**Advert: Postdoctoral Fellowship in Contemplative Science**

**Project title:** The (unconscious) effects of feeling excluded from humanity: A contemplative approach

The Chair of Research in Historical Trauma and Transformation invites applications from suitably qualified doctorate graduates for a postdoctoral fellowship valued at R230,000 per annum. The postdoctoral fellowship is based at Stellenbosch University and is available for 1 year, with the possibility of extension for an extra year. Fellowships are only available to individuals who have obtained their doctorate degree within the past 5 years, and whose degree was in the area of social psychology, neuroscience, cognitive psychology, psychophysiology, or a related field.

**Scope of research:**

Because historical trauma is not restricted to discrete experiences, but manifests in the pervasive, structural violence of the entire social space, it may be subject to underreporting. The exclusive use of questionnaire measures may therefore fail to capture the cumulative toll of experiences of disenfranchisement carried in the body that may result in dynamic sensitivity to stress. The proposed, interdisciplinary research seeks to advance our understanding of these issues by exploring (i) physiological stress sensitivity during a virtual reality paradigm, (ii) how participants give meaning to their lived experiences of dehumanization, and (iii) how a context-sensitive and culturally appropriate contemplative intervention may impact internalized experiences of dehumanisation in a low to middle-income community.

**Applicants must:**

1. be available to start the fellowship in February-March 2020;
2. be willing to work full time;
3. be competent and experienced in quantitative data analysis (preferable), AND/OR competent in qualitative data analysis (essential for phenomenological interviews);
4. hold a PhD (must have graduated within the past five years);
5. be able to work in an interdisciplinary team environment;
6. have experience in writing academic articles;
7. be able to articulately communicate academic findings to disseminate results.

**Application Procedure:**

Apply by email to Jolene Petersen ([jrp1@sun.ac.za](mailto:jrp1@sun.ac.za)), providing the following documentation:

1. Cover letter describing the applicant’s research interests and indicating how these align with the theme(s) of the scholarship outlined above;
2. Comprehensive curriculum vitae (CV), including list of publications, and the names and contact details of at least two referees;
3. Copies of all academic transcripts.
4. Email enquiries for more information about the scholarship may be sent to Dr Melike Fourie at [marethem@gmail.com](mailto:marethem@gmail.com) with the following Subject Title written in capital letters: **POSTDOC** **SCHOLARSHIP ENQUIRY.**

**Closing Date: 20 January 2020**