

## Open Call for Applications:

### New and Emerging Researcher Fellowship Program

### for Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women and Girls

The Open African Innovation Research network, Open AIR, is pleased to announce our open call for applications to our New and Emerging Researcher Fellowship Program, funded by the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Advanced Scholars Program (QES). These new Fellowships provide opportunities for emerging scholars across disciplines to explore African innovation through the lens of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls.

- QES funding supports the costs of international travel, a living allowance, and research associated with short-term (4 to 12 month) projects.
- Fellows' research projects must focus on gender-related aspects of innovation, and intellectual property in relation to one or more of Open AIR's four thematic research clusters: high technology hubs; informal sector innovation; indigenous community entrepreneurship; or metrics, laws, and policies.
- Funding is only available while Fellows are away from their countries of citizenship and/or permanent residence, and are conducting research at one of Open AIR's institutional hubs in Cairo, Nairobi, Lagos, Abuja, Johannesburg, Cape Town, or Ottawa.
- Fellows must spend at least one third of their time away interacting with an NGO, think tank, civil society organization, or private company where they can apply research skills and insights.
- Only PhD, post-doctoral, and early-career (individuals who have demonstrated strong evidence of work as independent researchers, have led their own laboratories or research projects for 4 to 6 years, or are in tenure-track positions at degree-granting institutions) researchers are eligible for these awards.

Applications will be considered on a rolling basis until all funds are allocated.



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Advanced Legal Studies



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STRATHMORE UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY



Social Sciences and Humanities  
Research Council of Canada

Conseil de recherches en  
sciences humaines du Canada

Canada



IDRC | CRDI

International Development Research Centre  
Centre de recherches pour le développement international





## Description:

The Open AIR network, [www.OpenAIR.africa](http://www.OpenAIR.africa), is a family of researchers committed to improving our understanding of the ways knowledge-based businesses can scale up to take advantage of global opportunities, while simultaneously ensuring that the social and economic benefits of innovation are shared throughout society as a whole. The Canadian Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Scholarships aim to activate a dynamic community of young global leaders across Canada and the Commonwealth to create lasting impacts both at home and abroad through cross-cultural exchanges encompassing international education, discovery and inquiry, and professional experiences.

While Open AIR's research has always sought to address "inclusion" by conducting research with and for the benefit of society's most marginalized people, recipients of our new Fellowships will focus on one particular aspect of marginalization: gender. Our emerging emphasis on gender is, most fundamentally, a matter of women's rights as human rights. We know that women are as innovative as men but must overcome systemic barriers to the protection and adoption of women-led innovation. Our research is showing that innovation frameworks not only ignore the disproportionate effects that laws, policies, and practices have on women, but also project male-dominated perspectives on ownership and compensation. Innovation policies are, unfortunately, even less likely to consider the perspectives of intersectional marginalized groups, such as poor, racialised women in developing countries.

To better understand and solve gender-related innovation challenges associated with Open AIR's research questions and themes, Queen Elizabeth Scholars receiving these Fellowships will complete short-term projects away from their home country.

Fellows will help Open AIR co-investigators answer two overarching research questions:

1. How can open collaborative innovation help businesses scale up and seize the new opportunities of a globally networked knowledge economy?
2. Which intellectual property and other knowledge governance policies will best ensure that the social and economic benefits of innovation are shared inclusively?

They will work specifically on gendered aspects of one or more of Open AIR's four research themes:

- (a) high technology hubs, accelerators, and incubators where innovation emerges;
- (b) informal sector innovation, where resilience and creativity reflect a spirit of openness;
- (c) indigenous entrepreneurs, with a tradition of collaborative knowledge production;
- (d) metrics, laws, and policies for measuring, valuing, and scaling up knowledge production.

While flexible in scope and duration, this research should normally take between 4 and 12 months.

We welcome prospective researchers from any and all disciplines.

Fellows will be supported to conduct research in residence at one of Open AIR's partner institutions, working collaboratively with Open AIR's co-investigators and other members of our New and Emerging Researchers Group (NERG).

- [Nagla Rizk](#), American University in Cairo (Egypt), a professor of economics who looks at how innovation is measured, the economics of knowledge, business models in the digital economy, intellectual property, and human development.
- [Isaac Rutenberg](#), Strathmore University (Kenya), a law professor who specializes in technology and intellectual property including high technology hubs, information communications technology, and development.
- [Erika Kraemer-Mbula](#), University of Johannesburg (South Africa), a professor of economics whose research interests are science and technology policy, innovation systems, sustainable development, and innovation in the informal sector.
- [Tobias Schonwetter](#), University of Cape Town (South Africa), a law professor who focuses on the relationship between intellectual property, innovation and development, and the role of IP flexibilities and open licensing.
- [Caroline Ncube](#), University of Cape Town (South Africa), a law professor who works on intellectual property law, regional integration and development.
- [Jeremy de Beer](#), University of Ottawa (Canada), a law professor working at the intersection of technology, intellectual property, international trade, and development.
- [Chidi Oguamanam](#), University of Ottawa (Canada), a law professor who focuses on traditional and indigenous knowledge, the environment and biodiversity, food security, health law and ethics, and intellectual property.

Applicants are encouraged to contact prospective collaborators before applying to the Fellowship program.

In addition, Fellows will build on their interdisciplinary training with an experiential externship. Applicants will need to spend at least one third of their time with an NGO, think tank, or private company where they can apply their skills in practice. While the Open AIR supervisor will help facilitate, applicants are encouraged to organise their own externship.

### **Key Qualifications and Competencies:**

All candidates are expected to be of high caliber and meet the following criteria:

- Be fully fluent in English.
- Have excellent written communication skills.
- Have excellent research skills, preferably with experience in conducting research abroad.
- Be a team player and able to work across cultures.
- Be willing and able to live in another country for 4 to 12 months.

In addition:

PhD applicants must:

- Be currently pursuing a PhD, full-time, at a degree-granting institution.
- Have permission from your thesis supervisor to be an Open AIR QE-Scholar.

Post-doctoral applicants must:

- Have obtained a PhD (or equivalent in their discipline) before September 2017.

- Have at least one publication, such as book chapters, journal articles, books, working papers, research reports, and/or other published materials.

Early-career applicants must:

- Have at least a Master's degree or higher. Canadian applicants must have obtained a PhD (or equivalent in their discipline).
- Have evidence of work as a research professional, have led a research project for 4-6 years, or be in a tenure-track position at a degree-granting institution.
- Have several publications as a co-author or author, such as book chapters, journal articles, books, working papers, research reports, and/or other published materials.
- Previous mentoring experience will be considered an asset.

## **Funding:**

QES funding will enable researchers to travel abroad to conduct their short-term research projects. Funding is only available while a QE-Scholar is away from their "home country". We invite proposals for periods in residence at an Open AIR institution away from a Scholar's home country ranging from 4 to 12 consecutive months. Shorter, longer or fragmented periods may be justified in exceptional circumstances, particularly where flexibility is required for family reasons.

Funding is based on the Scholar's career stage, and is independent of the country where the candidate will travel to in order to take up the Fellowship.

- PhD researchers are eligible to receive a stipend up to \$1,667 CAD per month to a maximum of \$20,000 CAD per annum, plus reasonable funding for travel to the Open AIR hub.
- Post-doctoral researchers are eligible to receive a stipend up to \$2,083 CAD per month to a maximum of \$25,000 CAD per annum, plus reasonable funding for travel to the Open AIR hub.
- Early-career researchers are eligible to receive a stipend up to \$2,500 CAD per month to a maximum of \$30,000 CAD per annum, plus reasonable funding for travel to the Open AIR hub.

## **Application Deadlines and Procedures:**

All qualified candidates are invited to apply. Open AIR is committed to increasing the participation of persons from equity-seeking groups, such as racial, religious and cultural minorities, Indigenous persons, LGBTQ persons, persons with disabilities, and women.

We are committed to awarding at least half of our Fellowship awards to women. We are a flexible team that understands the multiple demands outside of work. Since Fellowship funding is only available while conducting research away from QE-Scholar's home country, we encourage families to accompany successful applicants and/or travel home to fulfill family obligations. International students already studying in one of Open AIR's hub countries are eligible for QES funding.

### **ALL applications must include a Research Proposal.**

The research proposal may be up to 4 single-spaced A4-size pages long. It must clearly demonstrate how your research both deals with gender and looks at one of our research themes, thus contributing to answering our research questions.

The research proposal must also include a detailed methodology, including whether ethical clearances are required. The proposal must clearly demonstrate the feasibility of the research to be undertaken in a period of 4-12 months.

The proposal must indicate the Open AIR co-investigator(s) and institution(s) the applicant would be placed with, and how this choice of mentor(s) would be valuable for the proposed research. The research proposal must also discuss the intersections among the applicant's academic training, work experience, personal background, and proposed research.

Finally, the proposal must include a clear plan for the writing and disseminating of research results.

**In addition, an application package must also include the following:**

PhD researchers:

- Proof of a Masters degree from a recognized degree-granting institution.
- A copy of the candidate's most recent academic transcript.
- The candidate's CV.
- A letter of support from the candidate's PhD supervisor.
- The research proposal.
- A timeline for the research to be conducted.

Post-Doctoral researchers:

- Proof of a PhD degree (or equivalent in the discipline) from a recognized institution.
- A copy of the candidate's most recent academic transcript.
- The candidate's CV.
- One letter of recommendation from someone who can attest to the candidate's capacity to successfully carry out the proposed research away from the candidate's home country.
- The research proposal.
- A timeline for the research to be conducted.

Early-Career researchers:

- Proof of a PhD degree (or equivalent in the discipline) from a recognized institution.
- A copy of the candidate's most recent academic transcript.
- The candidate's CV.
- One letter of recommendation from someone who can attest to the candidate's capacity to successfully carry out the proposed research away from the candidate's home country.
- The research proposal.
- A timeline for the research to be conducted.

Applications will be considered on a rolling basis until suitable candidates are identified. Applicants should submit required materials via email to Victoria Schorr at [openair@uottawa.ca](mailto:openair@uottawa.ca) and Nan Warner at [nancy.warner@uct.ac.za](mailto:nancy.warner@uct.ac.za).