



## Post-doctoral Fellowship: Mediums of Exchange and Imagination Migration and Transit (MITRANS) Research Programme

The French Institute of South Africa (IFAS - [www.ifas.org.za/research](http://www.ifas.org.za/research)) and the Forced Migration Studies Programme at The University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg (FMSP - <http://migration.org.za>) invite applications for a one-year, postdoctoral research fellowship on **mediums of exchange and imagination**. Migrants in sending, transit, and host countries (between South Africa, the rest of the continent and Western destinations) circulate information using a variety of written, verbal, and electronic media. This project will develop an archive of these forms of communication and explore how they shape migrants and non-migrants relations to each other, the space they inhabit, and places about which they only now imagine.

Reporting to the Research Director of the French Institute and the Director of the Forced Migration Studies Programme, the fellow will be expected to complete a specific research assignment within a six-month period including writing time. The fellow will also have the opportunity to develop and explore an independent research question. The positions also include office space with computer and access to all department and university facilities.

The position is a one-year appointment and includes a competitive benefits and salary package of between 18,000 and 20,000 Euros/Year plus relocation expenses. Depending on the availability of funding, it may be possible to extend the fellowship period.

### Required Qualifications

PhD in social sciences with strong theoretical background and writing skills; Evidence of research experience in migration, preferably on the African terrain; Evidence of previous publications; Fluency in English is required and a command of French will be an advantage.

## Background

The MITRANS Research Project is a joint research initiative from the URMIS-SOLIIS Research Laboratory (CNRS Unit, [www.unice.fr/urmis-soliis](http://www.unice.fr/urmis-soliis)) and the French Institute of South Africa funded by the French National Research Agency (ANR). The MITRANS Project situates its analyses among those attempting to document the transformation of migration models in the face of globalization. The project interrogates existing migration analytical paradigms that are only partially adapted to understand migration movements from and within the African continent. This emerges from a need to move beyond models that assume linear migration processes or focus exclusively on the fluidity of contemporary migration patterns. This project not only considers the intensification of exchanges and flows, but also explores State policies, forms of social resistance to immigration, and the consequences of immigration control mechanisms. It plans to study the strategies of migrants living in prolonged liminal situations and describe the various meanings resulting from the relationship between “journey” and space. The empirical work will be based on an observation of sites of origin, destination, and transit in France and Africa. The Forced Migration Studies Programme at Wits University is part of MITRANS and will act as the host for the post-doctoral fellow.

## Applying

Screening of applications begins **5 November 2007** and will continue until the position is filled. The positions **starting date is 1 February 2008 although this may be negotiable for a suitable candidate**. A complete application consists of a letter addressing the qualifications cited above specifying the research area chosen; curriculum vitae; and the names, addresses, telephone numbers, and email addresses of at least three professional references. The application must also include a project proposal of no more than 20 000 characters and 2 previous publications or research outputs. Preference will be given to qualified African candidates.

Applications and nominations should be sent **by e-mail only** to:

**Contact:** Dr. Aurelia Wa Kabwe – Segatti  
[aurelia@ifas.org.za](mailto:aurelia@ifas.org.za)

Dr. Loren B. Landau  
[loren.landau@wits.ac.za](mailto:loren.landau@wits.ac.za)