

Researcher-Led Initiative Fund Application Form

Applications are invited from University of Sussex doctoral researchers and early career research staff for funding to support a short-term, well-defined project on one of four themes: equality, diversity and inclusion; mental health and wellbeing; public engagement; or training and development.

The deadline for applications has been extended to **Friday 23 April 2021**.

Please ensure that you have read the [guidance notes in full](#) before completing your application.

About the lead applicant

Name

below. Explain your rationale when prompted.

You are encouraged to use [National Coordinating Centre for Public Engagement resources](#) to help with your application.

Is the purpose of your activity to inform and inspire the public?

No

Is the purpose of your activity to consult and listen to public views?

Yes

Please explain your rationale

The intended public of this initiative is primarily the population of the Susa Valley, who know the complexity of the valley better than any external observer ever could, either because they have lived these transitions first-hand, or because they have indirect experience of these transitions in their families or broader social circles. This, coupled with a very strong environmentalist sensitivity that has developed in recent years among a large part of the local population, means that the often-excessive human impact on the local environment is seen by many as a pressing concern. In this context, a photographic exhibition bringing together different perspectives on the valley could serve as a prompt and a pretext to explore a familiar topic once again, as well as offering a cultural attraction at a time when there is very little on offer in Italy, especially in rural regions. The debate and the exhibition will see a high level of involvement of local partners at every stage.

Is the purpose of your activity to collaborate with the public?

Yes

Please explain your rationale

Proactive engagement and collaboration with the public will take place both in the run-up to the initiative, and in the evaluation that will take place during and after the initiative. Firstly, a large part of the photographic material (especially archival photos) will be crowd-sourced from several members of the public, whose insight will also help to articulate the material in the best possible way. Further, the discussion – which will be the main focus of the initiative – will be an invaluable opportunity to gain direct and dynamic feedback on the implications of the current challenges faced by the Susa Valley. Finally, the initiative itself will also be evaluated in a highly collaborative way: as this initiative is part of a wider ethnographic project, it will build on research partnerships that have already been formed over the course of my fieldwork, and the evaluation will contribute to further collaborative work between myself and a number of key participants.

Why do you want to engage with the public? What do you hope to achieve by engaging?

I want to engage with the public because I

networks

and through a collective reflection on behalf of the project team, either individually or through the format of a recorded group interview. What were participants' sensations in the aftermath of the initiative? Was it a relevant exercise for them? Would they participate again in something similar? For organisers, was this a fruitful way of engaging with a wider and more heterogeneous public?

Budget details

Item details

£

