

*Atlantic Fellows*

FOR SOCIAL AND  
ECONOMIC EQUITY

# **The Atlantic Equity Challenge (AEQ)**





## **Introduction**

Established in 2017, the **Atlantic Fellows for Social and Economic Equity (AFSEE)** programme is based at the International Inequalities Institute (III) at the London School of Economics and Political Science.

The AFSEE programme is building a catalytic values-led global community of Fellows who are committed to working towards social and economic justice for all. By drawing on the insights of academic research, innovative social change strategies, and the Fellows' own experience and expertise, the AFSEE programme is empowering a new generation of change-makers, including policymakers, activists, researchers, practitioners, and campaigners to work together across disciplines, backgrounds, and borders. It aims to deepen the knowledge and practical skills that Fellows need to envision and explore alternatives to the world's deeply unequal economic, political, legal, and social structures. Thus far, there are 100 AFSEE Senior Fellows, drawn from over 40 countries, who have successfully completed the active fellowship year. You can find out more about AFSEE Senior Fellows, including their nationality and area of work on [this webpage](#).



## **The Atlantic Equity Challenge (AEQ)**



The **Atlantic Equity Challenge (AEQ)** is a research grant developed and funded by the AFSEE programme. It is directly aligned to [LSE's 2030 Strategy Priority 2: Research for the World](#). The first round of the AEQ, launched in 2021, funded four projects of up to £100,000 each. Focused on locations in Bangladesh, Colombia, India, Lebanon, Nepal, Sri Lanka, and Uganda, these projects all successfully met the AEQ's criteria by bringing researchers and practitioners together to conduct innovative, solutions-oriented, collaborative research on different aspects of inequalities. They addressed fundamental questions related to global inequalities, exploring topics such as:

- **The role of grassroots accountability activism to safeguard labour migrants' rights in the pandemic era** (Dr. Flora Cornish [LSE]; Dr. Nimesh Dhungana [University of Manchester]; Kripa Basnyat [AFSEE Senior Fellow, Cohort 2], Narayan Adhikari [practitioner, Action Aid])
- **Social media and the crisis of urban inequality** (Dr. Romola Sanyal [LSE]; Synne Bergby, Ida Lien, Anders Ese [practitioners, Urban A]; and others)
- **Ethnographic solutions to inequalities in Southern Asian advicescapes** (Professor David Lewis [LSE]; Anjali Sarker [AFSEE Senior Fellow, Cohort 2]; Dr. Rebecca Bowers [LSE]; Dr. Luke Heslop [University of Brunel]; Dr. Sohini Kar [LSE])
- **Lessons from the Colombian peace agreement of 2016** (Dr. George Kunnath [LSE]; Hobeth Martinez Carrillo [AFSEE Senior Fellow, Cohort 3]; Dr. Erika Marquez Montaña [practitioner/independent researcher]; Dr. Dilia Consuelo Fuertes [practitioner, Agency for Reincorporation and Normalisation, Colombia]; Alejandra Erazo Gomez [practitioner, Truth Commission, Colombia])

More information about these research projects can be found [on the AFSEE website](#).



## **Call for Proposals - 2024**

The AEQ research grant offers researchers and practitioners an opportunity to undertake innovative, solutions-oriented, collaborative research and thinking directed at tackling social and economic inequalities. In this second round of the AEQ research grant, the AFSEE programme again seeks to promote research collaborations between LSE academics and AFSEE Senior Fellows, as well as other partners where relevant, for projects addressing fundamental questions related to socio-economic inequalities.

In the second round of the AEQ, to be awarded in 2024, the AFSEE programme can support up to six collaborative projects lasting up to 24 months with up to £100,000 funding per project. The projects funded under the AEQ will need to:

- offer paradigm-shifting insights into alternatives and solutions to inequality,
- draw on multiple forms of knowledge and experience from across disciplines and sectors,
- incubate new models, policies, and approaches that have the potential to disrupt the systems and structures driving inequality.

It is expected that AEQ projects will commence in October 2024 and no later than 1 December 2024. All projects should conclude in October 2026 and no later than 1 December 2026. A one-time no-cost project extension of up to 3 months may be considered on a case-by-case basis if required due to extenuating circumstances.

## **Eligibility & Selection**

AEQ is envisioned as more than a funding opportunity: it is the beginning of a long-term partnership between the project teams, the AFSEE programme, and the International Inequalities Institute (III). The AFSEE programme is looking to support teams of researchers and practitioners who will embed their projects within the III/AFSEE and build substantive relationships with AFSEE Senior Fellows and their change-making work.

Dr George Kunnath, AFSEE Lifelong Engagement Lead and Associate Professor (Education), will work with LSE researchers and AFSEE Senior Fellows to provide introductions and foster potential collaborations. The AFSEE programme will also organise drop-in sessions for interested LSE researchers to provide them with the opportunity to explore the possibilities of developing a collaborative research proposal. Please note that:

- Applications will only be accepted from research teams. Individual submissions will not be considered.
- Each team must include at least one LSE academic or research staff and one AFSEE Senior Fellow both serving as Co-Principal Investigators (Co-PIs).
- LSE academic or research staff eligible to apply include faculty members, LSE Fellows, Teaching Fellows, Policy Fellows, Research Fellows, Research Officers, or Assistant/Associate/Professorial Research Fellows. PhD students are not eligible to apply as Co-PIs. The LSE Co-PI's employment contract with LSE must last longer than the proposed length of the AEQ project as the research grant will be allocated/disbursed to the LSE Co-PI's academic department/institute (at LSE).
- Visiting Fellows at the International Inequalities Institute are also welcome to apply.
- In addition to the LSE researcher and the AFSEE Senior Fellow serving as the Co-PIs, the research teams can also include other researchers, other AFSEE Senior Fellows, and practitioners.

## **Selection Criteria**

Applications should explicitly outline how the proposed research project aims to confront the issue of social and economic inequalities, demonstrating a clear alignment with the following priorities:

### **1. Research approach:**

Projects will address a significant question or questions related to socio-economic inequalities. They are expected to demonstrate academic rigour, particularly in the areas of research approach and methods. Successful applicants will be required to comply with the LSE's Research Ethics Policy. Submitting a copy of the self-certification or ethical approval to the III is required prior to the disbursement of any funds. Information on [LSE's Research Ethics Policy](#) is available online.

### **2. Impact:**

Projects should demonstrate how the research will achieve impact such as shifting narratives, informing or contributing to policy shaping, or expanding participation in decision-making.

### **3. Engagement:**

Successful applicants will identify target audiences/constituents, with a clear idea and plan for engaging such groups in the research and dissemination process. Project proposals should include plans to build and sustain engagement with the AFSEE programme.

### **4. Commitment to collaboration and equitable ways of working:**

Team members should be able to demonstrate prior experience and/or a strong commitment to working in a collaborative context that builds synergies across research and practice and across diverse perspectives. Teams are encouraged to be creative and dynamic in their thinking and approach.

#### 5. Reflexivity:

Successful project proposals will demonstrate a commitment to a way of working that authentically engages with questions of inequality within research practice. Project teams will acknowledge the full, human impact of inequalities, emphasising the lived experience with inequality as fundamental to how inequalities are understood and challenged.

#### 6. Location:

A research project can focus on a single country or involve cross-national or comparative approaches.

#### 7. Value for money:

Successful project proposals should demonstrate cost-effectiveness, efficient resource utilisation, and clear alignment between the budget allocation and the anticipated project outcomes.

## **Further Information**

### **Funding:**

- Successful proposals will be supported by the AEQ research grant for a period of up to 24 months, with funding of up to £100,000 per project.
- Eligible costs include personnel expenses (for the core team, research assistance, and project management) and non-personnel expenses such as travel costs, consumables, acquisition of data, impact and knowledge exchange, and publications. The LSE Co-PI salary costs cannot be funded by the grant. Research assistance or project management based overseas should be costed at local rates.
- Where the project involves external partners, collaboration agreements need to be set up and approved by the LSE Legal Team to ensure compliance with the LSE policies.

### **Family Care Support:**

- Limited funds are available to support project team members who have (family) caring responsibilities. These funds are given in addition to the project funding, please include this within projected costings at the point of application.

### **Required Project Outputs:**

- All project teams are expected to produce research papers, in a language and style that is widely accessible.
- All published outputs resulting from the AEQ funding must be made available via open access.
- All project teams are also welcome to produce multimedia outputs such as films, podcasts, exhibitions, etc.
- Project teams are strongly encouraged to produce materials for the AFSEE curriculum.

### **Knowledge Exchange and Impact:**

- AEQ project teams will be supported not only during their research but also in the

conceptualisation and implementation of knowledge exchange and impact work through activities such as public events, workshops, conferences, blogs, and other public-facing written materials.

- Where possible, teams are expected to identify additional sources of funding (or co-funding) for such activities.

## **Application process:**

### **Application Queries:**

If you have any queries about the Atlantic Equity Challenge 2024, please contact Anastasia Nazaryan, AFSEE Projects Manager, and George Kunnath, AFSEE Lifelong Engagement Lead and Associate Professor (Education), via [a.nazaryan@lse.ac.uk](mailto:a.nazaryan@lse.ac.uk) and [g.kunnath@lse.ac.uk](mailto:g.kunnath@lse.ac.uk).

In addition, AFSEE will organise three drop-in sessions to answer any queries from prospective applicants:

- 19 January 2024, 2-4pm. [Register here](#).
- 26 January 2024, 2-4pm. [Register here](#).
- 2 February 2024, 2-4pm. [Register here](#).

### **Registration of Interest:**

If you are interested in applying to the AEQ and would like to be paired with an LSE academic or AFSEE Senior Fellow via the AFSEE team, please write to Anastasia Nazaryan at [a.nazaryan@lse.ac.uk](mailto:a.nazaryan@lse.ac.uk) by **9 February 2024** providing the following information:

1. Name
2. Department (for LSE Researchers)/Organisation (for AFSEE Senior Fellows)
3. Areas of research interest and your vision for potential academic-practitioner collaborative research.

### **Submitting an Application:**

Applicants for the Atlantic Equity Challenge 2024 will have to fill in an [application form](#) and provide supporting documents. Applicants should note that:

- Applications should address the selection criteria laid out on pages 5-6.
- Applications should be accompanied by a budget. A budget template document can be accessed [here](#).
- The LSE Co-PIs will need to ensure that they have received a letter of approval from their Head of Department/Institute/Research Centre before applying.

- Co-PIs and named researchers will also need to submit CVs (max 2 pages each) as part of the application.

The application, budget form, letter of approval, and CVs should be submitted no later than **23:59 BST on 15 May 2024** to Anastasia Nazaryan at [a.nazaryan@lse.ac.uk](mailto:a.nazaryan@lse.ac.uk).

