



The EUI has an open vacancy for a

Senior Research Fellow in the Department of History and Civilization

Florence, 13 June 2022

Reference: V/RF/HEC/5/2022

Who we are

The **European University Institute** (EUI) at a glance:

- an **international organisation** set up in 1972;
- a research university focusing exclusively on **postgraduate, doctoral and post-doctoral studies**, and advanced research;
- located in the hills overlooking the city of Florence, Italy.

The Institute also hosts the Historical Archives of the European Union.

The **Department of History and Civilisation** focuses on the history of Europe in the World from the 15th century to the present. Its members share a common endeavour to rethink the history of Europe with an expanded focus on transnational connections and circulation of ideas, goods and people, and with specific attention to Europeans' diverse roles and places in the world.

The Department specializes in the comparative, transnational and global history of Europe in a long-term perspective, in order to make sense of long cycles of transformation and of the sedimentation of ideas, institutions, social and political formations that have defined Europeans.

Employment details

Contract type

Negotiable: Half time (50%, 15/30, 20 hours/week) / Full-time (100%, 30/30, 40 hours/week)

Length of contract

24 months. Start date 1 October 2022 (negotiable)

This contract may be further renewed (several times and conditional to the availability of funds), leading to an extension of the period of service up to a total of 4 years, including the first contract period.

Salary indication and grade

Grade: CDR6 Step 1

The basic net monthly salary after taxes is approximately:

- For half-time contract (50%): 2,420 Euro, plus allowances if applicable;
- For full-time contract (100%): 4,645 Euro, plus allowances if applicable.

More information about conditions of employment is available [here](#).

Place of work

Florence, Italy

About the project

Project Director(s)

Prof. Giorgio Riello

Project details

CAPASIA. The Asian Origins of Global Capitalism: European Factories in the Indian Ocean, 1500-1800.

In the present age of de-industrialization of the West, the origins and evolution of global capitalism matter. CAPASIA offers a new global history of the origins of modern capitalism that brings into striking view the significance of Asian ports, where the Portuguese, as well as the Dutch, English, French, and other European East India companies operated in the early modern period (1500-1800). Well before the rise of 20th-century Special Economic Zones and world financial centres, the ports of maritime Asia were areas of global trade and nodes of intense economic dynamism. Today 'factories' are places of industrial production, but they owe their name to these pre-modern Asian trading ports - European-controlled commercial hubs headed by company servants called 'factors'. Factories were places where commodities for intercontinental trade were assembled, stored and shipped. CAPASIA establishes a new spatial theory of capitalist development through an investigation of the genesis, evolution, activities, and connections of over 150 small and large factories, asking: what kind of economic activities were carried out in these Asian trading centres? What were the interactive roles of European and local merchants? Over its 5-year duration, CAPASIA's integration and analysis of the large archival repositories of the different European East India companies and Asian archives will be the basis for complementing and challenging the current Atlantic plantation-based interpretations of capitalism, and for the 'decolonization' of that same history. The project maps the intercontinental movement of goods, people and information across an 'archipelago' of Asian ports. Working with collaborators from across the globe, CAPASIA's ambition is to recast the narrative of global economic change and capitalism by incorporating both Asian and European economic actors, and their interactions, in the space of the still understudied factories of the Indian Ocean.

Job description

The Senior Research Fellow will carry out research work in an independent manner and collaborate on the research work of the project. Main tasks include:

- Investigating the system of factories of the Indian Ocean over the period 1500-1800, the system of commodity procurement, the structure of and relationship between factories, and factories' contribution to the origin of global capitalism;
- Carrying out research on specific aspects of the project by engaging with a variety of primary and secondary sources in archives and libraries in Asia, Europe and North America including factory records, prints, maps, views

of factories, and materials in a number of European and non-European languages;

- Writing and publishing independently and in collaboration with the Project leader and Research Fellows on selected topic areas and on the main project; working and coordinating a co-authored volume, and co-authored articles;
- Working in collaboration with the Technical Officer towards the development of a dedicated online platform and the project's databases;
- Leading the project's contribution on the expanding public debate on global history, global economic history, and the history of capitalism by organising a programme of workshops, public panels, conferences, podcasts, online exhibitions and outreach activities;
- Leading the public outreach programme and academic activities of the project;
- Identifying and engaging public stakeholders and leading public debate on the project's findings and methodologies;
- Assisting visiting international academics and PhD researchers who will contribute to the project;
- Mentoring Research (postdoctoral) Fellows;
- Co-teaching relevant subject areas for the EUI doctoral programme;
- Aiding the process of sharing and discussion by the research team, in order to build a more comprehensive empirical understanding of factories as hubs for the production and exchange of commodities and information.

Qualifications and experience

Qualifications and Experience

The candidate should be well-published, with experience in research, writing, and outreach, and able to mentor postdoctoral fellows.

The candidate should also have extensive experience in working with archives and be able to substantively engage with non-Anglophone sources and sources in non-European archives.

Essential:

- PhD degree in History, preferably in the early modern history of trade and manufacturing, economic history, material history, art history and/or global history of the early modern period (1500-1800);
- Excellent publication track record (journal articles, book chapters, books, edited volumes);
- Proven good knowledge of the fields of global history, the history of trade/maritime history, the history of capitalism, the history of early modern globalisation;
- Proven in-depth knowledge of the history of Asia, most especially South Asian history;
- Demonstrated experience in working with archives;
- Ability to substantively engage with non-Anglophone sources and sources in non-European archives;
- Demonstrated experience in working in an interdisciplinary research environment;
- Excellent writing and presentation skills, evidenced by previous research/work experience;
- Proven ability to work both independently and as part of a team;

- Demonstrated ability to work in an international and highly competitive environment.

Desirable:

- IT skills (website design, database construction and management, etc.);
- Proven experience in developing and curating digital research resources;
- Demonstrated experience in leading collective research projects.

Languages

- Excellent knowledge of English, both written and spoken (CEFR level: C1 or above).
- Good knowledge and/or excellent research skills in at least one of the following languages: Bengali, Chinese, Dutch, French, Persian, Portuguese (CEFR level: B1 or above).

How to apply

Deadline

The closing date for applications is **4 July 2022** at midnight (Florence time)

Contact details

For more information contact Manuela Corsini, manuela.corsini@eui.eu

How to apply

Fill in the [online application form](#) and upload documents as follows:

1. Full CV in English, including a list of publications (5 pages max);
2. Short CV in English (2 pages max);
3. Cover letter in English including a project summary of research area (5 pages max).