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INSTITUTE FOR HUMAN SETTLEMENT STUDIES (IHSS)

CALL FOR A PHD STUDY POSITION WITHIN THE ARDHI UNIVERSITY 'Y-ENGAGE' RESEARCH PROJECT

The Institute of Human Settlements Studies, Ardhi University (ARU) invites applications for one (1) 4-year full-time PhD study within the research project **"Young People's Climate Change Engagement in Tanzania (Y-ENGAGE)"**.

The research project is funded by the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The successful candidate will be expected to start on May 1, 2022 or as soon as possible thereafter.

The Y-ENGAGE Project

Climate Change (CC) is one of the greatest threats facing humanity, and a defining issue of our time. Young people in sub-Saharan Africa are on the frontline of this crisis. They constitute both the largest and most vulnerable group to experience the harmful effects of CC. It is critical that we learn from and engage young people in the fight against effects of CC. However, much current knowledge on young people's climate engagement reflects the experiences of young people in the global North. By generating insights from Tanzania, Y-ENGAGE seeks to diversify our understandings of young people's engagement with CC and galvanise the activism potential of young people in sub-Saharan Africa.

The Y-ENGAGE project thus draws on qualitative and participatory research methods, including photography, to explore: 1) young people's experiences, conceptions, struggles, and ways of coping with CC in Tanzania; 2) opportunities and challenges for young people to exert influence and transform climate-related practices; and 3) the role of teachers and schools in facilitating engagement with CC.

The project is collaboration between Ardhi University, the University of Dar es Salaam, the University of Copenhagen, the Tanzania Youth Coalition and Save the Children.

The PhD Position

The PhD will co-lead an empirical sub-study within the project looking to investigate opportunities and challenges for teachers and schools to facilitate empowering climate change engagement. The candidate will be expected to conduct qualitative case studies of eight schools with varied experiences of climate change engagement. The case studies will seek to identify a) ways schools are succeeding or failing to support young people's climate change engagement through dialogical means; b) lessons learned from existing environment programmes and school practices; and c) the contextual factors determining varying levels and qualities of school-based climate change activities. Methodologically, the candidate will be expected to facilitate a Photovoice process with students, as well as conduct focus group discussions and individual interviews with students and teachers.

Specifically, the PhD candidate will be involved in the study design, training and research as follows:

Design:

- Support the recruitment of young people as co-researchers
- Co-design the Photovoice component
- Formulate a recruitment strategy
- Develop topic guides for interview and focus group discussions
- Work with the research team to develop strategies for disseminating photos and stories to local decision makers.

Training:

- Introduce the Y-ENGAGE methodology to local communities and schools in open sessions,
- Train a group of young people to become co-researchers
- Support and train research assistants.

Research:

- Recruitment of schools and study participants
- Pilot test the different methods with the young co-researchers,
- Conduct the research
- Thematically analyse data
- Write peer-reviewed articles that report on key findings in line with the study objectives.

Also, the candidate will as part of the PhD training at ARU be expected to:

- Participate in dissemination of findings emanating from the project to stakeholders,
- Prepare quarterly and annual progress reports of the project,
- Support and manage administrative research tasks
- Participate in active research environments including a stay in another research environment. In this project it includes 2 x 13-week stays at the University of Copenhagen, Denmark
- Write a PhD thesis.

Essential qualifications

Prospective applicant must have:

- A Master's degree in social psychology or sociology or anthropology or human geography or global public health or similar relevant qualification,
- Experience of working with qualitative methods,
- Practical experience of working with children and young people, either in public health, education or climate change contexts,
- Strong written and oral communication skills in both English and Kiswahili languages,

Desired qualifications

- Experience of participatory research methodologies, such as Photovoice,
- Knowledge of climate change challenges in Tanzania,
- Experience of publishing peer-reviewed papers.

Additional Attributes

In addition to the above qualifications, applicants should be able to demonstrate their interest in the project, as well as their ability to work independently, take initiative and be team players. The project is looking for detail-oriented Tanzanian candidate with strong analytical skills, outstanding organizational skills and a drive to be part of a research project and the climate response. The candidate must be willing to travel to Copenhagen, Denmark, as part of their PhD training.

Appointment Conditions

The position is a full-time 4-year post and the candidate will be based at ARU in Dar es Salaam. The successful candidate will report to **Dr. Tatu M. Limbumba (Co-PI Tanzania)**.

Please contact Dr. Tatu M. Limbumba (tatumtwangi@gmail.com) for a full description of the research project and more information about the position.

Application Procedures

Eligible candidates should submit their application in English to the Director Postgraduate Studies – ARU and a copy to the Ag. Director IHSS and Project Co-PI Tanzania, Dr. Tatu M. Limbumba at tatumtwangi@gmail.com. The deadline for submission of application is 28th March 2022 midnight East African Time.

Applications must include:

- Cover letter explaining a clear motivation for contributing to the project,
- Curriculum vitae – detailing experience in conducting qualitative research,
- Copy of relevant certificates,
- Names and contact information of three (3) referees, with associated letters of recommendation

Shortlisted applicants shall be required to write a more detailed protocol/project description and shall be invited to a face to face and/or Zoom interview on a date to be announced to them. Respective remuneration will be paid to the successful candidate for the time spent in the project in line with the project's set budget.