



**Research fellowship on “Social-Ecological Transformations along the Belt and Road Initiative” -
Università Ca' Foscari Venezia**
(Italian law 30 December 2010, n. 240, art. 22)

The present document in English is to be considered as merely a summary of the main provisions of the notice of competition, which is available in Italian at the following ([link](#)). The text in Italian is considered to be the official text of the notice of competition for all legal intents and purposes and, therefore, the Italian text is definitive in the event that there is a discrepancy between the Italian and English versions.

Description

The Department of Asian and North African Studies at Università Ca' Foscari Venezia invites applications for a fellowship in:

Title: “Social-Ecological Transformations along the Belt and Road Initiative”

Scientific sector: SPS/10, SPS/11, SPS/14

Scientific supervisor and tutor: Prof. Daniele Brombal

Duration: 12 months

Abstract:

The project aims at exploring possibilities for social-ecological transformations along the corridors of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). It stems from widespread concerns about the environmental and social challenges brought about by large infrastructural projects supported by the initiative. At the same time, it takes stock of the opportunity given by the BRI to foster partnerships for sustainable futures. The project consists of two phases:

(1) Designing an analytical framework. In the first phase our work will focus on defining analytical criteria for the identification of transformative social-ecological practices. Criteria will be identified via literature review and then validated by sustainability science scholars.

(2) Mapping transformative social-ecological practices. The second phase of the project will focus on mapping real-life transformative practices along BRI corridors. Mapping may focus on any of the following intertwined aspects: biodiversity conservation, climate change adaptation, environmental protection and regeneration. It will prioritize bottom-up and place-based initiatives. Mapping will consist of three steps: (a) desk review of relevant scientific and grey literature; (b) in-depth qualitative survey with key informants; (c) a co-creative workshop session engaging scholars, practitioners, and activists. The session will be held during the second “Cansiglio Forest Study Retreat on BRI and Social Ecology,” scheduled in Autumn 2022.

Results of these activities will feed an empirical, co-authored scientific publication. During his/her appointment, the research fellow will play a leading role in codeveloping the project and is expected to support the scientific design and management of the Forest Study Retreat. He/she will work closely with scientific supervisor Dr. Daniele Brombal and with a community of scholars and practitioners across the environmental humanities, social sciences, and sustainability science. He/she will also engage with the Marco Polo Centre for Global Europe-Asia Connections (MaP). Since 2019 MaP has been supporting innovative research and teaching activities on BRI and the environment and is sponsoring this project.

The ideal candidate for this position has the following characteristics:

- Social science or Asian studies background, with a focus on areas crossed by the BRI corridors;
- Experience in interdisciplinary studies and/or research, relevant to the themes of this project;
- Commitment to change for sustainability.



Research activities will be carried out in English.

Who can apply

Candidates are expected to hold at least a master's degree and to have a CV suitable for the requested research activities.

They must be proficient in English language and in at least one of the following languages: Chinese, Mongolian, Tibetan, Russian, Turkish, Arabic, Persian, Thai, Urdu, Vietnamese. These competences should be reflected by MA studies undertaken by candidates, their publications and, if obtained, by the Doctoral Degree.

The interview will be held in English language and will focus on the following criteria:

- Motivations
- Individual contribution to the research project
- Methodological skills applicable to the project
- Research experience, with particular reference to interdisciplinary work
- Work and volunteering experience
- Assessment of knowledge of the English language.

Ca' Foscari encourages applications from researchers who have received positive evaluation in all the criteria applicable to funding programs, such as Marie Skłodowska Curie Actions - Individual Fellowships/ERC Starting Grants/FIRB (Italian Fund for basic research investments)/SIR (Scientific Young Independence Research) or similar. Researchers having successfully completed Marie Skłodowska Curie Actions - Individual Fellowships/ERC Starting Grants/FIRB (Italian Fund for basic research investments)/SIR (Scientific Young Independence Research) or similar funded projects are warmly encouraged to apply.

Duration of contract: 12 months (start: January, 01st, 2022).

Stipend: The research fellowship amounts to 19,367 Euros per year, including taxes and social charges.

Deadline for submission of applications: November, 22nd, 12.00 noon.

How to apply:

Candidates should submit:

1. The application form;
2. A motivation letter (max 1 page) along with their CV in European format, duly dated and signed, both to enclosed as a one single.pdf file. ([link](#))
3. A copy of a valid identity document (either Identity Card or Passport);
4. (If available) Evaluation Summary Reports of Marie Skłodowska Curie Actions - Individual Fellowships/ERC Starting Grants/FIRB (Italian Fund for basic research investments)/SIR (Scientific Young Independence Research) individual proposals having passed all the evaluation thresholds;
5. (If available) Details of Marie Skłodowska Curie Actions - Individual Fellowships, ERC Starting Grants, FIRB (Italian Fund for basic research investments)/ SIR Scientific Young Independence Research funded projects;
6. Declaration on availability to participate in the interview remotely ([link](#)) to be send via email at the following address: ricerca.dsaam@unive.it;
7. For all documents, qualifications and publications relevant for the selection procedure please, see the notice ([link](#)).
8. Publications in electronic format (max. 5 plus MA or phd thesis)



All the schemes of the quoted documentation are available on the website ([link](#)).

How to submit your application

Applications should be submitted through the online procedure:

<https://apps.unive.it/domandeconcorso-en/accesso/22112021-1-dsaam>

The candidate, after the uploading, will receive a submission number and an e-mail acknowledging receipt of his/her application.

The candidate (if necessary) could access the procedures for updating any data and materials by the link provided by the e-mail, in any case any updates must be made no later than the deadline November, 22nd, 2021, 12 noon.

Please note that the University can be contacted for any support needs by the candidate until 24 hours prior to the deadline.

Please note the possibility that a high number of applications and / or large file sizes among the documents uploaded by the candidates into the system could result in the slowing of the online procedure. Therefore it is suggested to begin the process as soon as possible and not wait to start the process immediately before the deadline.

NB: the University does not take on responsibility for wrong or late communication of addresses, nor for any communication problem not depending on the University.

Evaluation

Up to 100 points, specifically:

For CV and publications, from 0 to 60;

For interview, from 0 to 40.

Selection procedure

Short-listed candidates will be invited for interview on **November, 26th, 2021 at 10 AM** via Zoom video conference.

The short-list of the candidates admitted to the interview, or any postponement, and the link for the interview will be published on the University's webpage within November, 24th, 2021 ([link](#))

Information and contacts

Candidates may find further details about the application process and the research project in the official call published on the following ([link](#)).

For further information please email: ricerca.dsaam@unive.it.