

Call for Applications

Beniba – BCDSS Joint Research Fellowship

The Beniba Centre for Slavery Studies at the University of Glasgow and the Bonn Centre for Dependency and Slavery Studies (BCDSS) at the University of Bonn are pleased to announce that their **Joint Research Fellowship scheme for 2027/2028** is now open. This scheme seeks to support an early career scholar, scholar-activist or creative professional (up to 10 years after their PhD) to pursue research into topics related to racialization, Black studies, the histories of slavery and abolition, indenture, ‘Liberated Africans’ and/or the afterlife of slavery with a particular emphasis on scholars working on these topics in a Caribbean context. This scholarship is targeted at scholars based in the Caribbean.

As part of this visiting fellowship, the successful applicant will be invited to work in both Glasgow and Bonn for periods of 3 to 6 weeks each between September 2027 and June 2028. The fellowship will provide a lumpsum stipend that will cover accommodation in Glasgow and Bonn, travel from/to the Caribbean and between Glasgow and Bonn, and (living) expenses for the duration of the fellowship.

The [Beniba Centre](#), the first Centre focused on slavery and its afterlife in Scotland, aims to focus attention on slavery and its legacies in Scotland and globally, through academic research, public events, and engagement with ongoing anti-racist activism and reparative justice. Named after Beniba a woman who was held in slavery by Robert Cunningham Graham, former Rector of the University of Glasgow (1785-1787), the Beniba Centre focuses attention on the erased archives and afterlives of slavery transtemporally and transspatially. At Glasgow, the scholar will be given access to the University of Glasgow Library, Archives and Special Collections, and invited to take part in conversations, dialogues, and seminars with faculty, postgraduate researchers, including but not limited to the MSc in Reparatory Justice led in partnership with the University of the West Indies.

The [BCDSS](#) is a Cluster of Excellence funded by the German Excellence Strategy. At the BCDSS we investigate profound social dependencies such as slavery, serfdom, debt bondage, and other forms of persisting dependency across epochs, regions, and cultures. Our overall aim during the BCDSS’ first (2019–2025) and second (2026–2032) funding phases is to overcome the concept of “slavery versus freedom” established as a binary. Instead, we propose the new key concept of “strong asymmetrical dependency” to explore all durable forms of bondage across time and space. At the BCDSS, the Fellow will be given full access to all library facilities at the University of Bonn and is invited to participate in our regular Joseph C. Miller Memorial lectures, research seminars, workshops, conferences and other research activities organized by the BCDSS research community. During their time in Glasgow and Bonn, the Fellow will be asked to deliver a lecture on their research at each institution.

The Fellowship is a competitive peer-assessed award. It is designed to provide financial support towards the costs of travel, accommodation, and expenses to enable researchers to engage with the university community and beyond, focus on a sustained piece of work related to a specific project, and share and discuss their research with audiences in Glasgow and Bonn. The start date of the fellowship is open but will take place over the course of the 2027/2028 academic year.

Application:

To be eligible you must have completed your PhD no more than ten years ago (excluding career breaks). For this round of the Fellowship, priority will be given to scholars residing in the Caribbean.

Please send the below material (**in one pdf!**) to benibacentre@glasgow.ac.uk and application@dependency.uni-bonn with the subject line: "Beniba-BCDSS_[Last name] Fellowship Application." The deadline for applications is **January 10th, 2027** and results will be communicated by the end of February.

Please send

- a (2000 word) personal statement or letter of motivation outlining a description of your project and its possible research outputs
- a concise Curriculum Vitae
- a representative publication and/or writing sample (max 30 pages)
- and the names of two scholars who would act as referees

If you have further questions please contact benibacentre@glasgow.ac.uk and researchandstudy@dependency.uni-bonn.de.