



Università
Ca' Foscari
Venezia

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Research fellowship on “Reenchanting the Anthropocene: Healing Nature through the Supernatural within Contemporary Chinese Science Fiction” - 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: Reenchanting the Anthropocene: Healing Nature through the Supernatural within Contemporary Chinese Science Fiction

Scientific sector: L-OR/21

Scientific supervisor and tutor: Prof.ssa Nicoletta Pesaro

Duration: 12 months

Abstract:

Given the unprecedented human impact on natural systems that characterises our time, and the limited time available to invert this course of action, scholars from different fields are increasingly focused on our ecology, on the possible strategies to preserve it, and on the threats posed by human activity. Those involved with Chinese science fiction (sf) studies are also moving along this line. Whether it is an inquiry focused on ecological thinking (Sun 2020), an eco-critical approach (Hua 2021; Moratto, Pesaro, Chao 2022) or “affective ecocriticism” (Codeluppi 2022), the Chinese science fiction production has recently been the subject of more than one investigation aimed at discovering the different ways in which this genre deals with environmental issues, and especially with problems related to the Anthropocene, namely the geological era characterized by human hegemony that has seen the rise of mankind as the greatest threat to the environment.

Starting from a study of the way in which Climate Fiction in China reflects the perception of the environmental crisis by Chinese society (Codeluppi 2022) – previously funded by Marco Polo Centre for Global Europe-Asia Connections – this research endeavors to investigate a peculiar narrative response adopted by some Chinese authors in order to urge a reflection on the relationship between man and nature, leveraging on elements deeply rooted in Chinese culture and thought. Such strategy involves the recovery of a supernatural dimension that, by “haunting” the places impacted by the practices of the Anthropocene, re-enchants them, thus questioning our “disenchanted” (Weber 1919) reality through supernatural images often taken from the classical phantasmagoric paradigm, with the attempt to simultaneously recover that harmony between man and nature which seems to have been lost. The corpus of this analysis will consist of three narrative texts: *Hongse haiyang* 红色海洋 (Red Ocean) by Han Song (2004), *Ditie* 地铁 (Subway) by Han Song (2011) and *Huang chao* 荒潮 (The Waste Tide) by Chen Qiufan (2013). Whether it is the fascination for mystical, archaic and religious elements that pervades some of Chen's works, or the presence of ghosts and fantastic creatures that haunt Han's production, the works of the two authors seems to be characterized by a recovery of supernatural elements that inhabit environments now devastated by man. This research is also meant to underline the contribution that Chinese science fiction could give back on a global level, starting from the double awareness that, if on one side the Anthropocene is now a transnational phenomenon, “the central subject of our collective unconscious” (Bould 2021), on the other, the autochthonous production has reached, in some cases, an “aesthetic nativization” (Jia 2016) enabling these works to respond to global problems in a very unique way. In a country such as China, dominated by institutions often willing to use technology and capital to alleviate the environmental problems of the present, it is also through ghosts that these authors attempt to stimulate what has been defined as a “conscious temperance toward nature” (Brombal 2019), a peculiar approach to the Chinese Anthropocene which precisely by means of the aesthetic characteristics of Chinese science fiction could stimulate meaningful



reflections even beyond China's national borders.

Who can apply

Prospective candidates are expected to hold a Doctoral degree and to have a suitable professional CV for the requested research activities. They must be proficient in English and Chinese language. Research experiences in Italy or abroad should be, if possible, detectable from CV. Knowledge of Italian language will be considered preferential.

The interview will focus on the following topics:

- Methodological skills, applicable to the specific themes of the research project;
- Research experience and knowledge of Chinese literature, with particular reference to project' topics
- Assessment of knowledge of Chinese and 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 (approx. start: October, 01st, 2022).

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

Deadline for submission of applications: September, 05th, 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 sent 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
- 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/05092022dsaam>



Università Ca'Foscari Venezia

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 **September, 05th, 2022, 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 **September, 20th, 2022 at 10.00 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 September, 15th, 2022 ([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. Please note that Research Office will be closed from 8th to 19th August 2022.