

Governing the Just Urban Transition

Postdoctoral research fellowship call 2025-2026

This is a call for recent doctoral graduates to apply for a Postdoctoral Research Fellowship in the NRF-funded Governing the Just Urban Transition project. This Postdoctoral Research Fellowship will be at the University of the Western Cape, Cape Town, in the Department of Political Studies, and part of the Politics and Urban Governance Research Group (pugresearch.org.za).

The Governing the Just Urban Transition project aims to integrate politics and governance analysis into academic debates, policy design and community action on urban sustainability in South Africa. By examining the relational and resource networks in Johannesburg and Cape Town, the project seeks to deepen understanding of supporting a just urban transition. Through interdisciplinary research focusing on the coping strategies of businesses in low-income areas regarding water and energy access, the project aims to uncover opportunities for equitable and sustainable urban futures amidst ongoing crises, thus facilitating a pathway towards a just transition.

We are currently looking for one Postdoctoral Research Fellow to join the project team as soon as possible in 2025, to support the Johannesburg portion of the research. This is an exciting opportunity to join an international and multi-disciplinary research team situated across South Africa and the United Kingdom. You will work collaboratively with postgraduate students and established scholars based at the University of the Western Cape (Fiona Anciano, Christina Culwick Fatti), the GCRO (Samkelisiwe Khanyile, Mamokete Modiba), University of Cambridge (Charlotte Lemanski), Cardiff University (Margot Rubin) and University of Sheffield (SJ Cooper-Knock). There will be wide support to pursue opportunities for presenting research findings at academic conferences, as well as publishing in academic and popular outlets.

The successful candidate will be awarded funding of R300 000 annually for a period of two years. Some additional expenses will be covered by the project where necessary (e.g. fieldwork costs, travel, laptop etc.). They will be expected to work on the Governing the Just Urban Transition project as a researcher whilst also publishing academic papers (e.g. based on their PhD research). They will be expected to attend all team meetings and play an active role in the project team.

Candidates should satisfy the following requirements in order to be considered:

- Hold a relevant Doctoral degree completed not more than 5 years ago;
- Candidates must be 45 years of age or younger in the year of application;
- Fall within relevant fields, including political studies, geography, sociology, regional and urban planning, development studies, economics, and other disciplines related to the project scope (above);



- Be an outstanding and innovative researcher whose accomplishments have the potential to make a major impact in their field;
- Located or willing to spend time undertaking fieldwork in Johannesburg;
- Be experienced in qualitative research (data collection and analysis); and
- Preference will be given to South African citizens and permanent residents.

The following would be desirable:

- Previous fieldwork experience in urban South Africa;
- Published in refereed journals and/or book chapters (including under review/in press);
- Delivered verbal presentations of previous work (e.g. conferences, workshops, teaching);
- Be eager to work in a collaborative international team, while also capable of independently pushing forward the research agenda.

To apply for the position, kindly send your CV, cover letter, academic transcripts and a one-pager on your proposed topic and how it relates to the Governing the Just Urban Transition project to Christina Culwick Fatti [cculwickfatti@uwc.ac.za] by 7 November 2024.

More information about the Governing the Just Urban Transition project can be found at the following link: <https://pugresearch.org.za/projects/governing-the-just-urban-transition/>

