

ReSIC

RESEARCH CENTER IN
INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION

Call for applications

Post-doc in Media Studies

“Media and conflicts in the African Great Lakes”

Purpose

The Research Centre in Information and Communication (ReSIC) at Université libre de Bruxelles, in the frame of EC-funded project INFOCORE coordinated by the University of Munich (LMU) seeks a **postdoctoral researcher** with expertise in African media and more specifically in the processes of production, dissemination and reception of information through the local media in conflict areas in the Great Lakes region.

The INFOCORE project ((in)forming conflict prevention, response and resolution: the role of media in violent conflict) is a 3-year long collaborative research project gathering 8 research institutions: Ludwig Maximilian University Munich (LMU) - Germany, King's College London (KCL) – United Kingdom, Interdisciplinary Center Herzliya (IDC) - Israël, Hebrew University Jerusalem (HUJI) - Israël, Hellenic Foundation for European & Foreign Policy (ELIAMEP) - Greece, Global Governance Institute (GGI) - Belgium, School of Journalism and PR (SJPR) - Macedonia, University Rey Juan Carlos (URJC) - Spain and Université libre de Bruxelles (ULB) – Belgium. The project aims at analysing the role played by both local and international media, as well as their interactions with political and NGO actors, all through the different phases of violent conflicts. The project is built on 6 case studies in Central Africa (Democratic Republic of the Congo and Burundi), the Balkans and the Middle East.

Major Duties / Responsibilities

The successful candidate will assist in conducting the tasks devoted to the Université libre de Bruxelles within the INFOCORE project. He/she will primarily focus on gathering and analysing the data related to the case studies in the **Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)** and **Burundi**. He/she will be in charge of the following tasks:

- Implementing the **“Media and publics” work package**, led by ULB: Development of a theoretical and methodological framework in order to analyse media audiences; organization of focus groups in the DRC and Burundi, analysis of the processes of media reception in a conflict situation.
- **Gathering, in the DRC, Burundi and Brussels, the necessary data** for the other work packages of the project: media content; interviews with journalists, political leaders and NGO staff;
- **Writing the several reports** (mid-term and final) expected according to the convention signed with the European Commission.
- **Contributing to the dissemination** of the scientific knowledge produced within the project through activities, which will include both academic and applied work (peer-reviewed publications, presentations, technical reports, web content, technical assistance).

The implementation of the research will necessitate travels for fieldwork in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Burundi.

Qualifications

Position requires

1. a **Ph.D.** in a discipline within the social sciences, with a focus on and/or experience in media analysis (press and/or broadcasting)
2. capacities and experience in designing, implementing, and analysing **research related to media production and consumption**, and a proven record of publication and productivity. Experience in qualitative data collection (interviews, small group elicitations, etc.) and analysis is highly desirable
3. a good **knowledge of the political and social context in Sub-Saharan Africa** and in particular in the Great lakes region (Specific skills regarding to the conflict in the DRC or Burundi will be taken into account)
4. **excellent French and English language oral and written communication skills** to conduct interviews, analyse media content and articulate a presentation in front of scientific or experts audiences in both languages. A basic knowledge of the local languages in the DRC (lingala and swahili) or Burundi (kirundi) would be very much appreciated.
5. an ability to **work both independently and collaboratively**.
6. willingness and ability to acquire readily, sufficient **technical knowledge** about the tools developed within the project (e.g. softwares used for project management or media content analysis)

Applicants must have received their most recent degree not more than five years prior to the date of application.

This position is a temporary, full-time assignment for 1 year, renewable twice (maximum 3 years in total), contingent on successful performance and continued funding.

Timeline

Applications must be sent to **Marie-Soleil Frère (msfrere@ulb.ac.be) before 1 March 2014.**

Applications should include:

- a detailed C.V.
- a letter of motivation
- copies of the relevant documents

Pre-selected candidates will be notified within two weeks.

A meeting between the selection committee and the candidate will take place between 15 and 31st march 2014.

Position will start on **1st May 2014.**