

Terms of Reference – Senior Researcher

CARPO – Center for Applied Research in Partnership with the Orient seeks to hire a senior researcher for its research project “Changing Global Geopolitics and ‘Southern’ Responses: How African and Middle Eastern Countries Explore Partnerships and Cooperation”. The project is funded by the Robert Bosch Foundation and explores the multi-dimensional and complex relations between selected West Asian countries (Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Iran) and four Sub-Saharan countries (South Africa, Nigeria, Kenya, Ethiopia). It aims to deconstruct and analyse their economic networks, cultural and religious affiliations, and political and security cooperation. Based on empirical research, the project provides a better understanding of West Asian - Sub-Sahara African exchange, its challenges and opportunities, as well as its implications for Europe.

As part of our research team, we are looking for a senior researcher with outstanding expertise in West Asian - Sub-Sahara African relations, who enjoys broad expert networks in the African countries mentioned above.

The senior researcher should perform the following duties and responsibilities:

Duties and Responsibilities

1. Conduct Research

- In close exchange with the project team, conducting empirical research on the the multi-dimensional and complex relations between select West Asian countries (Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Iran) and four Sub-Saharan African countries (South Africa, Nigeria, Kenya, Ethiopia).
- Focusing on topics such as economic, political, security, and cultural relations between the respective project countries.
- Contributing to the theoretical and methodological framework of the research design.
- Conducting or contributing to policy-oriented research production in the form of policy papers and other formats of science communication.

2. Organization of Workshops and Networking

- Participating in research and networking trips to the Sub-Saharan African countries specified above with the aim of conducting qualitative research on the ground and identifying potential experts for further project-related activities such as conferences, webinars, or workshops.

- Doing outreach to respective experts from research, academia, civil society, media, policymaking etc. in order to expand networks and gather background information on the relevant research topics.

3. Public Engagement

- Engaging with the public to disseminate the outcomes of the project and gather feedback to inform ongoing and future activities.

4. Stakeholder Outreach

- In close collaboration with the project team, conducting (in-person and virtual) outreach to individual stakeholders from political decision-making, academia, media, and civil society to provide background briefings and analytical information on respective research topics.
- In close collaboration with the project team, providing information and updates on the project to the donor on a regular level.

Qualifications and Skills

• Educational Background:

- Ph.D. degree in a relevant field (e.g., area studies with a focus on Sub-Saharan Africa, development studies, social sciences, political sciences, security and conflict studies, African studies);

• Professional Experience:

- General professional experience: minimum 10 years of professional experience in area and conflict studies with a focus on Sub-Saharan Africa; preferably on South Africa, Nigeria, Kenya, Ethiopia;
- Specific professional experience: minimum 5 years of professional experience in event management (workshops, study trips, conferences) and in the conception, creation and editing process of policy advisory publications (analyses, studies, briefings)
- Regional experience: minimum 5 years of experience in projects in the Sub-Saharan African region; preferably on South Africa, Nigeria, Kenya, Ethiopia, expert networks in the region an advantage
- Experience working with international organizations, research organizations, NGOs, or donor-funded projects is highly desirable.

• Communication Skills:

- Excellent written and verbal communication skills in English (necessary), and African languages (preferred).

- **Work Environment Adaptability:**
 - Ability to work effectively in a challenging and fast-paced environment, demonstrating a commitment to meeting deadlines and delivering high-quality results.
- **Interpersonal Skills:**
 - Strong interpersonal skills with the ability to work collaboratively and build positive relationships with colleagues, partners, and stakeholders.
- **Technical Proficiency:**
 - Familiarity with digital communication tools and platforms, and the ability to use them effectively for outreach purposes.

Additional Desirable Skills

- **Analytical Skills:**
 - Ability to analyse complex information and present it in a clear and concise manner.
 - Consideration of time/content/organizational requirements;
 - Interdisciplinary thinking
- **Cultural Sensitivity:**
 - Awareness of and sensitivity to the cultural and political context of Sub-Saharan Africa and in particular South Africa, Nigeria, Kenya, Ethiopia
 - Partner-oriented action

Details of the assignment

- Deadline for applications: August 1, 2024
- Duration: 18 months with a total number of working days of 78.5
- The position is expected to start on September 1, 2024.
- Remote working possible
- Remuneration: 20% TVöD 13/4

Please submit the following documents to Sebastian Sons, Senior Researcher (sons@carpo-bonn.org):

- Cover letter
- CV including list of publications