



THE OXFORD RESEARCH CENTRE IN THE HUMANITIES

Pitching Competition 2021

In collaboration with Juniper, an independent television and radio production company, TORCH is inviting humanities researchers to propose ideas for research-based radio and TV programmes.

Juniper specialises in current affairs, history, science, religion, arts and popular culture. Radio programmes currently in production include 'Feedback' (Radio 4) and Nick Robinson discussing Britain's place in the world (Radio 4). Current television productions include ongoing series *Sunday Politics* (London) and *Sunday Politics* (South East) for the BBC, and 'The Political Slot' for Channel 4. Past TV productions range from dramatised histories to authored documentaries. A full archive can be found at www.junipertv.co.uk.

Successful applicants will have a chance to discuss and develop their programme-making ideas with Dr Samir Shah, CEO and Creative Director of Juniper. Samir has served as Deputy Chair of the V&A, a Non-Executive Director on the BBC Board and is currently Chair of the Museum of the Home and Chair of One World Media. He was elected a Fellow of the Royal Television Society in 2002 and, in 2019, was the Visiting Professor of Creative Media at Oxford University (Faculty of English). In 2019 he was awarded a CBE for services to Television and Heritage.

Competition Details

We welcome applications from researchers working in all areas of the arts and humanities. Researchers interested in this competition should first register for the training session taking place on 10 June 2021. The deadline for proposals is 1 July 2021 - please email your proposals to tasha.patel@humanities.ox.ac.uk.

Successful applicants will be contacted by 9 July 2021 and invited to a development meeting with Samir Shah.

For any queries about the competition, please contact tasha.patel@humanities.ox.ac.uk.

Application Process

To apply for this competition, you need to write a 200-word proposal describing how your research could provide original material for a television or radio programme, and how it might attract the ordinary listener or viewer. They need to resonate with a wide audience and encompass broad themes.

We are coming out of a pandemic that has delivered a seismic shock to all of us. And we are living in a world of noisy contestation. Your ideas do not have to speak directly – *at all* – to this context: escapism can be just as appealing as saliency. But it is into this environment that we will be taking your ideas to broadcasters.



THE OXFORD RESEARCH CENTRE IN THE HUMANITIES

At this stage, do not worry about the length of the episodes or how many there should be. Broadcasters are aware that increasingly viewing and listening takes place in the limitless digital space.

Through this competition, researchers will have the opportunity to learn how to develop a pitch, understand what works and doesn't work for audiences in the radio/TV space, and get a snapshot into the overall process of turning a research-based idea into a radio or TV programme.

It is important for successful applicants to remain open to input and feedback from Juniper TV and to be flexible with their ideas to ensure research ideas translate well for radio and TV.

Proposed Timeline

- **Register for training:** 3 June 2021
- **Training Session:** 10 June 2021
 - *During this training session, participants will learn what a proposal needs to look like, develop a pitch with a group, pitch the idea, and get feedback. After this, participants will have 3 weeks to write and submit their own proposal.*
- **Proposals due:** 1 July 2021
- **Successful applicants contacted by:** 9 July 2021
- **Feedback and development meetings with Juniper to discuss selected proposals:** 16 & 19 July 2021