

Request for Information (RFI)

For: A research project in South Asia, titled: 'Migration and Societies in Conflict'

RFI posted: 5th September 2016

Apply by: 26th September 2016

Start date: 10th October 2016

End date: 1st March 2017

Location: Pakistan and the UK

1 Overview of the British Council

1.1 The British Council is the United Kingdom's international organisation for cultural relations and educational opportunities. Its purpose is to build engagement and trust for the UK through the exchange of knowledge and ideas between people worldwide. We work in over 100 countries, connecting millions of people with the UK through programmes and services in English language, Arts, Education and Society. We believe these are the most effective means of engaging with others, and we have been doing this work since 1934. We call this work 'cultural relations'.

www.britishcouncil.org

1.2 The British Council was established in 1934 and incorporated by Royal Charter in 1940. It is registered as a charity in England and Wales (charity no. 209131) and Scotland (charity no. SCO37733). It is also an executive non-departmental public body, with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office as its sponsoring department.

1.3 Its primary charitable objects are set out in the Charter and are stated to be to:

- Promote cultural relationships and the understanding of different cultures between people and peoples of the United Kingdom and other countries;
- Promote a wider knowledge of the United Kingdom;
- Develop a wider knowledge of the English language;
- Encourage cultural, scientific, technological and other educational co-operation between the United Kingdom and other countries; and
- Otherwise promote the advancement of education.

1.4 The British Council works in more than 110 countries around the world and employs over 7000 staff worldwide. It has its headquarters in the UK, with offices in London, Manchester, Belfast, Cardiff and Edinburgh. Further information can be viewed at www.britishcouncil.org.

2 Introduction to the RFI and project

2.1 The Research, Evaluation and Monitoring Unit (REMU) was established in British Council Pakistan in 2012 to promote the organisation as a 'thought leader' and to add depth, evidence, and

credibility to the programme activities of our Strategic Business Units (SBUs; Education and Society, Arts, English, and Exams). REMU has published many successful research reports including; 'Pakistan's Creative Industries'¹ and 'Mainstreaming Disability in Pakistan'².

2.2 The British Council is seeking to obtain further information on services within the international marketplace that are capable of meeting the requirements set out below for the research project 'Migration and societies in conflict'. We look forward to hearing about your capabilities, but would like to minimise the amount of preparation that you need to do at this stage. This RFI is therefore intended not to require significant new material to be prepared but provides an opportunity for you to demonstrate how your goods and/or services can fulfil our requirements.

2.3 We do not request you to create a detailed plan or delivery proposal as this will be requested at the Request for Proposal (RFP) stage should we decide to proceed. However, it would be helpful if you could provide an indicative estimate of cost (not a quotation), and the amount of effort and likely timescales required to deliver this project.

3 Disclaimers, confidentiality and information governance

This section sets out the British Council's principles of the RFI:

3.1 All information supplied to you by the British Council, including this RFI and any other associated documents, either in writing or orally, must be treated in confidence and not disclosed to any third party (save to your professional advisers, consortium members and/or sub-contractors strictly for the purposes only of helping you to respond to this RFI) unless the information is already in the public domain or is required to be disclosed under any applicable laws.

3.2 This document is only a request for information on goods and/or services that the British Council may or may not wish to investigate further in the future. It does not constitute either an offer to provide goods and/or services to the British Council or obligate the British Council to involve the supplier in any future procurement exercise associated with such goods and/or services.

3.3 All costs and expenses incurred in preparation of this RFI response would be the suppliers responsibility.

3.4 This RFI and its accompanying documents shall remain the property of the British Council and must be returned on demand.

4 Requirement

4.1 To mark the 70th year since Partition, REMU is looking to commission a short documentary film grounded in research which will analyse the effect of conflict based migration on identity formation and social cohesion in South Asia. This project aims to answer the question; 'How are previous generations' experiences of intersections between conflict and migration internalised and reflected in younger generations' cultural understandings and identities?' The documentary will be accompanied by a report and set of photographs of interview participants. Please see Annex 1 (research proposal) for more detail.

¹ Cultural and creative industries in Pakistan (2014), www.britishcouncil.pk/cultural-and-creative-industries-pakistan

² Mainstreaming disability in Pakistan (2014), www.britishcouncil.pk/mainstreaming-disability-pakistan-research-2014

Using visual anthropology and more traditional qualitative research approaches (e.g. in-depth interviews) the documentary will aim to describe and contextualise multi-generational experiences of families originally from Pakistan who migrated to the UK following or due to the violence that surrounded Partition. The documentary will be accompanied by high quality photographs or images of the subjects and by a thick description report which will detail the findings.

4.2 Output specifications

Suppliers may be responsible for the entire project, or for a specific part of it. We expect that the final project will include:

1. A 45 minute (maximum) documentary which features at least three families who have moved between the UK and Pakistan since partition. We expect each family to include several generations, and we expect that the conflict surrounding partition will have been a crucial reason for the start of the families' migration.
2. High quality photographs of the participating members of each family.
3. A complimentary 20 page (maximum) report, focusing on describing the situations and experiences of the families. We expect this report to draw heavily on thick description. We expect the report to include:
 - a. A Table of Contents
 - b. Foreword (to be provided by the British Council)
 - c. Introduction
 - i. Project overview
 - ii. Partition history and modern day context
 - d. Findings
 - i. Short chapters (4 max) on analysis of the findings
 - ii. Case studies on interviewees
 - e. Conclusion / closing
 - f. References and acknowledgements

4.3 As this is a new area of work for the British Council, we are flexible about the structure of the team and the project. We are looking for responses to this RFI from:

- Researchers who work in Pakistan from any area of the social sciences with relevant work experience
- Visual anthropologists, or anthropologists more generally
- Documentary makers or film makers
- Photographers

Those interested in contributing to the project should ideally have:

- Knowledge of the region and of the history of Partition
- Knowledge of a local language
- Knowledge of Pakistan
- Familiarity with relevant technology and editing programmes
- An awareness of anthropological research methods
- Experience in report writing

We are looking to work with a diverse team with varied strengths - please do not be put off from submitting an expression of interest if you do not meet all of the criteria. We would also be open to responses from individuals, organisation, or consortiums. Those submitting a response should be aware that the work must be completed by the March 2017.

5 Instructions for responding

5.1 To submit a response to this RFI, please send your CV and cover letter to Sophie.hollows@britishcouncil.org by September 26th 2016. We expect that the letter should include a description of which part of the project you would be able to work on and estimates for timelines and costs. We expect work to have commenced by the end of October and be completed by the end of March.

6 Clarification requests

6.1 All clarification requests should be submitted to Sophie.hollows@britishcouncil.org by 19th September 2016

7 List of Annexes forming part of this RFI (issued as separate documents)

Annex 1: Research proposal

ANNEX 1 - Research proposal: 'South Asia: Migration and Societies in Conflict'

Section 1: Research question

How are previous generations' experiences of intersections between conflict and migration internalised and reflected in younger generations' cultural understandings and identities?

In South Asia, partly as a result of partition in 1947, many individuals and families have been forced to migrate to new regions or new countries. Often, this has not been a one off experience: displaced families continue to migrate in successive generations and struggle to find new permanent homes. Conflict and violence inevitably plays a role in this process - either as a cause of mass migration, a result of mass migration, or even simply as a new reality for migrants to adjust to. Violence can be expressed in a myriad of ways; through widespread sectarian violence, social tensions or even domestic violence.

This project would explore how stories and family histories of forced migration and experiences of conflict affect younger generations' relationships to their ancestral homes and to their host country. In the case of South Asian migrants, this is often the UK. Indeed, it is expected that this project will focus on families whose trajectories have at some point included the UK.

It would examine how stories are understood in different ways by different generations, and would explore how young people develop allegiances and a sense of identity by, for example, reconciling their family histories with their own day to day experiences.

This project is useful to both Pakistan and the UK as the legacy of partition continues to play an important role in shaping social dynamics. It is also beneficial to the UK because it may help to understand the issues facing the South Asian diaspora and to understand the current refugee crisis and the potential impact of this.

Section 2: Research methodology

This project will draw on anthropological research methods. The results will be presented through a short documentary, a set of photographs and a written report. For this report, a literature review would be used to set the scene and to develop thorough interview protocols. Thick description could be used to provide clear, meaningful, contextualised descriptions of family histories and understandings of these.

For the short film, in depth interviews on camera could be used by multimedia journalists to produce powerful and engaging investigative reports that are of a high technical and editorial quality.

The core of the project will therefore be in-depth qualitative interviews with individuals or families who have been affected by migration- ideally featuring several generations of the same families. The project would document and present the stories of individuals and families in a way that frames a wider discussion on cultural, familial and individual identity. It would make difficult topics approachable and engaging at a time when they are particularly relevant- the 70th anniversary of partition.

Research partners will be identified to ensure that the project is clearly underpinned by rigorous research and analysis and that it provides clear value for money.

