Coordinator Multi-site Research Project: One-year contract position; May 2005 – May 2006

Gender Research in Africa on Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) for Empowerment (GRACE)

The GRACE project is a partnership between International Development Research Centre (IDRC) Canada and The Association for Progressive Communications (APC). This innovative research aims to explore the ways in which women in Africa use ICTs to empower themselves, the external, structural barriers as well as the internal factors which prevent them from using ICTs to their advantage, and the strategies they employ to overcome these impediments. The project comprises 15 sub-projects, reflecting 14 research sites in 12 countries and one meta-research sub project. Research sites include, Cameroon, Egypt, Kenya, Mozambique, Morocco, Nigeria, Senegal, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe. The research designs, while all grounded in qualitative research methodology vary greatly in scope, focus and approach.

Time frame of the Research Project is 2 years.

The project aims to contribute to the debates focusing on women empowerment and ICTs through finding its own understandings of what "empowerment" and "gender" may mean in the African ICT context. The lessons learnt will be shared with policy makers and educators in the form of contextualized and local-specific recommendations.

A major focus of the overall project is capacity building. Researchers will be given the opportunities to develop research capacity as well as capacity to use ICTs effectively. The project has made provision for intensive training and ongoing mentoring and support.

Working closely with the Research Director the Research Coordinator will be responsible for coordination of the research processes and assist the Director in developing research capacity in the Grace researchers. Research coordination and research capacity building will happen mainly through on-line environments.

This position requires:
- An experienced qualitative researcher with extensive and varied field-work experience
- A practiced qualitative research educator with experience in tutoring and supervision
- Academic qualification of minimally an MA degree
- Understanding of feminist perspectives on research especially with regard to Africa
- Willingness and capacity to immerse herself/himself in ICT and gender issues
- Ability to work in an online environment or alternatively willing to acquire that capacity
- Ability to coordinate and mentor researchers from diverse cultural and geographic contexts
- Able to work as part of a team
- Creative and energetic
- A willingness to accept a one-year contract
- Has her/his own Personal Computer or laptop for the work required

In case of equality in terms of relevant experience and qualification, preference will be given to African women applicants.

Only short-listed persons will be contacted.

As the project has a virtual Project Management team with members based in different cities in South Africa and globally, the successful applicant can be based anywhere but must be able to work in a virtual environment

The annual remuneration package depends on qualifications and experience but will not exceed R 264,000. The package is inclusive of all benefits with the successful applicant being responsible for paying her/his own taxes.

For more information on IDRC go to www.idrc.ca
For more information on APC go to www.apc.org

Please send letters of application, an up-to-date CV and the details of 2 contactable referees to: Ineke Buskens email researchforthefuture@telkomsa.net and Jennifer Radloff email jenny@apcwomen.org

Closing date for application is 1 May 2005
Commencement of position is not later than 15 May 2005