



The EUI has two (2) open vacancies for

# Research Assistants in the Department of History and Civilisation

Florence, 4 October 2022

Reference: V/RA/HEC/7/2022

## 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

<b>Contract type</b>	Negotiable: Half time (15/30, 20 hours/week) / Full time (30/30, 40 hours/week).
<b>Length of contract</b>	24 months. Start date 1 March 2023 (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 3 years, including the first contract period.

**Salary indication and grade**

Grade: ASTAC1e step 1

The basic net monthly salary after taxes is approximately EUR 2000.00 (full time, 30/30, 40 hours week) or EUR 980.00 (half time, 15/30, 20 hours/week), plus allowances if applicable.

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

**Place of work**

Florence, Italy

## About the project

**Project Director**

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 deindustrialization 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 Research Assistants will provide research assistance to the Project Director.

Depending on their regional and conceptual expertise, they will have the opportunity to research (for example) the physical and social structure of factories, the economic activities carried out within factories and most especially commodity procurement, the commodity trade in the Indian Ocean and China Sea, and the factories as knowledge centres and nodes of information exchange.

The Research Assistants will work on 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.

In general, research on distinctive regions/factories and/or specific topics will be shared and discussed by the research team for mutual exchange, in order to build a more comprehensive empirical understanding of factories as hubs for the production and exchange of commodities and information. Research is aimed at shared as well as individual publications.

The Research Assistants will contribute to the core CAPASIA project coordinated by Prof. Giorgio Riello. Main tasks include:

- Contributing to the research, writing and publication on their selected topic area;
- Working as part of a team on a co-authored volume, and co-authored articles;
- Contributing to expanding the public debate on global history, global economic history, and the history of capitalism;
- Contributing to the organisation of a programme of workshops, seminars, public panels, conferences, podcasts, online exhibitions and outreach activities;
- Contributing to the content of the project's website and portal in collaboration with the project's Technical Officer, who is responsible for the website construction and database management;
- Supporting the teaching of relevant subject areas for the EUI doctoral programme.

## Qualifications and experience

### Qualifications and Experience

#### Essential:

- BA degree;
- Proven familiarity with the literature on global history, economic history, and the history of early modern Asia, including knowledge of relevant literature on the history of capitalism and the history of trade;
- Excellent writing and presentation skills, evidenced by previous research/work experience;
- Demonstrated ability to substantively engage with early modern sources in either Portuguese or Dutch, as relevant to the agreed research area;
- Proven ability to work both independently and as part of a team.

**Desirable:**

- Academic publications;
- Proven ability to work in an international and highly competitive environment;
- Proven familiarity with working with archival sources, most especially those of the Carreira da Índia and/or the Dutch East India Company.

**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: Dutch, Portuguese (CEFR level: B1 or above).

## How to apply

**Deadline**

The closing date for applications is **28 October 2022** at midnight (Florence time)

**Contact details**

For more information contact Francesca Fazio, [francesca.fazio@eui.eu](mailto:francesca.fazio@eui.eu)

**How to apply**

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

1. Full CV in English;
2. Short CV in English (2 pages max);
3. Cover letter in English including a summary of research area and the candidate's potential contribution to the project (3 pages max).