

**ANNOUNCING PH.D SCHOLARSHIPS - SOME WITH 31 JULY 2020 APPLICATION DEADLINE**

The Africa Centre for Dispute Settlement (ACDS) at the University of Stellenbosch Business School (USB) is excited to announce a variety of PhD scholarships for work as part of an engaged, international team committed to the parties we work with, the topics we research, and our colleagues’ success.

ACDS is a centre for research and reflection at the nexus of the private sector, conflict, and development. We work through engaged research with communities, governments, advocates, and companies to understand and transform drivers of destructive conflict. We are at the beginning of a long-term project to explore SMEs in the context of urban violence in Cape Town, just one part of our broader work to explore the political economy of conflict in contexts of fragility.

We also work at the intersection of conflict analysis and data sciences. Our Business & Conflict Barometer is an ongoing project as part of an international consortium to “listen in” on conflict pressures and dynamics in a particular location through textual data analysis and its correlation with other geo-spatial and event data. The goal is to facilitate research and generate insight for both knowledge generation and advocacy.

**For South African and international candidates**

PhD students who desire to work with ACDS may apply for a [GEM scholarship through the Faculty of Economic and Management Sciences](http://www.sun.ac.za/english/faculty/economy/gem/gem-scholars/prospective) to commence doctoral work in January, 2021. The application deadline is **31 July 2020**. Eligible thematic areas include the following:

***The political economy of conflict: macro level perspectives***. Working within a systems framework at the national or sub-national level to develop new understandings of the inter-relationships among the private sector, conflict, and development in the African context.

***The political economy of conflict: micro level perspectives***. Working within a systems framework at the neighbourhood or municipal level to develop new understandings of the inter-relationships among the private sector, conflict, and development in the African context. Research in this area may integrate with the ACDS's ongoing research initiative on SMEs in the context of urban violence.

***“Listening in" on conflict***. PhD opportunities to work with the ACDS Conflict Barometer initiative, a sophisticated analytic tool that relies on complex querying of relational databases, including automated textual analyses, to provide better understanding and prediction of conflict dynamics. Candidates from a variety of backgrounds may propose work at the intersection of conflict, data science, and textual analysis.

**For South African candidates**

In addition to the opportunities listed above, a scholarship jointly funded by ACDS and the School of Data Sciences is available. This scholarship may be applied to PhD work within any University of Stellenbosch faculty: Information Sciences, Electrical Engineering, Economics and Management Sciences, Arts and Social Sciences, or another. We are particularly interested in candidates who will ***work at the intersection of our Conflict Barometer and our project on SMEs in Contexts of Urban Violence***. The PhD work should improve the collection, aggregation, analysis, and reporting of textual and non-textual data sources to help researchers and parties in conflict assess conflict pressures and dynamics at the local level.

Please contact [Professor Brian Ganson](mailto:brian.ganson@usb.ac.za) for more information about this opportunity.