



Arts & Humanities
Research Council

Arts and Humanities Approaches to Researching Environmental Change

Details of the call for proposals for Networks

September 2009

Closing date for proposals: 4pm, Thursday 10th December 2009

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Introduction

The Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) invites proposals for Networks under a call entitled *Arts and Humanities Approaches to Researching Environmental Change*. The aim is to establish distinctive, innovative and engaging arts and humanities research perspectives on environmental change through networks of the highest quality and international significance.

This call will build on research activity already undertaken under the Landscape and Environment, and Science and Heritage strategic initiatives, and will contribute to the cross-Council *Living with Environmental Change Programme* (www.lwec.org.uk). This document must be read in conjunction with the AHRC Research Funding Guide which provides an overview of the general AHRC Research Networking Scheme on which this call is based. (<http://www.ahrc.ac.uk/FundingOpportunities/Documents/Research%20Funding%20Guide.pdf>). It details the eligibility criteria, assessment criteria, information on how to apply and eligible dates.

This call will be made under the AHRC's Landscape and Environment Programme with its Programme Director, Professor Stephen Daniels, overseeing the scholarly content of the Programme, including this current call.

The network activities funded under this competition will be expected to run for between six months and one year, and each award can be up to a value of £30,000 fEC.

Aims of the Arts and Humanities Approaches to Researching Environmental Change Network Competition

In addition to the aims for the general Research Networking Scheme (please refer to pages 29 & 30 in the AHRC Research Funding Guide), all proposals for this competition will need to demonstrate the degree to which they would contribute to the following aim:

- to support networks that address the research objectives and themes of this call for Networks (see below).

There is a wealth of knowledge and expertise in the arts and humanities that can be brought to bear upon the environmental change debate including, for example, creativity, ethics, aesthetics, critical reflection, language and discourse, historical perspective and through exploring cultural values and imagination. Further work, however, is required to explore specific themes in order that the dimensions and dynamics of human livelihood are fully embedded in future discussions and considerations of the consequences of environmental change.

Although the emphasis is on developing networks in the arts and humanities, interdisciplinary engagement and collaborations with partners from other disciplines outside the arts and humanities, from the public sector, the cultural sector and the broader research community are encouraged, as is the imaginative dissemination of the research.

This competition is structured around four themes which raise a range of research questions that require an interdisciplinary response from the arts and humanities. These themes are set out below with wide ranging statements and indicative



questions. The questions are intended to problematise the themes and stimulate proposals, not prescribe or specify funded networks.

A workshop was held on 7th April 2009 to discuss these themes with a multidisciplinary group drawn from the arts and humanities research community. Each theme was considered in detail, and the presentations and main points of these discussions can be viewed at <http://www.landscape.ac.uk/LWEC.html>. The information may be helpful in formulating your particular proposal to this competition.

Histories of environmental change

- How can histories of environmental change engage effectively with current concerns about recent events and future scenarios? These include histories tracing continuity as well as transformation over the long term and shorter term histories focused on specific, perhaps extreme, environmental events.
- How are environmental histories produced, at an academic and popular level? What are the issues of evidence (including oral and archival sources), of explanation (including narrative and diagrams) and position (including the particular sites on which histories are based and the venues in which they are produced)?

Representing environmental change

- How can perspectives of art and humanities scholarship focused on rhetorical and representational strategies engage effectively with current issues of environmental change? This includes the framing of literary and historical art issues in environmental terms and the critical analysis of how environmental change is envisaged and described in past and present scientific and policy documents.
- What can research in the practice-led creative and performing arts (including design and exhibition curation) contribute to our understanding of environmental change, both at the level of explanation and communication?

Knowledge and value

- How can we ensure that the complex philosophical and cultural issues of human value, authority and responsibility are represented in current discussions on environmental livelihood and sustainability?
- What are the key challenges and opportunities arising from the ethical and aesthetic dimensions of environmental change?

Material culture and sustainability

- What are the implications of environmental change concerns for organisations, infrastructure and events related to the arts and humanities, including the curation of museums, libraries and archives, management of endangered heritage sites and organisation of large scale travelling exhibitions?
- Is there a role for organisations related to arts and humanities, including museums, libraries and archives, of engaging communities with current and future environmental change by explaining the everyday interaction of historic materials and assemblages with their environment?

Number and value of awards

Successful applicants will be supported to run network activities through Research Networks for between six months and one year up to a value of £30,000 fEC. **All awards must have a start date on or after 1 May 2010. The end date must be on or before 31 July 2011.** Further information on what activities are supported through these Research Networks is provided under the information for AHRC Research Networking on pages 29-34 of the AHRC Research Funding Guide (<http://www.ahrc.ac.uk/FundingOpportunities/Documents/Research%20Funding%20Guide.pdf>). It is expected that the programme will fund around 10 Research Networks through this call.

How to apply

In order to apply to the *Arts and Humanities Approaches to Researching Environmental Change* Networking competition, you should ensure that you read the guidance notes for the Research Networking scheme in responsive-mode (see the AHRC Research Funding Guide). You should also ensure that you meet all of the eligibility criteria (Section 3: Applicant Eligibility in the AHRC Funding Guide, pages 39-41). You must complete the application form using the Je-S helptext for completion.

The *Researching Environmental Change* Research Networks will normally entail the organisation of a set of events over a period of between six months and one year to bring together people from a range of disciplines across the remit of the AHRC. Research Network members should offer a diversity of expertise and experience and could include representatives from different arts and humanities disciplines, heritage institutions, museums, galleries, libraries and archives, practitioner communities, commerce and industry. The Network may also include collaboration with people outside the UK. Awards are intended to cover the operating and support costs involved in organising a short-term series of interdisciplinary workshops, seminars or other events that aim to rapidly advance thinking on a specified theme.

The closing date for proposals is 4pm, Thursday 10th December 2009.

Amendments and Exceptions to the AHRC Research Funding Guide

The following exceptions / amendments apply and refer to information in the AHRC Research Funding Guide (version 1.6).

SECTION ONE – Funding Opportunities, Research Networking

The reference on page 29 to the maximum duration of a Research Networking award does not apply to this competition. The maximum duration for proposals under this competition is 12 months.

Deadlines

Unlike the Research Networking scheme (page 29), there is a set deadline for this competition of 4pm, Thursday 10th December 2009. Proposals submitted after the above deadline will not be accepted by the AHRC. **All awards must have a start date between 1 May 2010 and 31 July 2010.**



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Assessment criteria

Proposals for Networks under this call will be assessed according to all the aims of the general AHRC Research Networking scheme (page 30 & 31).

In addition, the following assessment criterion will apply:

- the extent to which the proposal demonstrates a fit to the aims and themes of the *Arts and Humanities Approaches to Researching Environmental Change* call

Case for support guidance: scheme-specific guidance – Research Networking

Specific case for support guidance for this *Researching Environmental Change* Networks competition is provided on page 9 of this document.

SECTION TWO – Costs

Scheme Limits

When reading the section on costs beginning on page 37 please note that the higher scheme limits available for AHRC Research Networking to cover the costs of any international participants or activities do not apply to this scheme. The maximum you can apply for is £30,000 fEC which includes any costs for international participation.

SECTION THREE – Eligibility

Co-Investigator

Unlike the current AHRC Research Networking Scheme in responsive mode where only one co-investigator is permitted, for this call up to *two* co-investigators are permitted. As the Co-Investigators assist the Principal Investigator in the management and leadership of the research project, the same eligibility criteria will apply to Co-Investigators as to Principal Investigators. See pages 39-41 of the AHRC Research Funding Guide for details on eligibility (<http://www.ahrc.ac.uk/FundingOpportunities/Documents/Research%20Funding%20Guide.pdf>).

SECTION FOUR – Application Guidance

Completing the proposal - Creating a proposal

The information under this heading in the Funding Guide does not apply. Please follow the instructions below instead. Please note that the Je-S form will be available from 20th October 2009 onwards.

1. To prepare your proposal in Je-S choose 'Add New Document', then specify Council: AHRC, Document Type: Standard Proposal, Scheme: Research Networking – Researching Environmental Change, and 'Create Document'. Je-S will then create a Research Networking proposal, displaying appropriate section headings. Using 'Help' at any point accesses helptext within the Je-S system which provides context-specific guidance on how to complete the Je-S form.
2. Once complete, you should upload a Case for Support and other supporting information as attachments, and submit your proposal. Je-S



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will forward your proposal to your Research Organisation, who in turn will submit your proposal to AHRC. Please ensure you allow sufficient time prior to AHRC deadlines for your Research Organisation to be able to do this (note that some Research Organisations will have their own internal deadlines). The published scheme deadline is for the submission of the completed application to the AHRC by the Research Organisation. Late proposals will not be accepted. Proposals containing attachments exceeding the stated limits, or not adhering to the specified format, will not be considered.

3. You should also ensure that you meet all of the eligibility criteria outlined in Section 3: Applicant Eligibility in the AHRC Research Funding Guide (<http://www.ahrc.ac.uk/FundingOpportunities/Documents/Research%20Funding%20Guide.pdf>). In order to apply your organisation must be eligible to apply to the AHRC. Independent Research Organisations (IROs) recognised by the AHRC in responsive and managed mode are also eligible to apply. A full list of IROs can be found at <http://www.rcuk.ac.uk/cmsweb/downloads/rcuk/documents/eligibilityiros.pdf>.

Completing the proposal - Research Themes

This section of the form should be used to indicate which *Researching Environmental Change* Network theme best describes your research area and the network's fit to this call. The research themes are as follows, a detailed outline of these themes can be found above under 'Aims of the *Arts and Humanities Approaches to Researching Environmental Change* Networking Competition':

1. Histories of environmental change
2. Representing environmental change
3. Knowledge and value
4. Material culture and sustainability

Attachments - Summary curriculum vitae

Summary curriculum vitae should be attached for the Principal Investigator and any Co-investigator(s). This should be no more than two sides of A4 paper and in a font no smaller than size 10.

Attachments - Publications lists

A publication/research output list should be attached for the Principal Investigator and any Co-investigator(s). These should be no more than one side of A4 paper and in a font no smaller than size 10.

Attachments - Visual Evidence

Proposals may include up to two sides of A4 of non-textual, visual evidence in support of the proposal to illustrate the proposed aims and objectives and/or research methods. It is not permitted to include this material to supplement or replace your curriculum vitae or publications list or to illustrate previous work in any way.

Attachments - Justification of Resources

This statement should be used to justify the resources required to undertake the research project and is a mandatory attachment.



Please submit a single side of A4 attachment, in a font no smaller than size 10, to the proposal entitled "Justification of Resources". This statement should be used to justify the resources required to undertake the *Researching Environmental Change* Network and is a mandatory addition. Applicants should:

- Explain why the indicated resources are needed, taking account of the nature and complexity of the Network proposed. Note that it is not sufficient merely to list what is required.
- Have regard for the breakdown of resources into the summary fund headings Directly Incurred, Directly Allocated and (where appropriate) Exceptions.
- In some cases, such as investigator time, use of internal facilities and shared staff costs (all likely to be Directly Allocated costs), the basis of the costing need not be justified, but the need for the resources does need justification.
- Try to be explicit about the need for the level of investigator time sought, bearing in mind the complexity of the Network, the need to manage the project and supervise staff and any wider considerations such as collaboration or facilities usage.
- Clearly distinguish what resources will be used for collaboration with the other Networks funded in the same call.
- Estates and indirect costs do not need to be justified.

Attachments - Impact Plan

The Impact Plan¹ (attachment of up to 2 sides of A4) asks you to expand on the Impact Summary. It is your opportunity to describe in more detail how the potential impacts of the research beyond academia, as outlined in the Impact Summary, will be realised. Taking into account what is reasonable and appropriate given the nature of the research you propose to conduct, you are asked to describe how the proposed research will be managed to engage any users and beneficiaries that have been identified, or to identify potential users and beneficiaries as the research progresses, and to increase the likelihood of achieving impacts. In presenting your plans, you should tailor and target your impact plans to ensure that they are relevant to the specific user and beneficiary groups likely to be interested in your research and appropriate for supporting the potential research impacts outlined. Innovative and creative approaches are strongly encouraged.

When completing the attachment, you should consider (and address if appropriate) methods for communications and engagement, collaboration and exploitation. You should also detail who will be undertaking any impact activities

¹ The Research Councils describe impact as the demonstrable contribution that excellent research makes to society and the economy. Impact embraces all the extremely diverse ways in which research-related knowledge and skills benefit individuals, organisations and nations by:

- fostering global economic performance, and specifically the economic competitiveness of the United Kingdom
- increasing the effectiveness of public services and policy and,
- enhancing quality of life, health and creative output.

Impact can mean the 'influence' of research or its 'effect on' an individual, a community, the development of policy, or the creation of a new product or service. It relates to the effects of research on our economic, social and cultural lives. More information on the Impact Summary and Plans is available at <http://www.ahrc.ac.uk/FundingOpportunities/Documents/ImpactFAQ.pdf>.

and include any resource implications in the financial summary and in the separate Justification of Resources attachment.

The AHRC recognises that not all research will have direct impacts, but aims to encourage researchers to maximise potential impacts where they occur. We are introducing the Impact Summary and Plan to encourage researchers to think about the potential impacts and beneficiaries of their work at the planning stage and the possible pathways through which impacts might be achieved. In doing so we expect applicants to consider what is reasonable and expected for research of the nature they are proposing.

The nature of your research may mean that identifying potential impacts or beneficiaries outside academia is not straightforward at the time of application. Where this is the case you should explain the reasons in your Impact Summary. The amount of information provided in the Impact Plan will therefore depend on the nature of the project, but you must complete this and the other sections in order to submit your application. Excellent research without obvious or immediate impact will continue to be funded by the AHRC and will not be disadvantaged as a result of the introduction of these new sections to applications.

Information on how impact will be taken into consideration during the assessment process can be found in the AHRC Research Funding Guide from page 43 onwards.

Attachments - Letters of Support

A Letter of Support is required from each Project Partner outlining the level of commitment of the proposed partner, the value and benefit of the work to the Project Partner, the nature of the contribution and the added value to the project of the involvement. The letter should be dated and signed by a senior member of the organisation, with the authority to make this commitment. More detail can be found on Project Partners in Section 2 of the Research Funding Guide, page 36.

<http://www.ahrc.ac.uk/FundingOpportunities/Documents/Research%20Funding%20Guide.pdf> Information on uploading Letters of Support is available within the relevant section of the JeS Helptext. Please note that we do not require letters of support from collaborators or other participants in the Network.

Case for Support Guidance

Your proposal form must be accompanied by a **Case for Support**. It is extremely important that this includes the information described below and that you format the document as requested. Please refer to this guidance for the information required under specific headings, rather than that provided in the AHRC Research Funding Guide.

If your Case for Support exceeds the word limit of **2000 words (you should use a font size 12)** your proposal will be deemed ineligible for support. If you choose to include footnotes or a bibliography (you are not required to do so) these must be included within the word limit.

While you should aim to make the Case for Support as concise, specific and clear as possible, the work to be undertaken should nonetheless be fully explained, as failure to provide adequate detail on any aspects may seriously prejudice your proposal. In short, you are advised to focus your proposal and to provide sufficient evidence to enable peer reviewers and members of the Commissioning

Panel to reach a considered judgement as to the quality of your proposal, its significance, its feasibility and value for money.

In your Case for Support, you must outline clearly the rationale for the interdisciplinary networks/workshops and the research context in which they will operate, and the fit to the programme's aims and themes by answering the following questions: what is the central theme of the proposed network or workshop series? Why is it important that this theme be explored? How will the proposed activities lead to advances in understanding? You should also give details of the aims and objectives, the timetable for any activities proposed, proposed participants and key speakers, and plans for management and co-ordination, including the membership of any proposed advisory group or steering committee.

Provided that the principal and co-investigator(s) meet the eligibility criteria, additional participation can be as broad as is needed to achieve the aims of the *Researching Environmental Change* Network (within the budget available), and additional members can be brought in during the course of the award. The inclusion in the Network of people from beyond the academic community is particularly encouraged, as is the involvement of new researchers, research students and international participants. As well as any named participants, an indication of the subject interests to be represented should be provided.

You should describe your proposed project using the headings below. The guidance below details what information should be included under each heading.

Headings to be used:

Fit to Arts and Humanities Approaches to Researching Environmental Change Networks competition

You should ensure that it is clear to the reader how the proposed research fits with the **aims and themes** of the *Researching Environmental Change* Network competition (see Aims of the *Arts and Humanities Approaches to Researching Environmental Change* Network Competition above).

Aims and Objectives

You should describe clearly the main **aims and objectives** of the Network. What specific targets or outcomes will you have achieved by the end of the award?

Rationale and research context

You should describe clearly the rationale and research context of the Network. Why are the proposed activities necessary to address this theme at this time? To what extent do the proposed activities generate fruitful and novel interaction? What is the research context in which the Network will operate and how will it advance knowledge and understanding in the fields concerned? To which audiences/disciplines will the Network and its outcomes be of interest?

Timetable of Activities

You should give a clear timetable of activities for events such as workshops, symposia, conferences, meetings of the advisory group or steering committee.



Key speakers or participants

If there are specific speakers or participants who would be central to the success of the Network, these should be listed together with their expertise, in addition to some indication of their availability.

International participants and speakers are allowed, although it is expected that the majority of the participants in a Network would be UK-based.

You should identify the initial core membership in the proposal, who should be leaders in the area proposed, but as the Network is expected to be 'open', you should also explain how events will be marketed to ensure that the best people become involved.

Leadership, management and co-ordination

How will the Network be led, managed and co-ordinated? Will there be an advisory group or steering committee? If so, who are the proposed members and does the membership reflect the constituencies the Network intends to reach? What will be the roles of the Principal and/or Co-investigator(s), and other members of the Network?

Dissemination

Information under this heading should build on the details given in the Academic Beneficiaries and Impact Summary sections of the Je-S form.

Please provide examples of the kinds of outputs, including electronic resource(s), which you propose to produce during the award and their proposed focus. Please explain further how the research will benefit other researchers in the field and – where relevant – academic beneficiaries in other disciplines.

How do you propose to maximise the value of the proposed research outputs? You should cross refer here to the separate attachment, 'Impact Plan'.

SECTION FIVE – Assessment and Peer Review

The information on page 57, and pages 59-62 referring to the use of AHRC's Peer Review College and Peer Review Panels in the review process, and peer review assessment for the Research Networking Scheme are not relevant for proposals to this competition.

All proposals will be reviewed and graded by specially convened Commissioning Panel only, comprising leading figures across a range of disciplines. The Panel will be made up of peers from a range of subject areas and organisations relevant to the *Researching Environmental Change* competition, so you are advised to address your proposal to as broad an audience as possible.

SECTION SIX – Award decisions

Notification of the outcome

Applicants will be notified of the outcome of their application by the end of April 2010.

Resubmission Policy

The information on page 64 does not apply for this competition. Due to the nature of the call for proposals to the *Researching Environmental Change*



Networks competition, there will not be an opportunity for applicants to resubmit proposals.

Award Holder Requirements

In addition to the monitoring requirements outlined above, award holders will be expected to be involved in the wider Landscape and Environment, and LWECC Programmes' activities, and with other award holders under the programme. Award holders will also be expected to provide any information as requested by the AHRC and the Landscape and Environment Programme Director. Principal Investigators and other members of the research team will also be expected to make all reasonable efforts to attend any events to which they are invited and to present papers on their research where requested.

Contacts

Prospective applicants are encouraged to contact officers with queries on the competition before submitting a proposal.

Enquiries about the scholarly content of the *Arts and Humanities Approaches to Researching Environmental Change* Network competition should be directed to the Programme Director of the Landscape and Environment Programme, Professor Stephen Daniels, at the contact address below:

Director, Landscape and Environment Programme

Professor Stephen Daniels

Tel: 0115 951 5434

E-mail: stephen.daniels@nottingham.ac.uk

Other enquiries about the *Researching Environmental Change* Network competition, this call and the remit of the AHRC should be directed to one of the people below.

AHRC Programme Manager

Dr Gail Lambourne, g.lambourne@ahrc.ac.uk 0117 987 6670

AHRC Senior Awards Officer

Fiona Gibson, f.gibson@ahrc.ac.uk, 0117 987 6662

General enquiries about this call for Research Networking and the application process can also be directed to one of the people below:

Wendy May, w.may@ahrc.ac.uk, 0117 987 6663

Natalia Rowlands, n.rowlands@ahrc.ac.uk, 0117 987 6660

Julie Warrington, j.warrington@ahrc.ac.uk, 0117 987 6661

Living with Environmental Change programme

For further information on the broader aspects of the Living with Environmental Change Programme, including further funding opportunities, please refer to the programme website (www.lwec.org.uk).

