



UNIVERSITY OF THE
WITWATERSRAND,
JOHANNESBURG



Narrative Enquiry for Social Transformation

NEST Postdoctoral Fellowship 2023-2024

The NEST (Narrative Enquiry for Social Transformation) research project at the University of the Witwatersrand invites applications for appointment of a postdoctoral researcher.

NEST is informed by the principle that narrative is one of the defining features of what it means to be human. Personal and collective senses of self, experience, desires, fears and hopes are developed in and through narrative meaning-making, providing recognition and validation, and deepening our sense of human dignity across lines of difference and existence. The transformative possibilities of narrative lie in the ways in which it enables people to: give coherence to their lives and the world around them; develop forms of critical consciousness and thinking; imagine possible alternative social realities and futures; and, ultimately, not only to read them-selves and their place in the world but also to be read by others. It is people who make culture and culture that in turns remakes us, and this process is always political and potentially transformative.

The core thematic threads of NEST are the narrative formation of consciousness and subjectivities; marginality, the body, affect and narrative; narrative *form* and symbolic representations in multiple modalities: textual, visual, archival, aural and performative; intergenerational narratives; and developing knowledge and praxis through empirical projects.

We would like to invite applications for a postdoctoral fellowship for two years, 2023 - 2024. Applicants should have completed the PhD within the past five years in any discipline of the Humanities and Social Sciences. Preference will be given to researchers whose work closely aligns with the narrative theory-methods of NEST.

Successful applicants will benefit from a strong supportive and collaborative interdisciplinary research environment. The fellowship award is for R400 000 per annum, initially for one year, renewable for a second year on condition of satisfactory performance. The NEST postdoctoral fellow will have the opportunity to participate in all NEST colloquia, international conferences and community-based research events.

In addition to publishing their own research, the postdoctoral fellow will be responsible for:

- 1. NEST data-banks and research archives;**
- 2. Analysis of data;**
- 3. Contribution to publications in the form of co-authorship;**
- 4. Research support for team publications.**

Eligibility and Requirements

- Recently completed PhD;
- Familiarity with narrative theory-methods;
- An ability to work with multiple forms of data and various methods of analysis;
- Preference will be given to multilingual Black South African applicants.

Application Process

Applications close on **31 March 2023**

Your application should include:

1. A letter of motivation outlining how your research articulates with the NEST research agenda.
2. A plan of action and timelines for the postdoctoral programme.
3. A detailed and up to date CV.
4. A copy of / link to your PhD thesis and any published work.
5. Copies of your academic transcript and PhD degree certificate.
6. Two letters of academic reference.

Please send your application by **31 March 2023** to Antonette.Gouws@wits.ac.za

Please name all attached documentation related to your application to include your surname, name, and then the name of the document, e.g. Khumalo-Thenjiwe-academic transcript.