

Call for Postdoctoral Fellowship

Postdoctoral research position on Horizon Europe project “Realising Girls’ and Women’s Inclusion, Representation and Empowerment” (RE-WIRING)

Application deadline: March 3, 2023

Starting date: April 1, 2023

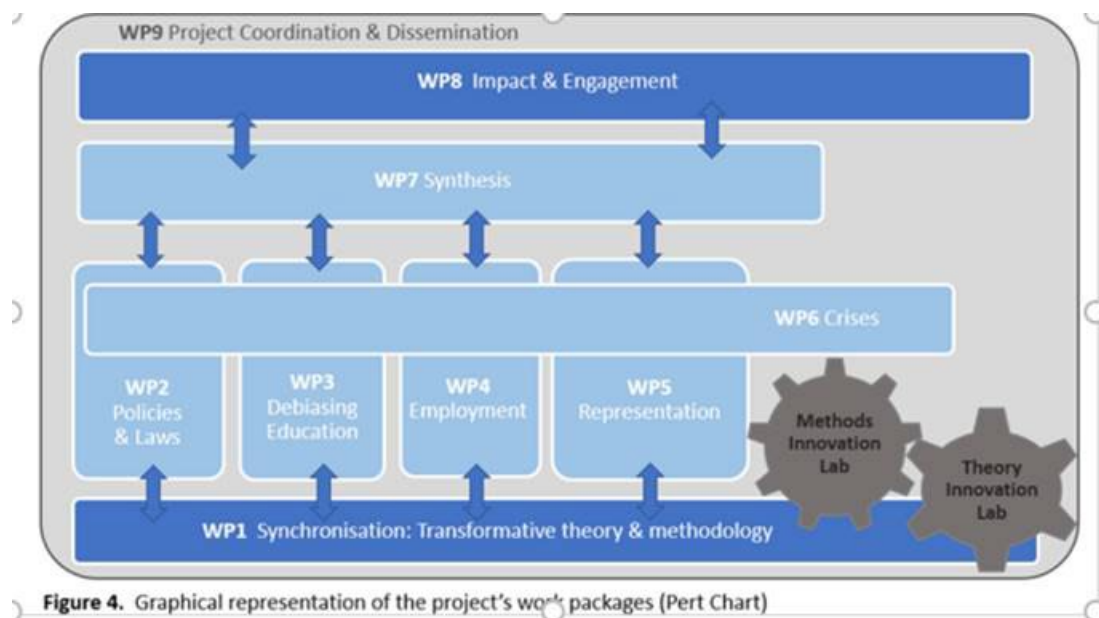
The Department of Women’s and Gender Studies, University of the Western Cape is offering a 33-36 month Postdoctoral Research Fellowship to carry out research on gender and representation within an international and interdisciplinary team within the framework of the RE-WIRING Horizon Europe project, that has been granted under the call “[HORIZON-CL2-2022-TRANSFORMATIONS-01-5 Gender and Social, Economic and Cultural Empowerment](#)”.

The successful applicant will be one out of a total of six Postdoctoral Research Fellows working on the RE-WIRING project (with the other five based across different consortium partners).

The project will trace current limitations of girls’ and women’s access to political, economic, social and cultural power (of definition) and is geared towards developing new theoretical and methodological approaches as well as to creating/producing/kickstarting/facilitating institutional and societal change, focusing on the mainstreaming of a transformative equality approach in the EU and beyond. The project will thus reveal and analyse the existence of difficult-to-penetrate strongholds of power in different fields, occupied by gender-privileged groups. It will on the one hand investigate the main institutional, empirical and symbolical obstacles hampering access to power, while on the other hand identifying, crafting and testing/implementing possible solutions to it that are capable of achieving long-term transformations.

The project envisions working with an intersectional, multi- and interdisciplinary research agenda based on three-dimensional theoretical and methodological approach of the interconnectedness between the symbolical, the institutional and the empirical levels in order to create/bring about/etc durable societal change. It also takes a crisis and cross-cultural perspective (see for a brief description also <https://www.uu.nl/en/news/horizon-europe-funding-for-transformative-research-project-re-wiring> to carry out research in an international and interdisciplinary team.

The Research Fellows employed as postdocs will not only work on the specific WP for which they have been selected (either WP 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7), but they will also be contributing to the integrative WP 1, 7, 8 and to a limited extent also to WP 9. The research is embedded in an international and interdisciplinary setting, in close collaboration with the other post-docs in the project as well as the senior researchers from the various partner institutions.



The successful candidate will be located within a work package on Representation in art and media which will trace and analyse the specific narrative and visual structures which underpin the reiteration and consolidation of stereotypical representations in media, particularly in advertisements. We will unpack the binary structures that depict the non-reference person and/or the marked Other in the narrative structurally in the domains of nature, the body, the private sphere, passivity, victimhood, chaos, circularity whereas the dominant subject or the reference person is located in the domains of culture, the mind, the public sphere, activity, saviour, order, linearity and progress (Lloyd, 1984).

We aim to specifically trace the consequences of these binary narrative structures for the stereotypical configurations of women and the workplace, women and education/socialisation, women and leadership.

A key goal of the project is to work with artists and artistic work in the co-creation of inclusive non-stereotypical narratives and visuals. These new narrative and visual structures will be visualised and shared in online and offline exhibitions to be curated in co-operation with artists and arts spaces located in the consortium members' countries. The online exhibition will be hosted by [MOED: Museum of Equality and Difference](#)

We look for candidates with the following qualifications, expertise and interest:

- ✓ PhD in Gender Studies or other related disciplines in the Social Sciences and Arts and Humanities with interest and knowledge in intersectional gender justice in general with a thematic focus on representation, media and the arts;
- ✓ experience in conducting inter/trans/cross cultural and sectoral research;
- ✓ multi-disciplinary background and knowledge of different research methodologies – e.g. discourse analysis, semiotics, iconography, affect theory and/or experience in adopting mixed method approaches in research;
- ✓ experience or interest in coordinating research projects, involvement in multi- and transnational and interdisciplinary teams/lines of research;
- ✓ Good organisational and team management skills;
- ✓ Fluency in English and other local African languages will be an advantage.

In line with the University's commitment to transformation, preference will be given to suitably qualified applicants from historically disadvantaged backgrounds in line with the equity and redress policy of the university.

Please submit a cover letter which includes a short statement on how you envisage contributing to the work package and the project as a whole, CV, two examples of your published or other writing and/or co-curated exhibitions, and two referee letters. Applications and referee letters should be sent to Janine Pekeur jpekeur@uwc.ac.za and Tamara Shefer tshefer@uwc.ac.za

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