

Cadbury 2017

Call for fellowship applications

The Cadbury programme for 2017 will be organised around the theme of *Marriage in Africa*. It is convened in honour of Lynne Brydon and marks her contribution to the establishment of gender studies in Africa.

The research theme

Marriage is a topic of enduring interest in African Studies. Initially approached through the prism of kinship, marriage soon asserted its presence in pioneering studies of labour relations, religious conversion and legal pluralism. Confounding the definition and separation of public and private, and appearing in varied and complex forms, *marriage as a lived experience* has posed an exciting challenge to scholars across the fields of anthropology, law, history, political science, and development and gender studies. Scholarly interest continues to be paralleled by lively popular debate, in established and emerging media.

Through a programme of four half-day workshops, a two-day international conference, and keynote lectures, our Cadbury fellows will be invited to join with established and early-career scholars from DASA and beyond, to consider the following questions:

1. Citizens, the state and the law: Is it useful to contemplate the codification and/or reform of marriage and family law as a 'state-making project', through which governments have sought to define the gender-based rights and duties of citizens? If so, does legal pluralism in African contexts (customary, Islamic, civil and international law) present avenues by which individuals can evade or subvert the authority of the state, and uphold alternative frameworks?
2. Gender, generation and temporality: How have varied and complex experiences of entrance into marriage, negotiation within marriage, and the 'un-making' of marriage challenged scholarly and popular divisions of the life course into idealised stages? Is it useful to contemplate marriage and divorce as 'vital conjunctures' and/or forms of 'future-making'?
3. Emotion and popular culture: Why have marriage, adultery and estrangement proved such central and enduring themes in African popular culture? Do popular cultural forms generate a reservoir of references for individuals to invoke when evaluating, comparing and negotiating their own relationships? How have the emotional ideals and routines of marital life changed over time? Do new forms of expression and consumption offer women and men opportunities to assert their desires?

Eligibility for a Cadbury fellowship

We are looking for early-career scholars whose research would benefit from a residential fellowship of approximately six weeks at the University of Birmingham. Applicants must be based in an African institution. They should be in the early stages of their academic careers (that is, they should have completed a PhD within the last four years, or now be close to completing one) and they must demonstrate that their research is relevant to the theme outlined above.

Benefits of a Cadbury fellowship

The Cadbury fellows will have time to use the University's excellent library resources, discuss their work with academic staff and postgraduate students at DASA, and contribute to the intellectual life of the department by participating in the numerous events that will be organised here during the period of the fellowships.

Timing of the Cadbury fellowships for 2017

The fellowship programme will begin on 24 April 2017 and finish on 4 June 2017. The two-day international conference is scheduled for 1 and 2 June 2017.

Costs to be covered by the Cadbury fellowships

Fellowships will cover return air-fare, accommodation and living costs for a period of six weeks.

How to apply for a Cadbury fellowship

If you would like to be considered for the 2017 scheme, please send your application by email to Dr Kate Skinner on k.a.skinner@bham.ac.uk by 9 December 2016.

In your email, please let us know how you learned about this programme and confirm that you will be able to come to Birmingham for the fellowship period 24 April 2017 to 4 June 2017. Attached to your email should be two documents:

1. A research project description of 1500 words, describing: a) the research that you have already done, b) the specific aspect that you seek to develop during the fellowship, and c) how this relates to the theme of Marriage in Africa.
2. A short CV (not more than 3 pages) including the names of two referees.