



## Call for Applications

### Post-Doctoral Fellow in Data Management, Migration, & Spatial Analysis

**2-Year Fixed Term with the possibility of extension dependent on funding**

**University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg**

**Start date 1 September (negotiable)**

Are you passionate about the intersection of human mobility and the rapid evolution of African cities and societies? The Mobility Governance Lab – a joint initiative of Wits and Oxford Universities – seeks a data-driven scholar to join our multidisciplinary team for a two-year appointment focused on mapping and modelling the socio-political and economic dynamics of migration and urbanization across the African continent.

This position offers a unique opportunity to leverage cutting-edge spatial analytics to address some of the most pressing developmental and political questions of our time. You will work with bespoke and large-scale datasets to uncover patterns in how people move, interact, and build futures within and beyond Africa. The position will be central in developing a data observatory producing African centred, empirically based narratives to produce novel accounts of the continent's changing human landscape.

#### Key Responsibilities:

- **Advanced Spatial Modelling:** Develop and implement GIS-based models to track internal and cross-border migration flows
- **Data Integration:** Harmonize diverse data sources to analyse migration, demographic shifts, institutional engagements, and material realities
- **Scholarly Output:** Work alone and in teams to author high-impact papers and present findings across multiple forums
- **Policy Engagement:** Translate complex data into insights for planners, policymakers, and activists working to promote reasoned and humane responses to human mobility
- **Post-Graduate Mentoring:** working with Masters and Doctoral students to develop their skills and confidence to engage in quantitative research

#### Candidate Profile

We are looking for a candidate who bridges the gap between technical expertise and social science inquiry.

## Essential Qualifications:

- A completed doctoral degree in **Geography, Urban Planning, Data Science, Economics**, or a related quantitative field with an interdisciplinary orientation. Applicants with PhD theses currently under examination will be considered but degree must be completed before taking up the position
- Expertise in spatial analysis software (e.g., ArcGIS, QGIS) and programming languages (Python or R)
- Demonstrated experience handling large, 'messy' datasets within the African context
- A strong publication record (relative to career stage)

## Desirable Skills:

- Experience with Remote Sensing (Earth Observation) data
- Knowledge of French, Portuguese, or major African languages
- Interdisciplinary engagement and collaboration with non-quantitative researchers

## How to Apply

Submit the following documents to [loren.landau@wits.ac.za](mailto:loren.landau@wits.ac.za):

1. **Cover Letter** outlining your research fit and experience with spatial data;
2. **Curriculum Vitae (CV)** including a full list of publications;
3. **Research Statement** (max 2 pages) describing your approach to studying African urbanization;
4. **Contact information** for three academic references;
5. **Applications deadline is 18 May**. Late applications will not be considered.

Only candidates being invited for interviews will be contacted.