



Postdoctoral Research Fellowship
The properties and relations of maize

**DST/NRF SARCHI Research Chair: Environmental and Social
Dimensions of the Bio-economy**

**Department of Environmental and Geographical Science
University of Cape Town, South Africa**

Closing date for applications: 31 January, 2025

Applications are invited for a post-doctoral research fellowship centred on the properties and relations of maize, beginning early 2025. The position forms part of the SARCHI Bio-economy Research Chair held by Professor Rachel Wynberg and is based in the Department of Environmental and Geographical Science at the University of Cape Town, South Africa. It is linked to a collaborative project led by [Klara Fischer](#), at the [Department of Urban and Rural Development](#), Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences that adopts multispecies perspectives on agrarian change in South Africa, using maize as a lens for a wider analysis of factors that shape smallholder agriculture trajectories. The candidate will form part of a larger team and would be expected to participate in collaborative research and co-publish with team members. There would also be scope for the fellow to design their own project within the framing of the project.

Potential applicants should have an interest in agriculture, a good understanding of ecological processes, and ideally a background in environmental humanities and interdisciplinary research. Experience of qualitative research methods is essential, preferably with a focus on ethnographic methods and participatory research approaches.

The tenure of the fellowship is for two years, with the second year subject to satisfactory progress. The value of the fellowship is R400,000 per annum, which is tax-free. The fellowship does not include benefits or travel/relocation costs. An additional allowance is available for conference and fieldwork expenses.

Requirements

1. A PhD in a relevant field, awarded within the last five years (recently submitted PhDs will also be considered)
2. Evidence of strong scholarly performance (e.g. publications, participation in research projects, networks, conference presentations)
3. A strong interest in inter- and transdisciplinarity
4. Interest in working with and supervising postgraduate students and as a member of a research team
5. Interest in engaged scholarship

Applications

Applications should be sent to Fahdelah.Hartley@uct.ac.za and should include:

1. A detailed letter of motivation describing your interest in the position and the work you wish to pursue during the fellowship
2. A comprehensive CV
3. Certified copies of your academic record
4. At least one example of recent, written work
5. The names and contact details of two referees, who should also be requested to submit their confidential reports to Prof Wynberg by the closing date

Further information can be obtained from Rachel.Wynberg@uct.ac.za

Further information about postdoctoral fellows at UCT can be found at:

<http://www.uct.ac.za/main/research/postdoc-research-fellowships>

Further information about the Bio-economy Chair can be found at:

www.bio-economy.org.za