



Religion and Minority: lived religion, migration and marginalities in secular societies

"Religion and Minority: lived religion, migration and marginalities in secular societies" is a collaborative project between the University of Manchester (PI: Dr. Erica Baffelli) and Toyo University (Professor Takahashi Norihito), supported by the UKRI ESRC-AHRC UK-Japan SSH Connections Grant Scheme.

The aim of the research group is to develop a long-term collaboration between researchers based at UK and Japan universities working on 'religious minority' and on minority groups inside religious organizations. The objective of the network is to investigate 'marginality' and the concept of 'minority' in religious contexts, not only from the point of view of how minority groups are constructed and defined in different cultural and social contexts, but also in terms of how marginalised groups use religion to construct their identity vis-à-vis the larger society and/or to negotiate their place inside religious traditions. The project seeks to establish an international network of experienced and early-career researchers in the UK and Japan to explore the above-mentioned topics using a variety of case studies, and to foster innovative methodologies and approaches to the study of religion in contemporary society.

Two Early Career Research Fellowships are available to recent PhD graduates to conduct two months research in either Japan or the UK as part of the research project "Religion and Minority: lived religion, migration and marginalities in secular societies".

The fellows will spend two months in either UK and Japan to develop a research project and a postdoctoral application on a topic related to the research group. During their stay in Manchester/Tokyo they will be mentored by the PI (Dr. Erica Baffelli) and Co-I (Professor Norihito Takahashi) and hosted by The University of Manchester and Toyo University as International Visiting Researchers.

The fellows will also be invited to participate to all initiatives run by the research group in the UK and in Japan. The Fellowship will cover economy class travel, accommodation, sustenance and local transports for two months. In order for the fellows to be fully integrated in the research group, fellowships should start between May 2019 and January 2020.

Eligibility

One fellowship will be awarded to a UK-based early-career researcher and one bursary will be awarded to a Japan-based early-career researcher. Applicants may be of any nationality. Applicants should have obtained a PhD at a UK or Japanese university after 1 January 2014. Applicants should not have a full-time academic position or be the recipient of a postdoctoral fellowship. PhD researchers currently completing a PhD should have successfully passed (Minor Corrections) their 'viva voce' or oral defence by the start date of the Fellowship. Applicants are expected to have an excellent knowledge of Japanese and English in order to be able to conduct research in Japan and the UK respectively.



Selection procedures

The fellows will be selected by a panel of members including the PI, Co-I and at least two other members of the Research Group. Priority will be given to candidates in the first year after completion of their PhD.

Application process

Applicants should submit the following documents in either English or Japanese:

- **CV** (maximum two pages)
- **Cover letter** (max 1,000-word), including the following headings: a) relevance of previous research experience to the project b) proposed research project to be conducted in the UK or Japan including a timeline c) expected outputs

Completed applications should be submitted to minorityreligion@gmail.com by **5pm UK time on March 1st, 2019**. Late or incomplete applications will not be considered.