

Call for Applications

The Brazilian Academy of Sciences and the British Academy Knowledge Frontiers Symposium

Friday 6 - Sunday 8 March 2020
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

Introduction

1. The British Academy and the Brazilian Academy of Sciences are inviting applications from early career researchers in the humanities and social sciences to attend a Knowledge Frontiers Symposium on the broad theme of *Urban Violence*. The symposium aims to incentivise and establish international engagement and collaboration between early career researchers from a broad range of disciplines within the humanities and social sciences, encouraging the exchange of ideas across both disciplinary and national boundaries, supporting the development of the next generation of scholars in both countries and strengthening academic links between Brazil and the UK.

Purpose and Focus

2. Cities are economic centres and seats of power that produce dense conglomerations of people, characterised by proximity, mixing and intense relationships but also by forms of social and spatial segregation. They therefore offer a unique opportunity to examine and study various contestations, how they are expressed and how they might be counteracted. Both in the past and in the present, processes of urbanisation and the re-drawing of spatial, socio-economic and political boundaries have engendered and been shaped by different forms of violence. The meanings and practices of urban violence and its connotations vary as a result of specific national and regional patterns of historical development and contextual factors and plural interests that shape specific urban situations. They can also be driven by and find expression in literature, historical interpretation, cultural heritage and the arts. However, since broader patterns of regional or even global significance can also be identified, both carefully contextualised case studies and broader comparative research have a valuable role to play in understanding the diverse forms of violence that afflict contemporary life in cities.
3. This symposium will explore how the urban across space and time has produced or affected violence, and how violence – and its effects - can shape cities and the experiences of those who inhabit them. It will discuss how disputes over and interpretations of history, heritage, culture and/or power can drive and mitigate urban violence, how violence finds expression in or threatens art, and how history, heritage and the arts can be harnessed to counteract or propel the effects of violence. It will also address the multilayered nature of urban violence, ranging from domestic violence through femicide to the private and public violence of criminals, paramilitaries, police and soldiers, the construction of hierarchies of violence, the interplay between different forms of violence, and the role of social

movements, grassroots organisations and other actors seeking to reduce violence and promote accountability.

4. The symposium will bring together early career scholars whose work engages with these phenomena from a range of disciplinary perspectives across the humanities and social sciences, drawing on examples from different regional, global and historical contexts.
5. The symposium format will allow for extensive discussion and debate, with considerable time set aside for this and wider networking opportunities.
6. The symposium will also provide an opportunity for participants to learn more about the work of the Brazilian Academy of Sciences and the British Academy.

The Symposium

7. The symposium will bring together up to forty early career researchers (understood as up to seven years after obtaining a PhD) from the UK and Brazil from across the humanities and social sciences to discuss key questions around the theme of urban violence. The symposium is designed specifically to encourage collaboration and networking between early career researchers. In advance of the symposium, participants will be able to begin exchanging ideas among themselves; discuss the session themes; and start making connections or developing ideas for possible future activities.
8. In order to incentivise longer-term collaboration, the British Academy will make seed funding available, which participants can apply for. The seed funding grants will support collaborations which are international in their makeup, and each participant is limited to being part of a maximum of three collaborations. The seed funding is not designed to fund an individual's research, but to take forward collaborations between those present at the symposium. These could include (but are not limited to): co-hosting a workshop to develop a joint research idea; hosting a guest lecture and facilitating teaching; or developing a larger grant application.
9. Time will be set aside on the final day of the symposium for a session in which participants will be given time to write up their proposed collaborations and submit applications by the end of the session. The application form for seed funding will be circulated in advance to ensure participants are fully aware of the opportunity and its requirements.
10. In addition to funding a number of collaborative proposals, the symposium will also provide opportunities for a range of other outputs. Participants, for example, could be invited to contribute to a publication focused on the symposium theme, either through individual papers or in partnership with other symposium participants, record audio outputs or write blog posts that will be compiled into a series dedicated to the symposium.

Eligibility

11. For the purpose of this symposium, early career is defined as being within a seven-year period of the award of the applicant's doctorate.
12. Participants must be based at institutions in Brazil or the United Kingdom.
13. Participants must have fluency in spoken and written English.
14. Participants must show interest and relevant research on issues related to urban violence and a disposition to develop international collaborative research on this topic.
15. Participants must be able to travel on dates and times, and on flights or other modes of transportation chosen by the British Academy and the Brazilian Academy of Sciences.
16. Attendance is mandatory for the entire symposium. If this is not met it will result in a participant not being eligible for the seed funding available.
17. UK-based attendees may only participate in two British Academy Knowledge Frontiers Symposia in any 24-month period.

Selection Criteria

18. Applications will be assessed against the following criteria:
 - a. Proven research interest and/or experience in the symposium's theme;
 - b. Commitment to interdisciplinary engagement and research;
 - c. Value of symposium to applicant's career development.

Application Process

19. All applicants must submit:
 - a. A completed application form;
 - b. A CV (in English) which should not exceed two pages (applicants based in Brazil should insert CV Lattes link too).
20. UK-based applications must be submitted online using the British Academy's Grant Management System (GMS), [Flexi-Grant®](#). The deadline for submissions is Wednesday 23 October at 17.00 (UK time).
21. Brazil-based applications must be submitted to vvieira@abc.org.br by Wednesday 23 October at 17.00 (Brazil time).
22. We will seek to notify successful applicants by the end of November.

Logistics

23. The symposium will take place in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from Friday 6th to Sunday 8th March 2020. The costs of travel, visas and accommodation for participants will be covered by the organisers.

Further Information

Further information is available from Naomi Popple (n.popple@thebritishacademy.ac.uk) and Vitor Vieira (vvieira@abc.org.br).

About The Brazilian Academy of Sciences

The Brazilian Academy of Sciences (ABC), founded in 1916, is a non-profit, non-governmental, independent entity, which operates as an honorific scientific society and as a consultant for the government, when requested to do so, to perform technical studies and studies on scientific policies. Its focus is the scientific development of the country, the interaction among Brazilian scientists and the interaction of these with researchers from other nations.

With the main objective of promoting scientific quality and the progress of Brazilian Science, ABC has as its fundamental characteristic its supra-institutional nature and an ample diversity in the areas of interests of its members. These credentials qualify the Academy to discuss and propose new solutions to scientific and socio-economic issues, which require a multidisciplinary approach, which is the most important mission of the Academy for the future.

About The British Academy

The British Academy is the UK's national body for the humanities and social sciences – the study of peoples, cultures and societies (past, present and future). The British Academy's purpose is to inspire and support high achievement in the humanities and social sciences throughout the UK and internationally, and to promote their public value. We have three principal roles:

- A fellowship of distinguished scholars from all areas of the humanities and social sciences, elected by their peers, that facilitates the exchange of knowledge and ideas and promotes the work of our subjects.
- A funding body that supports the best ideas, individuals and intellectual resources in the humanities and social sciences, nationally and internationally.
- A forum for debate and engagement that stimulates public interest and deepens understandings, that enhances global leadership and policy making, and that acts as a voice for the humanities and social sciences.