Established in 1991, the James Robinson Johnston Chair in Black Canadian Studies is a significant senior academic post in Canada, based at Dalhousie University. Present Chair, Dr. Afua Cooper has made significant contributions as the James Robinson Johnston Chair and recently received the Dr. Burnley Allan ‘Rocky’ Jones award from the Nova Scotia Human Rights Commission. The award recognizes her work on cultural diversity and inclusion as a community leader, advocate, academic and author. Dr. Cooper has held the Chair since May 2011 and her term ends in 2017. The Chair has also been held by Esmerelda Thornhill (1996-2002) and David Divine (2004-2010).

I am announcing the process to recruit a new James Robinson Johnston Chair and inviting the Deans to submit a letter of interest to host the next Chair (2017-2023).

About the Chair

The James Robinson Johnston Chair in Black Canadian Studies is a national senior academic post covering all of Canada, based at Dalhousie University in recognition of the unique historical presence of Black people in the area. The aim of the Chair is to act as a catalyst for the creation of a Centre of Excellence in Black Canadian research, a clearing house for material relating to Black Canadian scholarship, and a Centre for coordinating major local, national and international conferences on Black Canadian research. It is developing as an important Centre for Black community development, and as a crucible for the development of aspirant scholars in Black Canadian studies. The Chair has a local, national and international perspective based on the belief of a connection between Black people and that their patterns of potential shared experience merit exploration.

The JRJ Chair is a tenured, senior academic position. After the conclusion of the term as Chair (ranging from three to six years), funding from the endowment is transferred to cover the salary of the next Johnston Chair holder. The ex-Chair will assume tenured faculty status in his or her department and the Faculty will fund his/her salary.

Hosting the Chair

The Deans are invited to submit a letter of interest in hosting the Chair to kim.thomson@dal.ca by June 24, 2016. LOI's should describe how the proposed intellectual area and home department/school will address the aims of the Chair. The proposal should also demonstrate that the Faculty meets the following criteria:
1. Supports (physical space, administrative support, potential slot that the successful candidate would replace at the end of their term as JRJ Chair)
2. Rationale/fit with the academic plans of the Faculty
3. Established connections and/or strategy for developing connections with the African communities

A Search Advisory Committee has been established to review the LOIs and recommendation from that Committee will be submitted to the Provost’s Office following which a search committee will be established. A copy of the Recruitment Procedures is attached.

The Chair holders have all been external hires and it is anticipated that this will continue. The Chair will be recruited via the usual process for academic recruitment.

More about the James Robinson Johnston Chair can be found here:

http://www.dal.ca/faculty/arts/jrj-chair.html

More about Dr. Cooper can be found here:

http://www.dal.ca/faculty/arts/jrj-chair/about/CurrentChai.html