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Faculty of Humanities

Research Entity/ School:

FACULTY OF HUMANITIES-RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

Call for Postdoctoral Research Fellowships

The South African Centre for Digital Language Resources (SADiLaR), a national research infrastructure hosted at the North-West University within the Faculty of Humanities is inviting applications from outstanding early career researchers for Postdoctoral Research Fellowships (PDRF) in applied linguistics in general and language for academic purposes in particular.

To be shortlisted, applicants must have a relevant research track record, as well as demonstrate the potential to contribute significantly to the SADiLaR's strategic focus and research outputs.

Title of postdoctoral vacancy at SADiLaR

Join the future of multilingual education in the higher education context in South Africa

Are you passionate about advancing multilingualism in South African higher education? SADiLaR invites applications for an innovative postdoctoral programme designed to enhance academic language proficiency and cultural awareness in multilingual settings. The focus of the programme is threefold:

1. *Cultivate cultural awareness*

Acknowledging the need for social justice, specifically in our diverse educational environment, understanding linguistic and cultural diversity and nuances is key. The postdoctoral incumbent should underscore strategies to support students for whom English is not a home language, promoting inclusivity and effective communication in multilingual classrooms.

2. *Leverage generative Artificial Intelligence*

We expect the incumbent to explore the cutting-edge intersection of language development and technology. A focus on learning how to harness generative Artificial Intelligence to create personalised learning experiences, enhance language acquisition,

and foster confidence in academic writing are key within South Africa's multilingual context

3. *Enhance academic language proficiency*

At SADiLaR, we would like to contribute to the development of expertise in broader academic language development tailored for South African higher education, i.e. considering that the majority of our student body does not use English as a home language. The postdoctoral incumbent should focus on equipping academic language practitioners at universities with the skills and tools to foster advanced academic language skills among students, ensuring they thrive in their academic pursuits.

Why apply for a postdoc at SADiLaR?

- We provide ample opportunities for innovative research where collaboration with leading experts in language education and technology is key in shaping the future of multilingualism at South African universities.
- We always aim for impact in addressing real life problems associated with language, and in doing so contribute to initiatives that empower students and educators, creating a more equitable academic environment.
- We focus on the professional development of all our staff and collaborators. This postdoctoral vacancy provides the opportunity to gain valuable skills that will enhance the incumbent's career in academia, language education, and beyond.

Who should apply?

This postdoctoral opportunity is ideal for researchers, educators, and language specialists eager to make a meaningful impact in South African higher education. If you are committed to fostering multilingualism and advancing innovation in language learning, and you are an applied linguist by training, we want to hear from you.

Requirements

- A completed Doctoral degree in applied linguistics.
- The applicant must be below 45 years or younger.

The following documents must accompany the application:

- Completed application form (see below)
- Curriculum Vitae
- Certified copy of Doctoral Degree certificate
- Certified copy of ID
- A motivation, preferably in the form of a research proposal, on how the applicant can contribute to the project outlined above.

Application deadline: 15 November 2024

Kindly send the five documents specified above to Prof Tobie van Dyk via email to tobie.vandyk@nwu.ac.za . Please ensure that the subject line of your application reads Postdoctoral application - SADiLaR

Incomplete applications will not be considered.

APPLICATION FOR POST-DOCTORAL FELLOWSHIP

Part 1: DETAILS OF THE CANDIDATE

Surname:

Title and Full Names:

Date of Birth (*younger than 45*):

ID/Passport Number:

Nationality:

Race:

Gender:

Dependents (partner, children):

Current Address:

E-Mail Address:

Tel No:

Current address in South Africa (if applicable):

Part 2: ACADEMIC INFORMATION

Institution currently attached to:

Address of institution:

Date of obtaining doctoral degree:

Field of Study:

Institution which awarded doctoral degree (attach copy of certificate):

Part 3: DURATION (Expected period of support from the Post-Doctoral Programme):

Start date: 1 January 2025 (or as soon as practically possible)

End date: Two years after start date with the possibility of a further one year extension based on performance)

Part 4: FUNDING REQUESTED FROM CENTRAL POSTDOC BUDGET:

- Fellowship amount (*currently R300 000 p.a.*):
- Travel /Relocation cost (*currently maximum of R20 000 p.a.*):
- Research cost total (*currently R20 000 p.a.*)

- Mention any other source(s) of funding secured/offered (e.g. external funds or funding offered to top-up/replace the above): Reasonable support for dissemination of results.