

Advertisement for a Postdoctoral Fellowship 2025-2026

Under the South African National Research Foundation (NRF) grant Antarctic and Artists and Writers Programme (AWP) Pilot based at the University of Pretoria

We are recruiting a postdoctoral fellow to undertake a research project in the arts, humanities and social sciences that address the cultures of African climate change. In particular, the overall project focuses on the relationship between Africa and Antarctica as, for instance, polar ice melts and African rainfall patterns change.

South Africa has long had an Antarctic science programme, including a base on the Antarctic continent and an icebreaker ship. It is the only African country with these facilities and uniquely an early signatory to the Antarctic Treaty System which governs the southern continent. Other countries with Antarctic science programmes—including the US, Australia, and the UK—have Artists and Writers Programmes (AWPs) which include artists, writers and scholars in their scientific programmes. We are piloting a similar programme for South Africa.

The project works together with scientific research but is focused on approaching the relationship between Africa and Antarctica from a different lens: creative, critical, historical, futurist; focused on questions of aesthetics, ethics, value, storytelling; and with the explicit intention to transform Antarctic participation in relation to race, class and gender.

Disciplines include: English, Fine Art, Creative Writing, History, Geography, Psychology, Anthropology, Science Communication, Journalism, Media Studies, Music, Dramatic Arts, and related disciplines.

Examples of potential projects

1. Comparative studies of AWPs from elsewhere
2. Feasibility study of the various components of a South African AWP
3. We also consider cultural histories of artistic and literary engagement with Antarctica and the Southern Ocean from South Africa or elsewhere in Africa or reimagining of archival research on Antarctic-African histories

Timeframe

January 2025-December 2026

Location

Ideally located in Pretoria or Cape Town, but remote postdoctoral research is also a possibility.

Application process

Please contact charne.lavery@up.ac.za and jean.brundrit@uct.ac.za to discuss potential projects.

Due date

Rolling until 1 December 2024.

