Research fellowship on The Narrative of the Anthropocene with Chinese Characteristics: Climate-Fiction Between Realism and Dystopia - Università Ca' Foscari Venezia

(Italian law 30 December 2010, n.240, art. 22)

The present document in English is to be considered as a mere summary of the main provisions of the notice of competition which is available in Italian at the following (link). The text in Italian is the official text of the notice of competition for all legal intents and purposes and, in the event of non-conformity with the present document, it shall prevail.

Description
The Department of Asian and North African Studies at Università Ca' Foscari Venezia invites applications for a fellowship in:

**TITLE:** The Narrative of the Anthropocene with Chinese Characteristics: Climate-Fiction Between Realism and Dystopia

**SSD:** L-OR/21 : CHINESE AND SOUTH ASIAN LANGUAGES AND LITERATURES

**TUTOR:** prof. Nicoletta Pesaro

**ABSTRACT:** Given China’s world record in terms of growth rate, its position vis-à-vis the environmental crisis has been widely discussed in many research fields. Undoubtedly, the nature of China’s development makes it one of the protagonists of the controversial era universally known as “Anthropocene”. While the scientific approach struggles to gain the masses’ hearts, the narrative of the climate emergency has succeeded, through the social movement, in awakening the individual’s perception of such an urgent matter. More “idea” than “problem” (Hulme 2009), the precariousness of the ecosystem has become part and parcel of our everyday life, and it is precisely in this context that the power of literature to portrait society has brought to the rise of Cli-Fi (Climate Fiction). In its original meaning, this term designates a sub-category of Science-Fiction that deals with the issue of climate change and of environmental crisis in general (Bloom 2013). It is a young genre in the field of world literature, and in China it is yet to be widely developed. However, several Science-Fiction works that have been most welcome in the last years can be included in this category.

What is the individual’s perception of the environmental crisis depicted in Cli-Fi novels? What thoughts does it stimulate and what is the social picture it describes? This project aims to answer these questions by carrying out a study of the literary text from a cultural and sociological perspective, combining the tools of narratology with the concept of social imaginary (Taylor 2002) applied to the idea of climate emergency. The three narrative texts Huang chao 荒潮 (The Waste Tide) by Chen Qiufan (2013), Beijing zhédì 北京折叠 (Folding Beijing) by Hao Jingfang (2012), and Liuliáng diqì 流浪地球 (The Wandering Earth) by Liu Cixin (2008) will constitute the corpus of the analysis. These works deal with environmental issues from different perspectives, highlighting their repercussions on society, culture, and family. Ranging between near and remote futures, this corpus combines dystopian scenarios ascribable to Hard Science Fiction with an almost realistic tendency that brings...
familiarity and likelihood to prevail over post-apocalyptic contexts. In particular, the analysis will deal with the following themes: a) the type of emergency; b) the relationship between humanity and nature; c) the political and economic implications; d) the features of the new society.

Moving away from the approach of Ecocriticism, often too sterile, this study intends to focus on the most human and social dimension of the environmental crisis, in order to identify the impact Chinese Cli-Fi has on the way the individual and collectivity perceive it. Indeed, it is through the projection of possible futures that these narratives can stimulate the masses and inspire a deep reflection, necessary to cultivate the environmental awareness in one of the countries exerting greatest influence on our ecosystem today.

The research may be carried out in English. The fellowship is intended to provide the successful candidate with the opportunity to pursue his/her own research while benefiting from the range of expertise at Università Ca’ Foscari Venezia.

**Who can apply**

Prospective candidates are expected to hold a *doctoral’s degree*.

Ca’ Foscari encourages applications from researchers with positive evaluation in all the criteria in individual proposals such as Marie Skłodowska Curie Actions - Individual Fellowships/ERC Starting Grants/FIRB (Italian Fund for basic research investments)/SIR (Scientific Young Independence Research) or similar. Researchers having successfully completed Marie Skłodowska Curie Actions - Individual Fellowships/ERC Starting Grants/FIRB (Italian Fund for basic research investments)/SIR (Scientific Young Independence Research) or similar funded projects are warmly encouraged to apply.

**Duration of contract:** 12 months (approximately starting: 1st of October 2020).

**Stipend:** The research fellowship amounts to 19,367 Euros per year, including taxes and social charges.

**Deadline for submission of applications:** September 1st 2020, 12.00 noon (Italian time).

**How to apply:**

Candidates should submit:
1. The application form;
2. A motivation letter (max 1 page) along with their CV in European format, duly dated and signed, both to enclosed as a one single.pdf file. ([link](#))
3. A copy of a valid identity document (either Identity Card or Passport);  
4. (If available) Evaluation Summary Reports of Marie Skłodowska Curie Actions - Individual Fellowships/ ERC Starting Grants/FIRB (Italian Fund for basic research in-
vestments)/SIR (Scientific Young Independence Research) individual proposals having passed all the evaluation thresholds;
5. (If available) Details of Marie Skłodowska Curie Actions - Individual Fellowships, ERC Starting Grants, FIRB (Italian Fund for basic research investments)/ SIR Scientific Young Independence Research funded projects;
6. Declaration on availability to held the interview in remote (Link) to be send via email at the following address: ricerca.dsaam@unive.it with the subject “AR-LOR/21 – The Narrative of the Anthropocene – interview in remote”.
7. Pdf copy of the publications the candidate intends to present for evaluation;
8. All documents, qualifications and publications relevant for the selection procedure (please, see the notice link).
All the schemes of the quoted documentation are available on the website (link).

How to submit your application
Applications should be submitted by the online procedure, available on the notice webpage (link)
Or submit here: https://apps.unive.it/domandeconcorso-en/accesso/dsaam-pesaro-20200728
The candidate, after the uploading, will receive a submission number and an e-mail acknowledging receipt of his/her application.
The candidate if necessary could access the procedures for updating any data and materials by the link provided by the e-mail, in any case any updates must be made no later than the deadline: September 1st 2020, 12.00 noon (Italian time).
Please note that the University can be contacted for any support needs by the candidate until 24 hours prior to the deadline.
Please note that in case of an high number of applications and / or weight of the materials loaded by the candidates the system might become slower, Therefore it is suggested not to start the process close to the deadline.
NB: the University does not take on responsibility for wrong or late communication of addresses, nor for any communication problem not depending on the University.

Evaluation
Up to 100 points, specifically:
For qualifications, publications and possible tests, from 0 to 60;
For interview, from 0 to 40.

Selection procedure
Short-listed candidates will be invited for interview on September 16th 2020 at 9:00 a.m. (Italian time)
The interview will be held in remote only. Further details on how to connect online will be published alongside the convocation notice.
The short-list of the candidates admitted to the interview, or any postponement, will be published on the University’s webpage on September 10th 2020. (link).

Information and contacts
Candidates may find further details about the application process and the research project in the official call published on the following (link)
For further information please contact Research Unit tel. +39 041 2349534 email: ricerca.dsaam@unive.it.