

Postdoctoral Research Fellowship

Project Title: *Spectres of Race at Stellenbosch University: a study of the historical and contemporary uses and abuses of racial categories.*

Scope of Research: The research falls under the umbrella of the Mellon-funded programme: *Indexing Transformation: Interventions in the critical production of knowledge in South Africa*. The starting point of the project is the recognition that Stellenbosch University was one of the birthplaces of apartheid ideology and policy formation. With this in mind, the research aims to critically engage with the historical legacy of race-thinking at the University as well as contemporary debates on race and transformation on and beyond the campus. This will require critically engaging with the following questions: To what extent did eugenics and racial science in the early decades of the twentieth century influence the practice of science and the production of knowledge at Stellenbosch University? To what extent did biological notions of 'race' inform segregationist and apartheid ideology and policy, and what are the contemporary residues of such thinking at the University and beyond? Finally, how can we move beyond the use of apartheid-era categories to address past and current racialized inequalities?

Host: This will be a collaborative project between the Mellon Foundation-funded Indexing Transformation project and the Department of Sociology and Social Anthropology at Stellenbosch University?

Requirement: PhD (must have graduated within the last five years)

- Previous experience in research on questions relating to the role of social science and humanities research in the production of knowledge about 'race' and cultural difference in Stellenbosch and elsewhere in South Africa.
- Familiarity with the *Volkekunde* and anthropological literature on race, ethnicity, and cultural difference.

Please note that postdoctoral fellows are not appointed as employees and their fellowships are awarded tax free. They are therefore not eligible for employee benefits.

Commencement of duties: As soon as possible

Closing date: 20 January 2018

Enquiries: Send a letter of application, accompanied by a comprehensive curriculum vitae, including list of publications and the names and contact details of at least two referees, to Prof Steven Robins at SLR@sun.ac.za and robins@netactive.co.za

Applicants should request their referees to forward confidential reports by the closing date direct to the same address.