

Post-Doctoral Researcher (1 Vacancy)

The Centre for Social Studies (CES) – Associate Laboratory - University of Coimbra (Portugal), invites applications for **one Post-Doctoral Researcher position** in the project “Animals and Plants in Cultural Productions about the Amazon River Basin-ECO” (Grant Agreement 101002359), funded by the European Research Council (ERC) under the framework program H2020, and coordinated by the Principal Investigator (PI), Patrícia Vieira.

Scholars working on the Amazon River Basin with a background in Environmental History, with a focus on the Amazon and critical plant studies, or other relevant fields are welcome to apply.

A. Project Description

Animals and plants feature prominently in cultural productions about the Amazon River Basin, testifying to the centrality of the region’s natural environment both for local populations and for the earth’s biosphere. The key hypothesis of ECO is that texts (broadly understood to include mythology, folk tales, the lyrics of songs, essays, literature, travel writings, etc.), cinema and art about this area highlight the ways in which non-human beings dynamically shape human cultural life. The project’s main challenge is to resort both to Amazonian thought and to the academic field of ecocriticism to assess how human cultural productions about Amazonia lend a voice to animals and plants. ECO develops the concept of *zoophytography* to describe the inscription of non-humans in texts, films and artworks, thus decentering humanity as the sole source of meaning-making.

ECO will make a significant contribution to the environmental humanities, offering an Amazonian perspective on ecocriticism, environmental philosophy and post-colonial studies. By creating a deeper understanding of conceptions of Amazonian fauna and flora, the project will reveal the interdependence of humans and non-humans, draw attention to environmental degradation in Amazonia and uncover more equitable views on animals and plants from the region.

ECO started on January 1, 2022, with a duration of 60 months.

B. Scientific Field

Humanities and Social Sciences

C. Requirements

PhD degree in History in hand (defense process finalized) before March 31, 2024.

Applicants with an academic degree and diploma issued by a foreign Higher Education Institution must present proof of recognition of the academic degree by the Portuguese Higher Education System (law DL66/2018). Any candidate without the recognition of her/his degree will be admitted to the competition. Should that candidate be selected, she/he will need to provide proof of the recognition of her/his academic degree by the Portuguese authorities before signing the contract.

The selected candidate will have to deliver the recognition of the degree within 30 days after the communication of the application results. After 30 days, the jury may decide to:

1. extend the deadline for the candidate to prove the recognition;
2. assign the position to another candidate;
3. or not fill the position.

D. Candidate' Profile

This call will select a candidate for **one Post-Doctoral Researcher position** with the following scientific profile:

The selected candidate will have History as the main scientific background. Applicants should have a specialization in the Amazon River Basin, experience working in the region, and a record of publications on topics related to the Amazon.

Knowledge of English, Portuguese and Spanish is a requirement. Knowledge of at least one of the Indigenous languages of the Amazon is highly desirable.

Selected candidate will work under the coordination of the project's PI, Patrícia Vieira.

E. Selected Candidate's Responsibilities

The selected researcher will have the following responsibilities:

- a) Actively contribute to the intellectual life of the project, including, but not limited to: participation in reading groups; participation in internal meetings; participation in meetings with the project's advisory board;
- b) Contribute to the planning of ECO's fieldwork; carry out fieldwork; gather, analyze and organize data;
- c) Regularly publish research results in academic journal and books; and regularly participate in academic conferences to disseminate research results;

- d) Contribute to the advanced training seminars organized by the project and to the mentoring of the project's PhD student;
- e) Contribute to the organization of academic conferences and other events sponsored by the project;
- f) Contribute to the project's public outreach activities, including, but not limited to: maintaining the project's website; publication of op-eds in the media; publication of podcasts and video logs in the project's website; the production of a documentary film; and participation in the CES goes to School initiative;
- g) Contribute to drafting the project's reports to be handed in to the ERC;
- h) Contribute to the project's daily management tasks, namely scientific reporting; monitoring of project milestones; and all other tasks required to guarantee the successful implementation of ECO;
- i) Write reports on all activities undertaken, according to a work plan set in the Description of Action, and a calendar set with the PI.

F. Applicable Legislation and Regulations

The successful candidates will be hired under Law no. 57/2016, August 29, altered by Law 57/2017, which approves a doctoral hiring regime with a view to boosting scientific and technological employment in all areas of knowledge (RJEC). The hiring will also be governed by the Labor Code approved by Law no. 7/2009 of February 12, as currently worded.

G. Workplace

Research will be performed at the Centre for Social Studies facilities in Coimbra, Portugal. Selected researcher will occasionally need to travel to other locations to perform research tasks. Successful candidate is expected to move to Portugal for the duration of the contract.

H. Duration of the Contract

The contract will be signed for the sole purpose of the execution of the project, starting in May, 2024. The contract is fulltime, in exclusive dedication to ECO, until the end of the project. Selected researcher is subject to yearly evaluations by the PI, upon which depends the continuation of the contract.

I. Monthly Salary

The monthly salary is 2.294,95 Euros gross plus two additional months of salary (total of 14 months of salary a year). Full protection by Social Security is included in the contract. Researchers will be covered by Portugal's national health insurance plan.

Salary is set in accordance with the provisions of Portugal's scientific employment law, namely line a) number 1, of article 15, Law nº 57/2017, corresponding to level 33 of the single salary scale approved by Decree no. 1553-C/2008 of December 31.

J. Selection Process

Applicants will be selected based on their scientific merit and curricular path. In case of equivalent curricular evaluations, the best-positioned applicants will be short-listed for an interview, meant to assess each applicant's potential contribution to the development of the project. The two stages of evaluation (the curricular merit assessment and the interview) will weigh 50% each in the final score. The scale applied to each criterion is 0 to 20.

The jury reserves the right to not select any applicants for the positions, if applications do not meet the necessary standards and/or profiles in terms of absolute merit.

K. Selection Criteria

Applicants must demonstrate expertise on the topic of the project, by fulfilling the following criteria:

1. Academic background and research experience in the area of History, with research knowledge on the Amazon and its cultural archives, and a publication record on this region (60%);
2. Excellent language skills in both oral and written English, including ability to independently write in this language; intermediate knowledge of at least Spanish and Portuguese; proficiency in at least one minority language spoken in Amazonia is desirable (25%);
3. Experience in research management and dissemination (including social media and website editing); previous experience in EC-funded projects will be valued (15%).

L. Selection Panel

- Patrícia Vieira (President)
- Martinho Soares (permanent)
- António Carvalho (permanent)

- Miguel Cardina (substitute)
- Verónica Policarpo (substitute)

M. Communication of Results

All candidates will receive the results of the selection process by email. The meeting minutes of the selection panel will become publicly available.

N. Application Deadline:

Call opens on: April 4, 2024

Call closes on: April 18, 2024

After April 18, 2024, applications will not be considered for evaluation.

O. Application Documents

Applications must include:

- Presentation/Motivation letter (max. 2 pages);
- Curriculum Vitae of max. 5 pages, highlighting the items most relevant to the topic of the call;
- Copy of qualification certificates and other relevant documents for eligibility purposes (applicants need to have a PhD degree by the deadline of this call). If, for the duration of the application period, the applicant does not have proof of recognition of their academic degree by the Portuguese Higher Education System (law DL66/2018), they must submit a declaration of honor committing themselves to deliver the recognition of the degree within 30 days after the communication of the application results.
- electronic copy of the PhD dissertation and 3 relevant publications.

Applications should be sent by email as a PDF document to concursos@ces.uc.pt until the final deadline. Applications must include a **clear indication of the reference of this call (CES/06/2024-PD-ECO)** and the name of candidate.

Additional comments

Equality of opportunities:

CES abides by the national law that regulates the prevention, prohibition and fighting against discrimination on the grounds of racial and ethnic identity, colour, nationality, family background, and territory of origin (Law nº 93/2017, 23 August).

Data protection:

By submitting your application, you are agreeing with the use of your personal data by CES administrative services for the sole purpose of the current call, namely to be contacted directly by CES services and allow the communication of results as in point n. of this call. CES abides by the principles of GDPR.

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