



Master Student Opportunity

The Offer

The Institute of Social Anthropology, Department of Social Sciences offers a 1-year position beginning September 2021 to August 2022 at the MA level

Benefits include:

- A salary bracket at the MA level
- A workplace at the Institute of Social Anthropology
- Depending on the unfolding COVID-19 situation, a small research budget will be provided to help assist in organizing a workshop in with Kinshasa, DRC or Guangzhou, China. This trip would offer students a chance to conduct short-term field work.

The Project

Swiss National Foundation funded Ambizione project entitled “The Travail and Travels of Congolese Transnational Trader Women” led by Dr. Lesley Braun is offering employment to an MA student interested in pursuing research about Africa-China cultural encounters.

Congo’s transnational trader women called *femmes commerçantes*, embark on international buying expeditions to purchase wholesale goods for local resale. Strengthened governmental relations between the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and China have contributed to the increased mobility between the two countries. Congo’s trader women are at the forefront of creating new social classes, as well as household structures. This project examines how Congolese women navigate an economic landscape that is premised on social networks and transnational exchanges. It explores how global economic change impacts gender dynamics in the DRC. The central theme within this project investigates the relationship between women's work within a labour system defined by its internal corruption, mobility, and morality in an African context where women are participants in the transformation of social class structures.

Eligibility

- Completed a BA in the social sciences (preference Anthropology/Ethnology)
- Good written and spoken English
- Knowledge of either French and/or Chinese is an asset
- Independent and responsible
- Excellent organizational skills

Tasks

- Develop an MA research project relevant to the larger themes relating to this project
- Present research in the form of a poster or paper at a conference/workshop
- Assist in the coordination of a workshop associated with the SNF project
- Provide basic administrative support to project activities such as updating the project blog (Workload: maximum 10 hours a week)

Contact

Interested applicants should send CV & cover letter by 08.05.2021 to:

Dr. Lesley Braun

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