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The Atlantic Equity Challenge (AEQ), a new research opportunity administered by the Atlantic Fellows for Social and Economic Equity, is inviting expressions of interest (EOI) from research collaboratives working on one of the following questions:

In what ways can economic systems be reorganised if the foundational issue is that every person has caring responsibilities?

What can be done to disrupt the accumulation of wealth through new systems and alternatives that serve the common good?

How can new technologies and platforms be configured to promote fair and dignified work? What changes to our current systems would ensure that technology serves the common good?
The Atlantic Equity Challenge, which will be launched in 2020, offers researchers and practitioners an opportunity to undertake innovative, solutions-oriented research and thinking directed at fundamental questions underpinning global inequalities.

Successful applicants will receive funding for 1- to 2-year projects which will be embedded within the research ecosystem of LSE’s International Inequalities Institute (III), where the Atlantic Fellows for Social and Economic Equity (AFSEE) programme is based. AEQ-funded research collaboratives will produce research that informs and enriches the Institute’s three core research themes, and build substantive relationships with the global community of Atlantic Fellows.

The Atlantic Equity Challenge aims to support projects at the intersection of research and practice that offer paradigm-shifting insights into alternatives and solutions that reduce inequality – rather than focusing solely on the causes and consequences of inequality. These collaborations will draw on multiple forms of knowledge and experience, from across disciplines and sectors. They will incubate new models, policies and approaches that have the potential to disrupt the systems and structures driving inequality.

This fund is a unique opportunity for research collaboratives of two to four people, comprised of both researchers and practitioners. They will carry out the majority of their work from their respective locations, but will also undertake short-term residencies at LSE to allow time and space for collaborative work within their team and with III and AFSEE colleagues. Projects will be supported to take place over a 12 to 24-month horizon and teams will work in close partnership with members of the III themes.

The deadline for submission of Expressions of Interest for the Atlantic Equity Challenge is 14 February 2020. All submissions must be made through the online form on AFSEE’s website.
The London School of Economics and Political Science is a leading research and teaching university focused on the social sciences and based in London in the United Kingdom. The Atlantic Equity Challenge is directly aligned to LSE’s 2030 Strategy of “curating cross-cutting research themes to join up international expertise and interests to shape evidence-based interventions around key social and economic issues”.

The International Inequalities Institute brings together experts from many LSE departments and centres to lead research that seeks to understand why inequalities are escalating in numerous arenas across the world, and to develop critical tools to address these challenges.

Based at the International Inequalities Institute since its inception in 2017, the Atlantic Fellows for Social and Economic Equity (AFSEE) programme is building a catalytic, values-led global community of people who are committed to using collective leadership to work towards social and economic justice for all. Drawing on the insights of academic research, innovative social change strategies and Fellows’ own expertise, the Atlantic Fellows for Social and Economic Equity programme is empowering a new generation of change-makers, including practitioners, activists, researchers, policymakers and campaigners, to work together across disciplines, backgrounds and borders. It aims to deepen the knowledge and practical skills that Fellows need to envision and explore alternatives to the world’s deeply unequal economic, political, legal and social structures.

**WHAT THE ATLANTIC EQUITY CHALLENGE OFFERS**

**Funding:** successful AEQ projects will be supported over a 1- to 2-year period, to a maximum of £100,000 in total per project. Budgets may include personnel expenses (for the core team and for research assistance) as well as non-personnel expenses such as travel costs, consumables, acquisition of data, and equipment.

**Family care support:** Limited additional funds are available to support AEQ project team members who have family care responsibilities. These funds are given in addition to the project funding.

**Connection:** AEQ project teams will have the opportunity to build connections with International Inequalities Institute researchers and the Institute’s wider networks (particularly the members of the Institute’s three research themes), as well as to the AFSEE programme and its Fellows. This connection is intended to facilitate collaboration and peer insight.

**Residency at the III:** To enable collaborative work as a team and with III and AFSEE, AEQ projects will have the opportunity to undertake periods of residency at the International Inequalities Institute. Teams are expected to spend a substantive amount of time in London over the course of their projects. Time should be spent in ways that best fits each team and its research, but a minimum of 2 visits to the UK, with each visit a minimum of 2 working weeks, is expected. Longer time periods may also be considered.

**Knowledge exchange and impact:** AEQ project teams will be supported not only during their research but also in the conceptualisation of knowledge exchange and impact (through activities such as public events, workshops and conferences, and blogs and other public-facing written materials). Where possible, teams are expected to identify additional sources of funding (or co-funding) for such activities.
REQUIRED PROJECT OUTPUTS

- All project teams are expected to produce working papers (which will be published as part of the III Working Paper series), in a language and style that is widely accessible.
- Published outputs resulting from AEQ funding must be made available via open access.
- Project teams are encouraged to generate multimedia outputs.
- Project teams are welcome to produce materials for the AFSEE curriculum.

EXPECTATIONS AND REPORTING

AEQ is envisioned as more than a funding opportunity: it is the beginning of a long-term partnership between the team and AFSEE and the III. We are looking to support teams of researchers and practitioners who are open to embedding their projects within the III and to building substantive relationships with AFSEE Fellows and their learning experience.

To further this partnership, AEQ project team leaders will be expected to participate in check-in calls every two months with point persons from the III and AFSEE teams. Additionally, teams will be required to submit narrative reports every six months, and to provide yearly budget reports. Teams will also be required to acknowledge the AEQ support that they receive in promotional, publicity and informational materials related to supported activities, and in attributable publications.

APPLICATION PROCESS AND TIMELINE FOR 2020

- **14 FEB**: Expression of Interest deadline
- **14 FEB - 31 MARCH**: Review and Shortlisting
- **1 APRIL - 1 MAY**: Proposal Development
- **1 JUNE - 1 JULY**: Final Project Proposal
- **18 - 22 MAY**: Interviews
- **31 JULY**: Award Notification
- **FROM 1 SEPTEMBER**: Project Commencement
EOIs and ensuing project proposals are expected to show how the proposed research project will address one of the three core questions at the heart of the International Inequalities Institute research themes (as detailed in the first paragraph of this document) and how it will align with the following priorities:

- **Global South orientation**: Each team will be asked to specify how their work will include a global South perspective. Ideally, teams will include at least one individual who is based in the global South.

- **Practitioner focus**: Projects will engage with practitioners such as campaigners, policy-makers, activists, journalists, artists and creators. Ideally these will be people operating at the frontlines of inequality, and who are actively advancing work on the ground to produce tangible outcomes on impacted communities. Practitioner engagement can take multiple forms: the aims and intended outcomes of projects integrate the concerns and priorities of practitioners; the knowledge produced by the research and its associated outputs are designed to be used by practitioners; and/or projects will harness the knowledge and insights of practitioners.

- **Research approach**: Projects will be well aligned with an III research theme and will actively tackle a significant question or questions related to this theme. Projects will demonstrate academic rigour, especially around research approach and methods. Successful applicants will be required to comply with the LSE’s Research Ethics Policy. Submitting a copy of the ethical approval to the III is required prior to the disbursement of any funds. Information on the LSE’s Research Ethics Policy is available online.

- **Impact**: Projects are concerned with systemic change, such as shifting narratives, contributing to policy, or expanding participation in decision-making.

- **Engagement**: Successful applicants will identify target audiences/constituents they wish to influence and articulate why those groups are in a position to influence change, with a clear idea and plan for engaging such groups in the research and dissemination process. Project proposals should include plans to build and sustain engagement with the III and the AFSEE programme.

- **Commitment to collaboration and new ways of working**: Team members should be able to demonstrate prior experience and/or a strong commitment to working in a collaborative context that builds synergies across research and practice and across diverse perspectives. Teams are creative and dynamic in their thinking and approach.

- **Reflective practice**: Successful project proposals will demonstrate a commitment to a way of working that authentically engages with questions of inequality within research practice. Projects teams will acknowledge the full, human impact of inequalities, emphasising the lived experience with inequality as fundamental to how inequalities are understood and challenged.

**EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST (EOI)**

The EOI should be a maximum of four pages, and should be submitted through the online link, available on the AFSEE website. It must be accompanied by up-to-date abbreviated CVs (of a maximum three pages) for all team members. EOIs must be submitted in English.

The EOI should be treated as a short-form project proposal that outlines the team’s initial ideas and approach to the Atlantic Equity Challenge. EOIs will be based on the selection criteria above, successful applicants will be invited to develop a full project proposal. This stage is likely to involve more advanced discussions with III theme convenors and the AFSEE Team to further refine and fine-tune the focus of the proposal.
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What type of projects will be considered for AEQ funding?

We welcome project proposals from across a range of disciplines, including: the sciences, the creative arts, the humanities, and the social sciences. You can find more information on project specifics in the eligibility and selection criteria listed above.

Do you accept proposals from individuals?

No. The Atlantic Equity Challenge is intended to bring together small teams of two to four researchers and practitioners. We do not accept expressions of interest from individuals.

Do I need to have previously worked with the Atlantic Fellows for Social and Economic Equity or the International Inequalities Institute at LSE in order to apply?

No. We welcome applications from those with no prior connection to AFSEE or the III. If you’d like to learn more about our fellowship, please visit our website at https://afsee.atlanticfellows.org

Are Senior Atlantic Fellows eligible to apply?

Yes, Senior Atlantic Fellows from all seven Atlantic Fellowships are welcome to apply. Senior Fellows who would like to learn more are welcome to email Katie Boulton k.boulton@lse.ac.uk

Are there examples of previously funded AEQ projects?

The Atlantic Equity Challenge is launching in 2020, and we are welcoming expressions of interest for the first time. However, you can find more information on other projects we have previously supported on our website at https://afsee.atlanticfellows.org/projects-and-partnerships

Can I receive comments on my draft EOI before submission?

Unfortunately, due to the high volume of applications we expect to receive, we are not able to read or provide feedback on draft EOIs.

May I speak with an III theme lead to discuss my project and its development?

You are encouraged to contact one of the three theme leads to discuss potential proposals if you wish, although this is not essential for the Expression of Interest stage.

Wealth, Elites and Tax Justice
Professor Mike Savage, Director: International Inequalities Institute, Martin White Professor of Sociology: Department of Sociology m.a.savage@lse.ac.uk

Cities, Jobs and the Knowledge Economy
Professor David Soskice, Research Director: International Inequalities Institute, School Professor of Political Science and Economics: Department of Government. d.w.soskice@lse.ac.uk

Global Economies of Care
Professor Bev Skeggs, International Inequalities Institute Research Theme Convenor, AFSEE Academic Advisor b.skeggs@lse.ac.uk

Do you provide feedback on every EOI you receive?

If requested and depending on capacity, we will endeavour to provide limited feedback on EOIs.

We are applying for other sources of funding, or have already received other funds. Is it still possible to apply for AEQ funding?

Unfortunately not, as we are looking to support new projects and ideas. We will not be able to consider teams who are looking to continue a project already underway.

How much funding is awarded per research team? What does this funding cover?

Funding of up to £100,000 is available per research team. This funding is intended to cover project costs, research costs, and the residency periods at the III. You are expected to submit a basic budget with your EOI, and a more comprehensive and detailed budget will be required if your team is invited to submit a full project proposal.

How many projects will be supported in this round of applications?

We expect to support three projects in this first round. There will be further opportunities in future years.
When is funding made available to successful applications?
Funds will be available from September 2020. Due to LSE processes, certain mechanisms such as academic buyouts may take several months to organise and pay.

Can funding be used for indirect costs?
Yes. We understand that processing payments to organisations and institutions can incur indirect costs. We are willing to support these costs up to a maximum of 15%.

Do you pay per diems?
No, we do not provide per diems for team members. We support team members through larger payments such as buyouts. Any individual and ongoing costs should be included in your budget calculations and planned for via larger payments.

Does the funding cover research assistants?
Yes, you are welcome to include a budget line to cover the costs of one or more research assistants (RAs). Please note that these RAs should be contracted by your home institution/organisation. In certain exceptional situations, they may be formally employed by LSE, although this will usually depend on meeting HR, visa and other requirements. Additionally, we cannot guarantee to provide the use of office space, or facilities, by any RAs. This should be provided by your home institution/organisation.

Does the funding cover administrative costs?
A modest portion of the project may be allocated to administrative costs, although there should be a strong justification as to why this is essential to the success of the project.

Does the funding cover family care costs?
Your initial proposed budget does not need to include family care costs, as the programme has separate limited financial support available to support those with family care responsibilities. If you require family care support, this should be detailed in your full project proposal, and not at the Expression of Interest stage, as this factor will not be taken into consideration when shortlisting.

Are there set dates for the residency periods?
No. We work with teams on their project timelines to find the most suitable residency dates over the course of the project. We do expect teams to be in residence for a minimum of two weeks during the 2020-21 year, and two weeks during the 2021-22 year.

What will AEQ project teams be provided with during residency periods?
Your team will be provided with shared office space, access to computers, and to certain LSE resources (the Library and Archives). Any other costs – for example for travel to and from London, equipment/software, accommodation, etc. – should be included in your initial budget.

Will I be supported with visa costs for the residency period?
Estimated visa costs should be included in your initial budget submitted with the EOI. AEQ project teams are expected to self-organise arranging and applying for their visas. Limited administrative support from the AFSEE team may be available.

Can we carry out visits to institutions where our team members are based?
Yes. AEQ funds can be used to facilitate visits to partner institutions, if this is considered essential to enabling research collaboration.

When will you hold another call for Expressions of Interest?
We anticipate holding another call for expressions of interest in 2021. Please subscribe to the International Inequalities Institute’s newsletter to be kept up to date with announcements from AFSEE.

I have further questions. Who can I ask?
Contact AFSEE Programme Manager Katie Boulton at k.boulton@lse.ac.uk, and she will be happy to speak with your further.