



Università
Ca' Foscari
Venezia

**Research fellowship on “The political economy of food in post 2003 Iraq”
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: The political economy of food in post 2003 Iraq

Scientific sector: L-OR/10, SPS/14

Scientific supervisor and tutor: dott.ssa Maria Cristina Paciello

Duration: 12 months

Abstract:

The project is part of the PRIN project "'We want bread, not bullets': Iraqi food politics in historical perspective", conducted jointly by the Department of Asian and North African Studies (DSAAM) and the research units at the University of Naples L'Orientale, the University Roma Tre and La Sapienza.

Food is essential for life. Therefore, it is central to many different political and cultural dynamics and a powerful lens through which to explore broader issues of power and identity. Food politics is of crucial importance to the Arab region, one of the most food insecure regions of the world. Yet, it remains an under-studied subject. This is even more true for Iraq, home of the flood plains of the Tigris and Euphrates, a country self-sufficient in food until the 1980s and today heavily dependent on food imports and highly food insecure.

How did a state so abundantly rich in agriculture mere decades ago become such a net food importer? What policies of food production, consumption and distribution have domestic political leaders and external actors adopted in search for food security and political stability? How have these policies impacted the lives of the Iraqi population? What do Iraqi civil society and social movements have to say about it?

To answer these and similar questions, the PRIN project aims at reconstructing the politics of food in Iraq since the US-led occupation of 2003 through an interdisciplinary approach and three analytically different, but largely interrelated areas of research:

1) Food politics at the national, regional and global level. This area of research aims at a comprehensive historical reconstruction of state policies and narratives with respect to food production, consumption, and distribution. Furthermore, an important part of the research will be focused on the international dimension of food politics, that is an analysis of the policies of global and regional actors, international aid, patterns of food trade and their consequences on the country and on the livelihoods of the Iraqi population.

2) Contentious food politics and collective action. This area of research aims at investigating how, over the period under scrutiny, emerging and more consolidated civil society groups and social movements in Iraq have positioned themselves with respect to the food question and to the policies and narratives deployed by state, regional and global actors, but also at spotting bottom-up initiatives, alternative models and practices and new forms of mobilization.

3) The politics of food from a cultural perspective. Food politics is also strictly related to culture and identity. This area of research aims at delving into the rich production of Iraqi cultural actors living in the country or in the diaspora with respect to food practices. Food is in fact also a crucial element of the continuous production and reproduction of cultural identities both in terms of dominant narratives and of production of Tarikh Muwazin (counter narration) of the Iraqi historical scene.



The research fellow will specifically work on the first research area ("Food politics at the national, regional and global level"), but will interact synergistically with the other two research areas during the project. Specifically, the research subject will be the analysis of food and agricultural policies in post Iraq 2003, the role of state, regional and international actors, and the implications for the local population and communities. The research fellow will be expected to contribute to the collection of primary and secondary sources and the writing of research products, to participate in the research missions to Iraq and to assist in the organization of seminars and the final conference

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:

- Knowledge of the political economy of contemporary Arab countries at national, regional and global level
- Methodological skills relating to the specific topics of the research project and fieldwork experience in Arab countries
- Assessment of knowledge of Arabic 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: April, 01st, 2024).

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

Deadline for submission of applications: January 30th, 2024, 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 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

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



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Incomplete applications will be rejected.

<https://apps.unive.it/domandeconcorso-en/accesso/30012024dsaam>

How to submit your application

Applications should be submitted through the online procedure.

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 **January, 30th, 2024, 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 via Zoom video conference.

The short-list of the candidates admitted to the interview, and the date of the interview, or any postponement, will be published on the University's webpage within February, 15th, 2024 ([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.