



UFAM

Swansea University
Prifysgol Abertawe

FAPEAM
FUNDAÇÃO DE AMPARO À PESQUISA
DO ESTADO DO AMAZONAS
CERTIFICADA PELA ISO 9001:2008

**RESEARCHER
LINKS**

www.britishcouncil.org

BRITISH COUNCIL RESEARCHER LINKS WORKSHOP – CALL FOR PAPERS

Swansea University and Federal University of Amazonas (UFAM), with the generous support of the British Council, Newton Fund and the Amazonas State Research Support Foundation (FAPEAM), call for applications from early career researchers with a doctoral standing of less than ten years to participate in the British Council Researcher Links Workshop to be held in Manaus, Brazil on the topic:

SUPPORTING SUSTAINABLE ECOSYSTEMS FOR POVERTY ALLEVIATION IN THE AMAZON

From the 20th to 24th June 2016 (inclusive, expected arrival on 19 June and departure on 25 June).

The workshop is an intensive research meeting, aiming to provide new insights, approaches and methods to understanding the links between the mechanisms and the effects of ecosystem change on poverty alleviation and community organisation in Brazilian Amazon. 15 early career researchers based at UK universities and 15 from Universities in Brazil, will be invited for this five day workshop in **Manaus**, state of Amazonas, Brazil. Full expenses will be paid for those selected to participate in the workshop, courtesy of the generous support of the British Council, Newton Fund and FAPEAM.

All participants from the UK and Brazil are required to deliver a 20 minutes presentation in English on a topic closely related to the theme of the workshop.

The workshop will be structured around three following themes and potential participants are encouraged to relate their applications to one of the themes, more explicitly.

1. Experiences and Reactions to Poverty and Ecosystem Change

This theme focuses on understanding concerns over, experiences of and reactions to ecosystem change by the poor across multiple scales and study the institutional frameworks that influence these links. The state of Amazonas is a frontier area with a long history of extensive deforestation due to economic growth, infrastructure development, population migrations and multiple forms of conflict. In this region, rapid ecosystem change is a significant concern, while its consequences in the form of violence and poverty are felt most acutely by rural people living along the agricultural/forest frontier (Fearnside, 2008; Malhi et al, 2008). Agricultural expansion differentially affects peasants who migrate into the Amazon seeking land and employment, forest dwellers seeking wage labour, indigenous and traditional people (quilombolas) having to change their accepted practices of using ecosystem resources or leave their traditional areas. Focusing on diverse experiences of socio-natural change, the workshop will study major challenges for sustainable management of the Amazon's frontiers including tackling increasing deforestation and dealing with the continuing impoverishment of the rural poor.

2. Existing Governance and Mechanisms Tackling Poverty of People Affected by Environmental Risks

This theme studies the mechanisms governing ecosystem management and tackling poverty of the people affected by increased environmental risks and competition for resources. Despite increased investment in Amazon's development, many initiatives in the state of Amazonas failed to produce the desired results or to offer a holistic approach to economic development and improving social welfare. Some approaches to forest and water management offered narrow, formalised solutions, which privileged the views of commercial land and water managers at the expense of the resource-dependent poor (Nebel et al. 2005). Furthermore, recent programmes aimed at reducing environmental vulnerability in the Amazon were blighted by limited structure and coherence, so that the lack of cross-institutional communication, gaps in implementation and fragmented delivery aggravated deforestation and perpetuated the poverty of disadvantaged people. Poor people in the Amazon often find themselves in a situation of double disadvantage when the loss of services from ecosystems is compounded by misunderstanding of resultant poverty by policy makers. To address these shortcomings, the workshop will explore complex approaches to governance of sustainable resource use and poverty alleviation by linking local ecosystems, cultures and lifestyles, as well as public acceptance of existing anti-poverty strategies within institutional structures.

3. New Socio-Ecological Threats and Innovative Policy Responses

This theme will explore policy responses to human vulnerability in the Amazon. It will develop policy recommendations and consider effective practical tools for determining the values different people hold for ecosystem services, for monitoring change in the provision of ecosystem services that might increase the well-being of vulnerable groups in the Amazon and strategies to promote innovation and integrated, equitable development.

The coordinators of the workshop are:

Dr. Sergei V. Shubin, Geography and Centre for Migration Policy Research, *Swansea University*.
Email: s.v.shubin@swansea.ac.uk

Dr. Elenise Faria Scherer, Institute of Humanities, Letters and Arts, *Federal University of Amazonas*. Email: elenisefaria@gmail.com

The workshop will have contributions from other leading researchers, including Prof. Paul Cloke (University of Exeter), Dr Antonio Ioris (University of Edinburgh), Dr Lucilene Melo (UFAM) and Dr Tatiana Schor (UFAM).

Criteria for the selection for the candidates are:

Applicants will be selected in accordance to the following criteria:

- a) A doctoral standing of ten years or less.
- b) A completed application (using the online Research links form) showing the ability to contribute to the topic and key themes of the workshop.
- c) An affiliation to a Higher Education institution in Brazil or the UK.
- d) English language proficiency at B2 level, according to the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages

Further information about the workshop and how to apply is available here:

<https://www.britishcouncil.org.br/events/newton-fund-researcher-links-workshop-shubin>

Link to the online application form: <http://britishcouncilbrasil.nfml-shubin.sgizmo.com/s3/>

THE DEADLINE FOR THE SUBMISSION OF APPLICATIONS IS **Sunday 20 MARCH 2016, MIDNIGHT GMT.**