Doctoral and Post-Doctoral Study with the South African Research Chair in Poverty, Land and Agrarian Studies

Professor Ben Cousins holds a South African Research Chair in Poverty, Land and Agrarian Studies (funded by the National Research Foundation), at the Institute for Poverty, Land and Agrarian Studies (PLAAS), University of the Western Cape. This allows him to support and supervise Post-Doctoral fellows and Doctoral students. Applications are invited for these positions.

Professor Cousins is initiating a new five-year research programme on the underlying dynamics of change and growth within commercial agriculture and agribusiness in South Africa, including geographic expansion in Africa. Another focus is emerging elite investments in communal areas, in agricultural projects, mining, tourism and property development.

A key criterion for selection of students will be the fit between their interests and abilities and the requirements of the programme. They will be encouraged to contribute to the details of research project design, including the framing of research questions and objectives, choice of research methods, and selection of particular research sites. Generous stipends are available for successful applicants, who will receive intensive training in social theory and research methods.

A Post-Doctoral fellowship is targeted at a researcher who has recently completed a PhD in the broad field of agrarian change, land reform, poverty reduction and food systems in South Africa. The successful applicant will be required to contribute to the overall research programme, in addition to publishing materials from their PhD thesis.

To apply, send your CV, the names of three academic referees, academic transcripts, a brief concept note and a letter of motivation to Carla Henry at chenry@uwc.ac.za and Professor Ben Cousins at bcousins@uwc.ac.za In addition, please send a sample of your academic writing (e.g. a chapter from a Master’s thesis).

The closing date is 23 January 2015. For more information, contact Professor Ben Cousins at bcousins@uwc.ac.za or on 021 959 3733.