SENIOR RESEARCH FELLOW
(2-year contract)

INSTITUTE FOR HUMANITIES IN AFRICA (HUMA)
FACULTY OF HUMANITIES

HUMA is an interdisciplinary research institute at UCT, based in the Faculty of Humanities. Its primary objectives are threefold: to undertake and champion interdisciplinary research and exchange; to promote the next generation of academics; to contribute to social commentary and debate that straddles academic and non-academic publics. Each is undertaken from the vantage point of an Afropolitan outlook and Pan African approach, and an interest in establishing appropriate linkages and relationships elsewhere on the continent and globally. HUMA's intellectual agenda is shaped by one central theme: *On Being Human,* which is organised around four research clusters: (1) Humanity and its Limit, (2) Human/Non-human, (3) Humane/Inhumane and (4) Humanist/Anti-humanist. Amongst the Institute's strategic initiatives are: a publications and dissemination programme, a lusophone programme, a policy and public engagement programme, a grants and fundraising programme, and a skills development programme for nurturing and mentoring a new generation of disobedient Pan African scholars in the humanities.

Donor funding has created the possibility of appointing a senior researcher on a full-time two-year contract renewable subject to available funding. They will be expected to contribute to HUMA's intellectual agenda and operation in respect of each of its three objectives: by pursuing individual and collaborative research, under the auspices of HUMA's research theme; undertaking graduate supervision, mentoring and teaching; and convening and contributing to a range of intellectual events within and beyond the academy. HUMA's research staff are expected to work closely with the director, and with each other, in making HUMA an innovative and active part of UCT's intellectual life.

The Project: Specifically, they will support the Institute's 4IR initiative, which aims to generate new knowledge regarding the role of the human within the 4IR in Africa. This new initiative is focused on the ethical, policy, regulatory, governance and legal conundrums that underpin the current obsession with and future of artificial intelligence (AI) in Africa, and globally. How will algorithms be coded into Africa's care infrastructure? What kinds of hospital and care infrastructure will we need and what will they look like? The project will critically reflect on AI and the possible future of hospitals and care infrastructure in Africa. The hospital is taken as a location from which to think through the ethical quandaries of being and institutionalised care, as the continent understandably rushes to embrace new technologies in its project to decolonise progress and suffering. The project asks intriguing questions about entanglements of AI and persistent modes of care, being and solidarity that have come to and will eventually define what it means to be human. How will AI change our relationship with care and hospitals? How will it affect our ideas about what it means to be well, disease free, hospitalised, cared for, governed and human? The initiative includes growing a new pipeline of highly trained researchers whose competitiveness is strengthened to take up academic positions at universities across the continent, and intensifying research collaborations with universities across Africa and globally. Researchers are expected to develop and collectively contribute to this project, locating their work within one of HUMA's Research Clusters. We are particularly seeking to build a team with a diversity of gender, nationality, disciplinary specialisations, methodological approaches, regional and thematic foci that speak to different but complementary aspects of the Institute's AI/4IR research.

Researchers at the Institute are expected to initiate new research projects and lead the execution of specific research projects/programmes. They are expected to work in an interdisciplinary environment and systematically share results with colleagues and the public. Researchers are also expected to engage in the Institute's other activities such as planning and organising research seminars, workshops and conferences, policy dialogues, public engagements, publication and research dissemination activities, fund-raising and grant development, scholarship and fellowship programmes, teaching, mentorship and skills development, etc. within their areas of specialisation and expertise. Researchers should be able to participate actively in the preparation of research projects/programmes, review of different applications within the area of research, fundraising and grants management. Other tasks and assignments may include planning and facilitating academic networking. In addition, the researcher will carry out other duties as may be assigned by the HUMA Director.

We are looking for a researcher with a Pan African focus who has a wide network with other African scholars and research organisations working on Africa, particularly in Africa and Africa-focused global organisations. The researcher should have:

- Experience working in an interdisciplinary environment and in policy and public engagement;
- Strong communication skills and experience from working with stakeholders such as government, policy, academia, public agencies, thinktanks, civil society and inter-governmental organisations;
- Active participation in international networks of knowledge production, experience in editorial work and publishing, postgraduate mentoring and supervision; and,
- Teaching and research experience in at least two African regions/countries, especially in research methods, philosophy and epistemologies of knowledge in Africa

Requirements:
- A PhD degree in a relevant discipline within social sciences and/or humanities
- A minimum of 5 years post-doctoral research and teaching experience from Africa on knowledge production, knowledge systems, African epistemologies or similar
- Established international footprint as a scholar
- Proven experience in policy advice and media engagements
- Ability to present complex issues in a readable form for both academic and non-academic audiences
- Excellent analytical and research skills including the use of quantitative and/or qualitative research techniques

- Proficiency in the English language, competences and skills in effective communication and a track record in editorial work, publishing and knowledge dissemination in English
- Substantial publication record
- Experience in graduate supervision
- Demonstrable ability and willingness to work in a team
- Demonstrable experience in independent research (i.e. as a PI or co-PI)

Merits:
- Strong networks and experience working in other parts of Africa and globally
- Good knowledge of research centres, networks, and universities in Africa
- Knowledge of the South African higher education system and context
- Proven knowledge of policy processes and policy environments
- Proven capacity to attract external funding for research programmes and projects
- Knowledge of an African language

Responsibilities:
- Initiate and develop new research projects and lead the execution of specific research projects/programmes
- Work in an interdisciplinary environment and systematically share results with colleagues and the public
- Engage in the Institutes' other activities such as planning, organising research seminars, workshops and conferences, policy dialogues, public engagements, publication and research dissemination
- Graduate supervision/Mentoring and teaching
- Convening and contributing to a range of intellectual events within and beyond the academy

The annual cost of employment for a Senior Research Fellow in 2020, is between R615 498 and R887 294 depending on qualifications and experience.

To apply, please e-mail the below documents in a **single pdf file** to Nuraan Allie at huma@uct.ac.za

- UCT Application Form (download at http://forms.uct.ac.za/hr201.doc)
- Cover letter which includes an account of how your research and intellectual interests would fit with, and contribute to HUMA's agenda
- Updated Curriculum Vitae (CV)
- Three recent publications or pieces of written work
- Three names and email addresses of contactable referees (two from researchers based at institutions in two different African countries, and one outside the African continent)
- Research proposal for a project on knowledge epistemologies and the question of being human in Africa not exceeding 5 pages. It should include: Research problem, methodology and conceptual & theoretical framework, potential sources of external funding for the proposed research activities, strategies for disseminating research findings (including platforms for policy engagements and media activities)

Please ensure the title and reference number are indicated in the subject line.

An application which does not comply with the above requirements will be regarded as incomplete.

Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted, and as part of the recruitment process, shortlisted applicants will be invited to present their proposed research projects to the selection panel.

HUMA Fellowships are open to South African and international candidates. African and diasporic candidates are strongly encouraged to apply. The successful applicant will join the Institute remotely and take up residency when the South African Covid-19 regulations permit. International candidates with the relevant authorisation to study and work in South Africa will have an advantage.

Telephone:	021 650 2156	**Website:**	www.huma.uct.ac.za
Reference number:	E21137	**Closing date:**	04 December 2020

UCT is committed to the pursuit of excellence, diversity and redress in achieving its equity targets. Our Employment Equity Policy is available at http://www.uct.ac.za/downloads/uct.ac.za/about/policies/eepolicy.pdf. For this post we seek particularly to attract African and diasporic candidates.

UCT reserves the right not to appoint.