto:a.walker@ahrc.ac.uk) or 01793 416098

or

Jessica Bacon, Portfolio Manager (Languages and Literature)  
[j.bacon@ahrc.ac.uk](mailto:j.bacon@ahrc.ac.uk) or 01793 416071

The AHRC works with the RCUK Shared Services Centre (SSC) to deliver all of our funding activities.

Enquiries about Je-S registration or completing the proposal form should be directed to  
[grants@ssc.rcuk.ac.uk](mailto:grants@ssc.rcuk.ac.uk) or 01793 444 164



## **Annex A**

### **Guidance for completing attachments**

All the following documents should be completed in a font no smaller than size 11. Please also note the permitted document lengths.

#### **Case for Support**

The Case for Support should be no more than **4 sides of A4** outlining the rationale for the proposed activity, how it will add value to current activities, a description of the proposed activities to be undertaken, and an outline of the expected outputs and dissemination plans as appropriate. Please ensure you use a font no smaller than size 11.

You should structure your Case for Support using the following headings:

#### **Fit to theme**

You should ensure that it is clear to the reader how the proposed activities fit with the **Translating Cultures** theme and how you envisage your project contributing to the theme. **You should also state here which of the four research questions your proposal is responding to.**

#### **Rationale and context**

You should describe clearly the rationale, approach and context of the activities. Why are the proposed activities necessary to address this theme at this time? How will the proposed work build on, and add value to, the existing research base? How will it identify emerging areas of research innovation or potential gaps in current research? Why are you the right person / people to conduct this work? What is the research context in which the activities will operate and how will it advance knowledge and understanding in the fields concerned?

#### **Aims and objectives**

You should describe the aims and objectives of the activities. What specific targets or outcomes will you have achieved by the end of the project?

#### **Timetable of activities**

You should give a clear timetable of activities, including key milestones.

#### **Management and Co-ordination**

How will the activities be managed, coordinated and delivered? If the application includes additional assistance or administrative support, please outline the activities and responsibilities for each post.

#### **Outcomes and dissemination**

Please provide examples of any outputs you propose to produce during the award and their proposed focus. To which audiences will the activities and their outcomes be of interest? How will any outputs be discussed with, and/or communicated and disseminated to, those audiences?

#### **Justification of Resources**

All costs associated with the project must be justified in the Justification of Resources. Applicants should:



- Explain why the indicated resources are needed, taking into account the nature and complexity of the activities proposed. Note that it is not sufficient merely to list what is required
- Refer to the breakdown of resources in the summary fund headings Directly Incurred and Directly Allocated
- Estates costs, Indirect costs, Fellowship salary costs, and some other Directly Allocated costs such as general technical services do not need to be justified

The Justification of resources should not exceed two sides of A4.

### **Curriculum Vitae**

Summary curriculum vitae should be attached as separate documents for each Principal Investigator, any Co- Investigators or named postdoctoral researchers. These should be no more than two sides of A4 paper and in an Arial font no smaller than size 11. CVs should include basic information about education, employment history, and academic responsibilities.

### **Publications Lists**

Summary lists of publications/research outputs should be attached as separate documents for each Principal Investigator, any Co- Investigators or named postdoctoral researchers. These should cover major publications/outputs in the last five years and should be no more than one side of A4 paper and in a Arial font no smaller than size 11.

Brief articles, conference papers, etc. need not be included. You should asterisk those of particular relevance to your current research proposal.

### **Letters of Support**

If any Project Partners have been included in the proposal, a Letter of Support is required from each partner, outlining the level of commitment of the proposed partner, the value and benefit of the work to the Project Partner, the nature of the contribution and the added value to the project of the involvement. The letter should be dated and signed by a senior member of the organisation, with the authority to make this commitment.

### **Visual evidence**

Applications may include no more than two sides of A4 non-textual, visual evidence in support of the proposal, to illustrate the proposed aims and objectives and/or research methods. It is not permitted to include this material to supplement or replace your CV or publications list or to illustrate previous work in any way nor should it be used to circumvent the word limit for the Case for Support.

### **Pathways to Impact**

The Pathways to Impact attachment (of up to 2 sides of A4) asks you to expand on the Impact Summary by answering the question what will be done to ensure that potential beneficiaries have the opportunity to engage with the research?

The Pathways to Impact attachment is your opportunity to describe in more detail how the potential impacts of the research beyond academia, as outlined in the Impact Summary, will be realised. Taking into account what is reasonable and appropriate given the nature of the research you propose to conduct, you are asked to describe how the proposed research will be managed to engage any users and beneficiaries that have been identified, or to identify potential users and beneficiaries as the research progresses, and to increase the likelihood of achieving impacts. In presenting your plans, you should tailor and target your impact activities to ensure that they are relevant to the specific user and beneficiary groups likely to be interested in your research and appropriate for supporting the potential research impacts outlined. Innovative and creative approaches are strongly encouraged.



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When completing the attachment, you should consider (and address if appropriate) methods for communications and engagement, collaboration and exploitation. You should also detail who will be undertaking any impact activities and include any resource implications in the financial summary and in the separate Justification of Resources attachment.

Further information on completing this section can be found in the [AHRC Research Funding Guide](#).