SCIENCE IN CULTURE INNOVATION AWARDS

Closing date for proposals: 4pm, Thursday 27 February 2014

Innovation Awards

Proposals are sought for innovation awards which will expand and explore the Science in Culture theme in new and innovative ways. Proposals may address any aspect of the theme as outlined below.

In the context of this call, innovation can take a number of forms:

- Exploring new inter-disciplinary concepts, methodologies and approaches drawing on both the arts and humanities and the sciences
- Developing reciprocal collaborations of a new nature or in new or emerging fields of collaborative enquiry between the arts and humanities and the sciences
- Addressing innovative and inter-disciplinary research questions co-produced through dialogue between the arts and humanities and the sciences

In most cases, successful proposals will be expected to be innovative on a number of levels in order to expand the Science in Culture theme, but they are not expected necessarily to be innovative in each of the areas listed above. For example, a project may fall within a field of collaborative research enquiry that has already been addressed by other projects, but may be utilising new methodologies or collaborating with other disciplines (from the arts and humanities or the sciences) that may not have previously been involved in cross disciplinary research on the given research topic. Ultimately, it is up to the applicant to make a strong case to the panel for the innovativeness of the project and the ways in which it will contribute to and expand the Science in Culture theme. The fit and potential contribution to the Science in Culture theme will be an important assessment criterion.

Applications are invited from researchers from any discipline or subject area across the arts and humanities. Due to the nature of the theme, proposals are expected to be highly collaborative and cross-disciplinary in nature, including significant collaboration with scientists and other relevant collaborators. It has been noted by the AHRC, the Science in Culture Theme Leadership Fellow and the Science in Culture Theme Advisory Group that

there are a number of disciplines which have either not yet applied for funding under the Science in Culture theme or which have not been successful under the theme. We would like to encourage applicants from the full range of the AHRC remit to consider applying to this and future Science in Culture calls. While an application that is from a previously unfunded discipline under Science in Culture would not be considered innovative in and of itself, there is a very strong opportunity for disciplines which have not previously been funded under the theme to develop highly innovative projects and contribute to the theme in new and exciting ways.

Irrespective of the arts and humanities research fields which contribute to the proposal, field, a focus on reciprocal relationships, intersections, interactions and synergies between arts and humanities research and sciences is expected to be at the heart of the research questions, agenda, methods and approaches. Cross-disciplinary interaction should be central to the ways of working. In considering applications under this call we will be particularly looking for proposals which develop reciprocal relationships in innovative ways and which demonstrate the potential to lead to benefits and advances in both the arts and humanities and in the sciences.

Proposals will need to demonstrate their potential to make an innovative and distinctive contribution to the development of the Theme and how they will expand the current portfolio of research under the Theme. Where appropriate, they should also outline how they would complement, and/or connect with, the existing portfolio of research in the Science in Culture theme. All projects will be expected to explain how they would contribute to the broader development of the Theme, for example by addressing issues of cross-cutting interest.

The emphasis should be on creativity, imagination and innovation in terms of developing the relationships and ways of working and potential for mutual/bi-directional learning, development of new insights and understanding, and/or transforming concepts, methodologies or approaches in both the arts and humanities and the sciences. As such, proposals may build upon, but should move significantly beyond, approaches which have a more uni-directional focus. Where proposals build on areas already well-represented in arts and humanities research, such as contextualising science, studying the development of science and scientific ideas and/or exploring the translation and communication of science, they will need to demonstrate how they will be innovative (e.g. in crossing boundaries between disciplines within the arts and humanities), add significant value to

existing research and advance approaches for mutual exchange and bi-directional learning. Where proposals focus on arts and humanities engagement with a specific area of science, they should consider the potential wider relevance of their research for developing new thinking about reciprocal relationships and approaches to stimulating mutual exchanges in other fields of potential engagement beyond the specific area of science that is the primary focus of the proposal.

Funding of up to **£80,000** is available on a full economic costs basis with the AHRC meeting 80% of the fEC. Awards should last for a maximum of **12 months** and will be expected to start between **October 2014 and April 2015.** The AHRC expects to make up to 10 awards through this call (depending on quality and fit to call/theme).

NATURE OF PROPOSED ACTIVITIES

We are open to collaborative research proposals which involve a wide range or combination of activities which would contribute to the aims of the call.

SCIENCE IN CULTURE THEME

The 'Science in Culture' theme aims to develop the *reciprocal* relationship between the sciences on the one hand, and arts and humanities on the other. It seeks to identify new avenues for cross-disciplinary innovation, bring together insights and expertise from a diverse range of research in the arts and humanities and the sciences and stimulate advances in research in both the arts and humanities and the sciences which might not otherwise have occurred without mutual exchange. 'Sciences' in this context and throughout the document below is framed broadly to include the full range and diversity of science across the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) subjects; it also includes medical, social, behavioural and health sciences.

Arts and humanities research goes beyond investigating the cultural contexts for science to inform and contribute to its advancement. Situated in a radically different research paradigm, the arts and humanities bring knowledge not normally covered by science, offering exciting possibilities for new scientific discoveries and critical confluences of ideas and practices. It can promote a broader understanding of societal views about science, the diverse pathways taken by science in different societies, the role of scientific advances in cultural life and how this shapes broader world views. Arts and humanities research in the 21st century has the potential to inform science as much as to chart its cultural impacts. It can provoke new scientific enquiry as much as account for the historical, cultural, legal and

ethical contexts for the future development of many areas of science. It can help to anticipate and inform future public engagement and policy debates and controversies. There is growing recognition of the interconnections and complementarity between the sciences and the arts and humanities, the potential for creativity and innovation that these connections can generate and the limits of using scientific approaches in isolation to tackle societal challenges.

Arts and humanities research can help us answer questions such as:

- What are the nature, value and scope of scientific research?
- What roles do culture, imagination, argument, discourse, creativity, discovery and curiosity play in scientific enquiry?
- How might the art and humanities engage with the sciences as systems of knowledge from the perspective of their cultural context, development and impact?
- How might such interaction enhance public engagement and educational approaches, and inform policy debates?

There is significant potential for collaborative research between the sciences and the arts and humanities. For example, a sophisticated understanding of cultural values, rights, religions and systems of belief is essential for addressing the complex legal, ethical and regulatory policy issues raised by some emerging areas of science and technology. And there is significant potential for research on the representation of scientific ideas and progress (for example in language, literature, visual media and the performing arts) and on the role of narrative, imagery, artefacts and cultural institutions (including museums and galleries) to inform ways of enhancing public engagement with science and technology. Beyond this, the arts and humanities can generate new knowledge about human life and interaction which may inform and directly contribute to scientific discovery and advancement. The Science in Culture theme aims to encourage mutual exchanges between the sciences and the arts and humanities that offer scope for developing new areas of research, methodologies, research frameworks, styles of thinking and/or ways of working across the disciplines.

Further information on the theme can be found in the Funding Opportunities section of the AHRC's website at http://www.ahrc.ac.uk/Funding-Opportunities/Research-funding/Themes/Science-in-Culture/Pages/Science-in-Culture.aspx or on the Theme Leadership Fellow's website at www.sciculture.ac.uk.

APPLICATION AND ASSESSMENT PROCESS

TIMETABLE

- November 2013: Call announced
- 2 December 2013: Proposal form available in JeS
- 27 February 2014: Closing date for proposals
- April/May 2014: Assessment panel
- End of May 2014: Notifiation of outcomes
- Between October 2014 and April 2015: Innovation Awards to start

INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION

International co-investigators can be included in the Science in Culture Innovation Award proposals and, where justified, the cost of international co-investigators' time can be charged to the grant. An international co-investigator must be of post-doctoral standing and based at an institution of equivalent standing to a UK HEI. The arrangement allows for costs relating to international co-investigators to be charged and funded at 100% but does not allow estates or indirect costs to be charged.

The total direct costs associated with international co-investigators are limited to 30% of the total fEC cost of the proposal; there is no limit on the number of international co-investigators provided their cost falls within the financial parameter. Full guidance on international co-investigator eligibility and costs can be found in the Research Funding Guide.

It is also permitted to include an international partner as a collaborator or consultant, fully justifying their role in the project and the experience they will bring to the team. Costs for the time of any consultants, overseas travel/subsistence; international phone calls and/ or video conferencing; overseas events/activities can be included within the grant. The added value and contribution of the international collaboration to the research must be clearly explained and justified in the proposal.

Costs for international collaboration must be included within the £80,000 (fEC) limit.

ASSESSMENT PROCESS AND CRITERIA

Proposals will be subject to light touch peer review by an assessment panel involving members of the Science in Culture Advisory Group, members of the AHRC's Peer Review College and scientists. The Theme Leadership Fellow will also attend the panel in a non-voting capacity and will have a role in advising the panel on issues of fit and potential contribution to the Theme.

The following will be taken into account when assessing proposals:

- the degree of innovation within the context of the Science in Culture theme
- the extent to which the proposal meets the specific aims of the call
- the extent to which the proposal fits, and would make a distinctive contribution to, the **Science in Culture** theme
- the quality of the research process outlined, including: research agenda, participants, sustainability, inter-disciplinarity and appropriateness of methods
- the significance and importance of the research question to be explored
- the extent to which the proposed activities will generate genuine and productive interaction across boundaries (e.g. disciplinary, conceptual, theoretical, methodological and/or international), including the potential for them to lead to advances in knowledge and understanding in the fields concerned and new high quality cross-disciplinary research collaborations
- the potential to make a novel contribution to the development of reciprocal relationships, cross-disciplinary innovation and mutual exchanges between the arts and humanities and the sciences
- the extent to which the potential outcomes justify the costs (i.e. value for money)
- whether the Principal Investigator (and any Co-Investigators) demonstrate the requisite skills and experience to manage the proposed activities, and whether there is a sufficiently broad range of expertise and experience amongst the other named participants
- the extent to which there are effective plans for management of the activities and the monitoring of progress, including whether a realistic timetable and reasonable costs are presented which will achieve the aims and objectives of the proposal
- whether the proposal demonstrates an appropriate strategy for the dissemination and exploitation of outcomes and for exploring pathways to impact, including the extent to which plans are in place to extend collaboration once the award has ended
- the extent to which what is proposed will have an impact beyond the lifetime of the award

HOW TO APPLY

This call document should be read in conjunction with the AHRC Research Funding Guide. which gives details about applying for AHRC funding, including eligibility requirements, information about costings and completing the proposal form.

Detailed guidance on completing the Case for Support and other attachments is provided in Annex A.

You should submit your proposal using the Research Councils' Joint electronic Submission (Je-S) System (https://je-s.rcuk.ac.uk/). To prepare a proposal form in Je-S, log-in to your account and choose **New Document**, then select **AHRC** as the Council, **Standard Proposal** as the Document Type, **Development Grants** as the Scheme, **Science in Culture Innovation Awards** as the Call/Type/Mode and then 'Create Document'. Je-S will then create a proposal form, displaying the relevant section headings. Using the 'Help' link at the top of each section will provide guidance relevant to that section of the form. **Please take care when choosing the Call/Type/Mode as other similar options will be presented in the drop-down list.**

Please note that the proposal form for this scheme will be available in Je-S from **2 December 2013**.

Note that clicking 'submit document' on your proposal form in Je-S initially submits the proposal to your host organisation's administration, not to AHRC. Please remember to allow sufficient time for your organisation's submission process between submitting your proposal to them and the Call closing date.'

All proposals must be completed and submitted by the host organisation by the deadline of **4pm on Thursday 27 February 2014**.

Funded applicants will be expected to produce a summary report outlining the outcomes of their activities. These will be expected to be submitted to the AHRC within 3 months of the completion of the award.

Award holders' HEIs will also need to complete a Financial Expenditure Statement at the end of the award in order for the AHRC to reconcile the project costs. Further information will be provided by the AHRC towards the end of the award period.

START DATE AND DURATION

The earliest start date for the Science in Culture Innovation Awards is **1 October 2014** and the latest start date is **1 April 2015**. The maximum duration that can be applied for is **12 months**.

APPLICANT ELIGIBILITY AND COMMITMENT

- Lead Research Organisation – there should be one lead RO.
- Principal Investigator (PI) – same eligibility as for AHRC Research Grants (as detailed in AHRC Research Funding Guide) should have been named as the PI or Co-I on the outline or full proposal.
- Co-Investigators (Co-I) – same eligibility as for AHRC Research Grants (as detailed in the AHRC Research Funding Guide). The number of Co-Is should be commensurate with the scale and ambition of the research and reflect the requirements for successfully delivering the boundary crossing collaborations outlined in the proposal.
- Research Assistants – need to be of postdoctoral standing and have the required expertise to undertake the research proposed.
- PhD project students are **not** permitted under this call.
- PI and Co-I time commitment – this should be commensurate with the scale and ambition of the proposed project.
- Project /Administrative support – the time and cost of any project management or knowledge exchange, co-ordination and/or administrative support may be included within the proposal.

We will welcome applications from both researchers / teams who have applied under previous calls under the Theme and from researchers who have had no prior involvement under the Theme. Individuals who are in receipt of past / current awards under the Theme are eligible to apply but would need to detail how the application would expand and make an innovative contribution to the Theme.

REPORTING AND DISSEMINATION

Innovation awards should lead to substantive research outputs and outcomes but these may take a wide variety of forms; applicants should outline their plans for outputs in their proposals with particular attention given to how research outcomes might be communicated to both arts and humanities and scientific communities. In addition to dissemination of outcomes through traditional academic routes, consideration of the potential for broader knowledge exchange and/or public engagement activites is strongly encouraged.

As a minimum requirement, award holders will be expected to set up a webpage for their project within its first month providing a summary of planned activities and reports of any

events, presentations, papers or other materials emerging from activities. Proposals involving more interactive uses of digital technologies will be welcomed

In addition to submitting details of outputs and outcomes through the Research Councils' outcomes collection system, award holders will be expected to produce a summary final report at the end of the award outlining their findings, lessons learnt and future plans. These reports should be published on the webpage (with public access maintained for at least 18 months after the end of the project) and will be used by the Science in Culture Theme Leadership Fellow and Advisory Group to help further inform the theme. The AHRC and the Theme Leadership Fellow may wish to discuss other forms of publication or dissemination with successful applicants as appropriate. Projects may also be asked to contribute to case studies or to respond to follow-up surveys of award-holders under the theme.

CONTRIBUTION TO THE SCIENCE IN CULTURE THEME AND PARTICIPATION IN THEMATIC ACTIVITIES

Successful projects will be expected to actively contribute to the aims of the Science in Culture theme and to work collaboratively with the Theme Leadership Fellow, Professor Barry Smith, as part of a community of scholars under this theme. They will be expected to support the sharing of experience and learning from their activities with the Theme Leadership Fellow, other participants in the theme and with broader audiences as appropriate. We expect that this will involve attending a number of networking or other events organised as a part of the Theme both during the lifetime of the award and after the end of the grant.

CONTACTS

Enquiries regarding this call should be directed to:

- Christie Walker, Strategy and Development Manager (History and Thought) christie.walker@ahrc.ac.uk or 01793 416066
- Ian Broadbridge, Portfolio Manager (History and Thought) i.broadbridge@ahrc.ac.uk or 01793 416054
- Pete Henly, Programmes Coordinator (History and Thought) p.henly@ahrc.ac.uk or 01793 416051

The AHRC works with the RCUK Shared Services Centre (SSC) to deliver all of our funding activities. Enquiries about Je-S registration or completing the proposal form should be directed to grants@ssc.rcuk.ac.uk or 01793 444164

Applicants may contact the Theme Leadership Fellow to discuss the scope and aims of the Science in Culture theme, the potential fit of their ideas to the theme and ways in which their proposal might contribute to broader future activities and developments under the theme. However, the Theme Leadership Fellow is not able to provide advice on the specific content or drafting of proposals.

Contact Professor Barry Smith, Science in Culture Theme Leadership Fellow, at barry.smith@sas.ac.uk.

For more information about the Science in Culture theme:

- AHRC Science in Culture webpage: http://www.ahrc.ac.uk/Funding-Opportunities/Research-funding/Themes/Science-in-Culture/Pages/Science-in-Culture.aspx
- Science in Culture theme website: http://www.sciculture.ac.uk/

ANNEX A

GUIDANCE FOR COMPLETING ATTACHMENTS

All the following documents should be completed in a font no smaller than size 11. Please also note the permitted document lengths.

CASE FOR SUPPORT

The Case for Support should be no more than **4 sides of A4** outlining the rationale for the proposed activity, how it will add value to current activities, a description of the proposed activities to be undertaken, and an outline of the expected outputs and dissemination plans as appropriate. Please ensure you use a font no smaller than size 11.

You should structure your Case for Support using the following headings:

INNOVATION, FIT TO THE CALL AND FIT TO THE THEME

You should ensure that it is clear to the reviewers how the proposed activities will meet the ambitions outlined in this call for Innovation Awards, fit with the Science in Culture theme and make an innovative contribution to the theme.

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

You should give a brief, clear description of the core **research questions** that you intend to address and identify the contribution these will make to the Science in Culture theme.

RESEARCH CONTEXT AND RATIONALE

You should briefly describe the **research context and rationale** for your project/programme of work. Why is it important that these questions or issues are explored? What other research is being or has been conducted in this area? How will the research build upon expertise, knowledge and approaches from both the arts and humanities and the sciences? What contribution will your research make to improving, enhancing, or developing creativity, insights, knowledge or understanding in both the arts and humanities and the sciences? How is your research innovative in the context of the Science in Culture theme?

RESEARCH METHODS

You should describe the **research methods** you will be using to address the questions described above, or to explore the issues that will be investigated. Why have you chosen this approach? Why is it the best way to answer the research questions identified?

MANAGEMENT AND CO-ORDINATION

How will the activities be managed, coordinated and delivered? How will reciprocal exchange and inter-disciplinary approaches be supported and sustained through the full lifecycle of the project? If the application includes additional assistance or administrative support, please provide brief details of the activities to be undertaken.

TIMETABLE

You should provide a brief timetable to show the feasibility of the planned activities within the proposed timescale, indicating key milestones.

OUTCOMES, IMPACT AND DISSEMINATION

Please provide details of the outputs you propose to produce during the award and their proposed focus. To which audiences will the activities and their outcomes be of interest? How will any outputs be discussed with, and/or communicated and disseminated to, those audiences? What is the dissemination strategy for the findings?

JUSTIFICATION OF RESOURCES

All costs associated with the project must be justified in the Justification of Resources. Applicants should:

- Explain why the indicated resources are needed, taking into account the nature and complexity of the activities proposed. Note that it is not sufficient merely to list what is required
- Refer to the breakdown of resources in the summary fund headings Directly Incurred and Directly Allocated
- Estates costs, Indirect costs, Fellowship salary costs, and some other Directly Allocated costs such as general technical services do not need to be justified

The Justification of resources should not exceed two sides of A4.

CURRICULUM VITAE

Summary curriculum vitae should be attached as separate documents for each Principal Investigator, any Co- Investigators or named postdoctoral researchers. These should be no more than two sides of A4 paper and in an Arial font no smaller than size 11. CVs should include basic information about education, employment history, and academic responsibilities.

PUBLICATIONS LISTS

Summary lists of publications/research outputs should be attached as separate documents for each Principal Investigator, any Co- Investigators or named postdoctoral researchers. These should cover major publications/outputs in the last five years and should be no more than one side of A4 paper and in a Arial font no smaller than size 11.

Brief articles, conference papers, etc. need not be included. You should asterisk those of particular relevance to your current research proposal.

LETTERS OF SUPPORT

If any Project Partners have been included in the proposal, a Letter of Support is required from each partner, outlining the level of commitment of the proposed partner, the value and benefit of the work to the Project Partner, the nature of the contribution and the added value to the project of the involvement. The letter should be dated and signed by a senior member of the organisation, with the authority to make this commitment.

VISUAL EVIDENCE

Applications may include no more than two sides of A4 non-textual, visual evidence in support of the proposal, to illustrate the proposed aims and objectives and/or research methods. It is not permitted to include this material to supplement or replace your CV or publications list or to illustrate previous work in any way nor should it be used to circumvent the word limit for the Case for Support.

PATHWAYS TO IMPACT

The Pathways to Impact attachment (of up to 2 sides of A4) asks you to expand on the Impact Summary by answering the question what will be done to ensure that potential beneficiaries have the opportunity to engage with the research?

The Pathways to Impact attachment is your opportunity to describe in more detail how the potential impacts of the research beyond academia, as outlined in the Impact Summary, will be realised. Taking into account what is reasonable and appropriate given

the nature of the research you propose to conduct, you are asked to describe how the proposed research will be managed to engage any users and beneficiaries that have been identified, or to identify potential users and beneficiaries as the research progresses, and to increase the likelihood of achieving impacts. In presenting your plans, you should tailor and target your impact activities to ensure that they are relevant to the specific user and beneficiary groups likely to be interested in your research and appropriate for supporting the potential research impacts outlined. Innovative and creative approaches are strongly encouraged.

When completing the attachment, you should consider (and address if appropriate) methods for communications and engagement, collaboration and exploitation. You should also detail who will be undertaking any impact activities and include any resource implications in the financial summary and in the separate Justification of Resources attachment.

Further information on completing this section can be found in the AHRC Research Funding Guide.