



Università
Ca' Foscari
Venezia

Decreto Rep. 574/2023 Prot 207837/III-13 del 11/09/2023

Research fellowship on “Imperial Entanglements: the politics of comparison in Japan’s colonial policy”

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: “Imperial Entanglements: the politics of comparison in Japan’s colonial policy”

Scientific sector: L-OR/23

Scientific supervisor and tutor: Prof. Andrea Revelant

Duration: 12 months, renewable

Abstract:

The project is part of the PRIN project "Imperial Entanglements: Latecomer Colonial Empires and the "Politics of Comparison" (1880s-1940s)", conducted jointly by the Department of Asian and North African Studies (DSAAM) and the research units at the University of Naples and the University of Eastern Piedmont. For the overall objectives of the PRIN, please refer to the description below. The person selected for this contract will join the DSAAM research unit, working on the case of imperial Japan. They will carry out full-time research activities, according to the work plan agreed with the head of the local unit. They will have no obligation to reside in Italy during the contract term. The selection interview will be held in English.

“Imperial Entanglements” investigates four cases of latecomer imperialism, namely those of Germany, Italy, Belgium and Japan. Each of these countries entered the phase of colonial expansion only in the late nineteenth century. Because of this delayed inception, when their power elites and experts shaped new structures of imperial rule they had to consider existing models of imperial rule and colonial administration, as previously established by other powers. In pursuit of original visions of their imperial project, they critically engaged with the existing models, adopting, refashioning, or rejecting their constituent features. As colonial powers, Japan, Italy, Germany occupied a relatively marginal position within the international system. Germany even lost its empire owing to defeat in the Great War. Dissatisfied with their standing in the world, in the 1930s the three countries launched a frontal challenge to the international order by portraying their imperial model as an alternative to previous imperialism.

Our study of the circulation and re-elaboration of political models spans from the 1880s to the 1940s, encompassing both the so-called Age of Empires and the post-Wilsonian moment, when colonialism was deeply refashioned across the world owing to the emergence of strong anti-colonial movements. The research is pivoted on two mainstays. The first is what Ann L. Stoler has termed the “politics of comparison,” that is the way in which contemporary actors compared their own colonial rule with others. This concept highlights the importance of knowledge transfers as a constituent part of empire building, while also drawing attention to the “politics” of distancing oneself from the other. The second is the focus on transimperial actors, be they intellectuals, politicians or institutions [Stoler 2001; Heé, Hedinger 2018].

The project is based upon and wants to further develop the analytical category of the latecomer colonial empires as a peculiar category of empire formation. We consider it key to promoting a deeper understanding of imperialism as a global phenomenon. The research will be centered on the following questions:

- How did politicians and intellectual elites represent their empires and colonial policies in relation to other empires?
- To what extent, when, and how did they try to establish transimperial bonds?



- What kind of transimperial networks did their elites strive to build in their pursuit to elaborate their own model of colonial policy?
- Is it possible to identify major shifts in the “politics of comparison” and the transimperial bonds established in the considered period?
- How did the international circulation of models affect jurists and rulers in latecomer empires and their perception of the colonial rule?

Who can apply

Candidates must hold a doctoral degree and have a CV suitable for the requested research activities.

The interview will focus on the following criteria:

- Methodological skills, applicable to the specific topics of the research project, planning of activities and discussion of research perspectives relating to the project
- Assessment of knowledge of English and Japanese language proficiency

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: November, 01st, 2023).

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

A share of the project funds will be available for the reimbursement of research expenses.

Deadline for submission of applications: October 4th, 2023, 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. For all documents, qualifications and publications relevant for the selection procedure please, see the notice ([link](#)).
7. Short-list of publications
8. Publications in electronic format (up to three)

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



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Incomplete applications will be rejected.

How to submit your application

Applications should be submitted through the online procedure:

<https://apps.unive.it/domandeconcorso-en/accesso/04102023dsaam>

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 **October, 4th, 2023, 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 **October, 23rd, 2023 at 10.00 AM** at Department of Asian and North-African Studies, Palazzo Vendramin dei Carmini, Dorsoduro 3462, 30123 Venezia.

The interview can also be held via Zoom video conference, following a reasoned request by the candidate.

The short-list of the candidates admitted to the interview, or any postponement, will be published on the University's webpage within October, 16th, 2023 ([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.