



Re-imagining Tragedy from Africa and the Global South

Postdoctoral Fellowship

The Centre for Theatre, Dance and Performance Studies (CTDPS) at the University of Cape Town is engaged in an innovative, five-year research project that began in 2019, **Reimagining Tragedy from Africa and the Global South**, funded by The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. This project proposes to take a concept – tragedy - from the very beginnings of theatre in its European manifestation and to reimagine it from a perspective in Africa that is at once directed at the complex challenges of our global postcolonial present and towards our possible futures both inside and outside of the discipline.

The project is led by Mark Fleishman with Mandla Mbothwe, and aims to understand how tragedy has been refigured in the post-colonial theatre; how moments of tragic excess are enacted outside of the theatre in the course of revolts against neo-colonial establishments and forces; and, in an embodied, performative manner, how tragedy might be utilized as a tool for understanding the present regime of time and its performative effects in the global neo-colonial complex that characterizes the world as it is emerging now across all hemispheres. It is a project that sets out to reorient thinking about theatre by shifting its dominant perspectives; re-read the postcolony through the frame of tragedy; explore the relevance of tragedy for a young generation today; while adopting a methodology rooted in art practice.

We are seeking a postdoctoral fellow to join the project for a three-year period commencing in August/September 2021. The Postdoctoral Fellow will undertake research and gain professional experience under the supervision and mentorship of Prof. Mark Fleishman, the Principal Investigator of the RETAGS project.

Equity, redress, diversity and inclusion are central to the project. We will consider applications from suitably qualified candidates with experience of and interest in the global South broadly. However, we particularly encourage applications from women and black (and especially African) South Africans.

Conditions of Award:

- The Postdoctoral Fellowship is valued at R210 000 per annum, renewable for a total of three years (2021-2022-2023) on the basis of satisfactory academic progress and availability of funds. No benefits or allowances are included in the value of the fellowship
- The successful candidate will hold a PhD degree in Theatre or Performance Studies or a cognate discipline and may not previously have held full-time permanent professional or academic posts.
- The successful applicant will have a broad theatre & performance studies research focus and an interest in applying concepts and forms from inside the theatre to events occurring outside of the theatre in a global South context. Furthermore, an interest in, and willingness to contribute to, the curation of online, digital archives of data collected through fieldwork, would be an advantage.
- Candidates will be expected to participate fully in the life of the RETAGS project, to mentor junior scholars and to develop their own research and outputs in line with the stated objectives of the RETAGS programme. They may be invited to teach and supervise, subject to the limits on Postdoctoral researchers.
- The successful candidate will be expected to conduct fieldwork in various part of the African continent and in sites of the African diaspora and to contribute to the establishment of digital archives based on such fieldwork.
- The successful candidate will be required to register at the Centre for Theatre, Dance and Performance Studies, University of Cape Town, and to comply with relevant policies, procedures and practices at the University of Cape Town. The fellow will be required to be based in Cape Town for the duration of the postdoctoral period except when conducting fieldwork or traveling for approved research purposes.

To apply, please send: A letter of application describing your work and how it fits with the themes of the RETAGS project; a CV (including research activities and outputs); your academic transcripts; and two letters of reference from academics who have taught, supervised or worked alongside you.

Please send your query or completed application to Raezeen Wentworth (raezeen.wentworth@uct.ac.za) and copy Prof. Mark Fleishman (mark.fleishman@uct.ac.za).

Applications are due 30 June 2021. Eligible and complete applications will be considered by a project committee. Incomplete or late applications will not be considered.

The University of Cape Town reserves the right to disqualify ineligible, incomplete and/or inappropriate applications and to change the conditions of award or to make no awards at all.

