

Postdoctoral Research Fellowship in Qualitative Methods at the Centre for Social Science Research

The [Adolescent Accelerators Research Hub](#) (AARHub) in the [Centre for Social Science Research](#) (CSSR) seeks to recruit a post-doctoral research fellow to focus on qualitative research methods. The CSSR is an interdisciplinary research centre at the University of Cape Town dedicated to conducting and building capacity for systematic, policy-relevant social science research in South Africa, the region and across Africa. The AARHub's work focuses on social science research on adolescent health, social protection, parenting, and education, bringing together interdisciplinary research teams using trials, cohorts and adolescent participatory research all focused on supporting children and young people to thrive in the second decade of life: adolescence. Our unified goal is to promote high-quality evidence to improve the lives of adolescents in resource-limited settings.

This position will work on qualitative and participatory research embedded in the [HEY BABY](#) study and adolescent engagement work across projects, provide mentoring and advice to early career researchers conductive qualitative research at the CSSR, other departments at the University of Cape Town, and our partners at the University of Oxford.

Conditions of Award:

Eligible applicants must have completed their doctorate within the past 5 years, and may not previously have held full-time permanent professional or academic posts.

The successful candidate will have:

- A doctorate in public health or a social science, or be nearing completion of their PhD so that they have submitted prior to taking up the post;
- Conducted participatory action research (including data collection, analyses and writing) in lower- and middle-income countries, including experience in data collection in sub-Saharan African countries;
- Led qualitative research with adolescents and young people which applied novel research methods;
- Experience in conducting qualitative studies, including fieldwork, data cleaning and analyses;
- Experience conducting qualitative data analysis using software such as Nvivo, Dedoose, ATLAS.ti, etc.;
- Published first-authored papers in peer-reviewed publications of their field;
- Presented at conferences, seminars and workshops;
- The ability and willingness to teach and mentor qualitative and/or participatory research methods;
- Experience working effectively as part of a team; and
- The ability to travel for work.

The successful candidate will be required to complete the following research deliverables:

- Plan and conduct qualitative/participatory action research on topics agreed with their advisor(s);
- Support the design and application of research methodologies that aim to meaningfully engage adolescents in research, policy and programming.
- Conduct literature reviews on topics related to research;

- Support data cleaning and management (as needed);
- Provide qualitative and/or participatory capacity-building support to early career researchers;
- Prepare and edit study protocols and ethical approval packages (as needed);
- Present research at seminars, workshops and conferences; and
- Prepare research findings for publication in peer-reviewed journals and other platforms (for examples, policy or research briefs).

Advantageous skills/experience include if the applicant has:

- Previous research experience related to adolescent health,
- The ability to communicate technical research considerations to policymakers in a non-technical manner,
- Published papers from their PhD, and/or
- Convened courses/supervised students.

The candidate will be supervised by Dr Jane Kelly with mentorship from Chelsea Coakley.

Moreover, the candidate:

- May not hold any other fellowships without permission of their supervisor;
- May not undertake employment of any nature without the permission of their supervisor; and
- Must comply with the University's approved policies, procedures and practices for the postdoctoral sector.

Value and Tenure:

The value of the fellowship is R315,000 - R483,000 per annum, depending on experience and qualifications. Flexibility on a start date can be discussed and the fellowship amount will be prorated in line with the starting date. Renewal for a further year may be considered and is contingent of satisfactory academic progress and availability of funds.

Application Procedure:

Eligible candidates should provide the following in ONE SINGLE PDF:

- A letter describing research interest and the candidate's suitability for the fellowship, highlighting how they meet the requirements for the fellowship.
- A CV that includes details for all conference attendance, publications and any other scholarly research output, and the names of two academic referees who have taught/supervised the candidate at university and can speak to their skills.
- A published written sample of their work that includes qualitative or participatory research led by the applicant.

Enquiries and completed application should be forwarded to:

Amanda Swartz at amanda.swartz@uct.ac.za

Closing date for receipt of applications: February 12, 2024

Selection: Eligible applicants will be considered by a sub-committee convened by the CSSR.

Please reference **"2024 CSSR Qualitative Postdoctoral Research Fellow"** in the email subject line.

The University of Cape Town reserves the right to disqualify ineligible, incomplete, and/or inappropriate applications, to change the conditions of award and/or to make no awards at all.