

**Social Science Research Council
Conflict Prevention and Peace Forum
History in Action Research Assistantship (HARA)**

The Social Science Research Council, a not-for-profit organization devoted to the advancement of social science research and scholarship, has partnered with The History in Action initiative to host a part-time research assistant at the SSRC's Conflict Prevention and Peace Forum program (CPPF). CPPF was established in October 2000 to strengthen the knowledge base and analytical capacity of the United Nations in conflict prevention and management, peacemaking, and peacebuilding. We support UN policymaking and operations by providing UN decision-makers rapid access to leading scholars, experts, and practitioners outside the UN system through informal consultations, off the record briefings, and commissioned research. For more information, please visit our website: <http://www.ssrc.org/programs/cppf/>.

Depending on skillset and interest, the HIA research assistant may be assigned to work on CPPF's policy work for the UN on conflicts/events in North Africa and Sub-Saharan Africa (Sahel, Central Africa/Great Lakes, Horn primarily, but not exclusively); the history of China's (and more broadly Asia's) engagement with Africa; the Justice and Security Research Programme (a research consortium with LSE, Tufts University, and Ghent University), that looks at the history of post-colonial public authority, protest movements and resistance, and access to justice and security in Central Africa (DRC, CAR, South Sudan, Uganda).

This position requires a commitment of approximately 15 hours/week on average. It will start on or around June 1, 2015 and will last until 1 December 2015, with some flexibility during the summer due to slower programmatic work. Applicants who can only begin work during the Fall semester (1 September- 1 December) will also be considered.

RESPONSIBILITIES

The primary responsibilities of the research assistant will be to provide overall support to the Deputy Director (Africa) on the various projects noted above, depending on priorities. Primary responsibilities will include:

- Assisting with the preparation of CPPF expert brainstorming sessions for the UN on North and Sub-Saharan Africa (this could include drafting background notes on the histories of conflicts and issues, compiling media round-ups, identifying experts, assisting with meeting logistics).
- Conducting library, archival and other research support tasks for related projects (papers, books, presentations, blogs, etc.).
- Researching key developments in priority countries and regions.
- Organizing seminars and workshops.
- Maintaining research files and records and drafting website content.
- Attending and taking notes at conferences and policy seminars.
- Other duties and additional responsibilities and projects as directed.

REQUIREMENTS:

- Familiarity with and interest in African history, politics, peace and security issues, with previous work or research experience in the Sahel/Central Africa/Great Lakes region, and/or North Africa
- Excellent research, writing, and editing skills
- Attention to detail and high degree of professionalism
- Team player with demonstrated ability to take initiative, work independently, and respond flexibly to changing demands
- Ability to work remotely but available to come to SSRC periodically as needed
- Strong computer and social networking skills; familiarity with database, web, and blog applications preferred
- Excellent interpersonal and organizational skills

Candidates will be selected with The History in Action initiative, a joint venture between the Department of History at Columbia University and the American Historical Association, funded by the Mellon Foundation.