The Social Science Research Council (SSRC) announces support to convene researchers from any field whose work engages climate change in the Indian Ocean, a region extending from Durban and Mombasa to Karachi and Surabaya. The SSRC will offer funding to convene up to 12 scholars and practitioners to chart existing research on climate change adaptation and mitigation, to identify gaps in research agendas across the Indian Ocean region, and to propose activities that can build research communities and strengthen research capabilities in the region.

The SSRC looks to build on this convening in order to incubate new programming in support of regional capacity development on a topic that has enormous regional and global importance. While researchers have used the site of the Indian Ocean to expose key forgotten connections in order to recast our assessment of global history, the issue of climate change has received comparatively little attention in social science research addressing the region. This is especially concerning as temperatures in the Indian Ocean are rising at faster rates than in other oceans, and the effects of climate change are felt across the region more immediately than in many other littoral regions.

To apply, please send the following as a single Word document or PDF to scholarlyborderlands@ssrc.org:

1. A two-page statement of commitment to this process, which includes a succinct description of your research on this topic, the networks that you currently engage, and your vision for building local research capacity in the Indian Ocean region.
2. A current CV.

We particularly encourage applications from early career scholars and those who would otherwise have barriers to participation, including location (e.g., small island nation-states), lack of funding resources, and membership in groups typically underrepresented in scholarly research institutions.


Approximate notification date: the week of July 2, 2018

The meeting will take place on September 20–21, 2018 in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, as part of a broader Indian Ocean Initiative launched by the International Institute for Asian Studies, Leiden, and as part of an international conference titled “Africa-Asia, a New Axis of Knowledge.”