

Storytelling as *Pharmakon* in Premodernity and Beyond: Training the New Generation of Researchers in Health Humanities (StoryPharm)

Advertisement of Positions

Third Call for Applications

Are you getting or have already received an MA in Ancient or Medieval History, Art History, Byzantine Studies, Classics, Cultural Heritage Studies, Medieval Studies, Philology (Arabic, English, French, German, Greek, Italian, or Latin), Religious Studies? Are you interested in participating in an international, interdisciplinary, and intersectoral programme of doctoral training recruiting a group of highly-competent fellows?

The StoryPharm consortium publishes now a third call for 3 PhD fellowships within the training programme “Storytelling as *Pharmakon* in Premodernity and Beyond: Training the New Generation of Researchers in Health Humanities”. The fellowships are funded by the European Union’s Horizon Europe research and innovation programme under the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Action – Doctoral Networks, Grant Agreement 101169114.

All recruited doctoral fellows will become highly skilled cultural historians specialising in premodern intellectual and healthcare worlds. At the same time, they will acquire transferable skills allowing them to use, develop, and deploy cutting-edge approaches to storytelling and its ethical ramifications for scientific, professional, business, healthcare, and social purposes. After the offered doctoral training, the fellows will be ideally positioned to (1) achieve ground-breaking research results; (2) meet current trends and needs in the job market; (3) work towards establishing a human-centred medical system; and (4) create better and more resilient societies.

StoryPharm welcomes highly-motivated applicants. Depending on the position, applicants will be employed at the University of Lund (Sweden), University of Salerno (Italy), and Cardiff University (UK).

The call is open to applicants of any age and nationality who meet the following requirements at the recruitment date:

- Prior to the starting date of the PhD programme they must hold or be due to hold a Master’s Degree in relevant fields mentioned above.
- Must not already hold a doctoral title.

- Must not have resided or carried out their main activity (work, studies, etc.) in the country of the recruiting organisation for more than 12 months in the 3 years immediately before the recruitment date (mobility Rule). Any time spent as part of a procedure for obtaining refugee status under the Geneva Convention (1951 Refugee Convention and the 1967 Protocol), compulsory national service and/or short stays such as holidays do not count towards the total.

Additional requirements can apply for specific positions. For further information, please consult the detailed information for each position.

Applications for the third round will be accepted from **25/02/2025** until **31/03/2025** at **14:00** (Central European Time).

If any of the above prerequisites is not satisfied, the StoryPharm consortium reserves the right to exclude applicants from the selection procedure at any time, even after the selection procedure has taken place.

Application Procedures

Applications must be submitted electronically to the email address: cemar@ucy.ac.cy.

Applicants may apply for one or more positions, up to two positions in total. In case of multiple applications, applicants should submit one application with a separate research statement for each position **and specify the priority order** in their personal statement.

The following documents must be provided:

- Personal statement (max 2 pages) detailing the applicant's motivations and goals within the StoryPharm programme.
- CV (max 2 pages) with emphasis on prior academic achievements.
- Research statement (max 2 pages, 1,000 words) detailing how the applicant will approach the research project and how the StoryPharm training goals fit into the applicant's career plans. Please consider the research questions included in each position's description.
- Copy of Bachelor's and Master's Degree certificates and transcript of records.
- Copy of Master's Thesis.
- A reference letter by the MA supervisor and one other academic reference.
- Copy of an ID document valid at the time of the interview.

All application documents **must be drafted** in English. For **certificates and other official documents** official translations in English are preferable. We, however, accept documents in the following languages: Danish, Dutch, English, French, German, Greek, Italian, Norwegian, Portuguese, Spanish, and Swedish.

Applications must be submitted by the call deadline.

The applications must be complete in all their parts and must include all required material in PDF format without any protection that prevents printing.

Evaluation

A specific Evaluation Committee will be established to assess each topic's applicants. Each Committee will be composed of the main supervisors, an external member from the Supervisory Board, and possibly other faculty members of the recruiting university.

The evaluation process will include two stages.

1st Stage: Application Assessment

Application materials will be assessed based on the criteria specified in Table 2.

The score will be calculated on a scale of 0 to 100 points. Candidates with a score of at least 60 over 100 will pass to the second step and will be invited to an interview. We expect to notify shortlisted candidates in by April 2025.

Table 2: Evaluation Criteria for the Preliminary Selection

Criteria	Percentage
Criterion 1: Excellence of the applicant's CV, skills and track record (see Application Procedures), fulfilment of the relevant requirements related to the position applied for	80%
Criterion 2: Potential impact on the applicant's career and motivations to participate in the StoryPharm training programme	20%
Global score	100% (threshold 60%)

2nd Stage: Interview

Individual interviews will have the purpose of gaining a better sense of the applicants' academic background and their approach to the proposed PhD research project as well as the vision of their role within the network and of their future career. If a candidate has applied for more than one fellowship, the interview will test the fulfilment of the requirements for all of them.

The interviews will last approximately 30 minutes. Candidates will be interviewed on-line via Zoom or Teams.

The Evaluation Committee will evaluate the interviewees based on the criteria specified in the table below. It will produce an evaluation summary report for each applicant, with scores and detailed motivations.

All interviews will be conducted in English.

Table 3: Evaluation criteria for the interview

Criteria	Percentage
Criterion 1: Excellence of the applicant's presentation: Argumentation, communication, and evidence of knowledge of the ancient/medieval/modern languages when relevant	35%
Criterion 2: Excellence of the research statement, originality, understanding of the different facets of research demonstrated during discussion	65%
Global score	100%

The Evaluation Committee will produce a ranking list for each position.

Ranking List

All applicants invited to the interview will be informed of the outcome of the selection process with an Evaluation Summary Report.

Applicants with Disabilities or Specific Learning Difficulties

StoryPharm will take specific measures for applicants with disabilities (e.g. blind or deaf applicants or those suffering from any other relevant disability) or with specific learning difficulties (e.g. applicants diagnosed with dyslexia, dysgraphia, dyscalculia or dysorthography) to guarantee equal treatment.

Admission to the PhD Programmes

Successful applicants are admitted to their selected PhD programme following the order of the ranking list. The selected applicants must confirm by email their acceptance of the position within 10 days.

Applicants who fail to meet this deadline will be replaced by the next applicant on the ranking list, who will be informed by email and must enroll within 10 days following the same procedure.

If no other applicant is available in the ranking list for the position, StoryPharm may decide to assign the position to a qualified applicant for a different PhD position or launch an extra call for applications for the vacant position.

Employment Conditions

Depending on the enrolling institution, the fellows are expected to start their contracts between June 2025 and August 2025 under a 36-month research contract and will be enrolled in the PhD programme of each institution starting from the 2025-2026 academic year.

All eligible researchers recruited within the network will be employed full-time. They will be entitled to receive the following salaries (gross amounts):

- **Living Allowance:** €3,400/month corrected by a country-specific coefficient established by the European Commission
- **Mobility Allowance:** €600/month
- **Family Allowance:** €495/month.

The amounts are total gross remuneration, inclusive of all social security contributions charged both to the recruiting organization and to the PhD candidate.

The amount varies depending on the country of the recruiting organisation and the applied laws and regulations. Tax regulations in the host countries apply. See below for further details related to each position.

The family allowance is reserved for PhD candidates who have a spouse or are maintaining a child at the recruitment date or have acquired family obligations during the action duration, i.e. persons linked to them by (i) marriage, or (ii) a relationship with equivalent status to a marriage recognised by the legislation of the country or region where this relationship was formalised; or (iii) dependent

children who are actually being maintained by the researchers, the family allowance are paid to them as well.

PhD Fellows' Rights, Obligations and Incompatibilities

It is not possible to be simultaneously enrolled in more than one study programme leading to the awarding of a degree (e.g. Bachelor, Masters, Postgraduate Specialisation, short/executive Masters or PhD).

In the case of enrolment in the StoryPharm PhD programme successful applicants will be required to suspend or, if not possible, discontinue any enrolment in their other degree programme before the commencement of the PhD programme in order not to be excluded.

Confidentiality

Personal data will be collected, used and processed in accordance with General Data Protection Regulation 2016/679 (GDPR).

StoryPharm commits to using personal information for the purposes of the selection process alone.

The participation in the selection process implies the applicant's consent to the collection, use and process of their personal data by the StoryPharm consortium.

For more information visit our website <https://www.ucy.ac.cy/storypharm/> and for any questions, contact the StoryPharm Scientific Project Manager, Dr Andria Androu andreou.andria@ucy.ac.cy

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Advertisement of Positions

Third Call for Individual Applications



Fellow 1

Project Topic: “Mani as a Healer and Physician: Redefining Manichaean Origins in the Third Century CE”

Recruiting Organisation: Cardiff University (CARDIFF UNI)

We are offering a 3-year PhD position with a generous research allowance in an international, multi-partner EU project. This subproject will examine the close relationships between religion, health, prophecy and imperial authority in Late Antiquity. It will evaluate the links between these areas via a case study of the history and theology of the Manichaean community, with a specific focus on the historiographic and biographical sources for the life of Mani, the putative founder of Manichaeism. The subproject will look to contextualise Mani’s (216–c. 274 CE) persona as a healer associated with the court of Sasanian Persia under the rulership of Shapur I (d. 270 CE). It will investigate late antique Manichaeans’ concerns with health, well-being, and illness in relation to the spread of Manichaeism across West Asia and the Mediterranean, with a specific focus on Manichaean communities in the Roman Empire (esp. Egypt) and Sasanian Persia. The subproject will also evaluate the importance of Mani’s role and identity as healer in the act of securing the patronage of Late Antiquity’s imperial elites. The project aims to locate the emergence of the Manichaean religion in the religious and cultural concerns of third and fourth centuries CE where healing was linked to prophecy, religious knowledge, philosophical inquiry and sectarian competition. It will consider these issues alongside the development of legendary narratives (hagiographies) about Mani in relation to his persona as a healer, teacher and prophet.

The successful candidate will be employed at Cardiff University and enrolled in the School of History, Archaeology and Religion. The training includes a three-month academic secondment at the University of Cyprus and a one-month non-academic secondment at the Bamberg State Library. At Cardiff the PhD candidate will work under the supervision of Nicholas Baker-Brian and Eve MacDonald while Demetrios Michaelides will act as a supervisor at the University of Cyprus.

Objectives

Fellow 1 will aim at achieving the following results: (1) explain how the promotion of Mani's identity as a healer led to the extension of the new religion; (2) show how and why early Manichaean literature displays a pronounced concern with health and illness; (3) trace the origins of this concern; (4) provide a detailed understanding of the historical contexts for the emergence of Mani's teachings and the subsequent anxieties of 3rd-c. Manichaean communities in the Sasanian, Palmyrene, and Roman Empires.

Specific Requirements

A Master's Degree in one of the following areas is required: Classics, History, Late Antique and Byzantine Studies, and Medieval Studies.

The University wishes our staff to reflect the diversity of society and thus welcomes applications from all qualified candidates regardless of personal background.

Main Training Activities Specific to the Project

- Induction Week (University of Cyprus; UCY)
- Training in Critical Discourse Analysis (Lund University)
- Training in Narrative and in Literary Criticism (University of Salerno)
- Training in Intersectionality, Sexuality, and Gender (UCY)
- Spring School (University of Bamberg)
- Training in Obtaining Funding in Project Management (online)
- Training in Entrepreneurship (online)
- Training in Publishing Industry (Bamberg State Library)

Expectations

The PhD candidate will fulfil the requirements of the School of History, Archaeology and Religion's PhD programme in Ancient History

(<https://www.cardiff.ac.uk/study/postgraduate/research/programmes/programme/ancient-history>),

lead their research under the guidance of the supervisors and present their work at international conferences, in accordance with the consortium's communication and dissemination plan.

Furthermore, they will cooperate with other fellow PhD students to fulfill the StoryPharm's training and other objectives. Participation in StoryPharm's training and other activities is compulsory.

Salary

The successful candidate will be employed full-time. There is a salary range from £42,048 to £51,012. Salary is provided as a range and estimate, with actual salary being determined based on eligible allowances (living, mobility, family), exchange rates, and pension options, which are based on each doctoral researcher's individual circumstances.

The Application

The application package should contain a short document (max 2 pages) describing how candidates would approach the research. This is a crucial part of the evaluation as it is meant to reflect writing ability, creativity and grasp of theory and research. It is therefore crucial that the best effort is made toward making the document reflective of candidates' true abilities.

When composing the text regarding the project, candidates may wish to consider:

- How did the religious culture(s) of the time influence Mani's ideas – especially about the soul and the body?
- What were the prevailing ideas about health and illness in Late Antiquity?
- How might ideas about health and illness have affected the theological beliefs of Jews, Christians, Zoroastrians and Manichaeans?

Short Bibliography

Baker-Brian, Nicholas J. 2016. "‘Putrid Boils and Sores, and Burning Wounds in the Body’: The Valorization of Health and Illness in Late Antique Manichaeism," *Harvard Theological Review* 109 (3), 422–446.

Burns, Dylan M. 2023. "(No) Providence among the Manichaeans? Divine Care in the *Kephalaia of the Teacher*," in Jason BeDuhn, Paul Dilley and Iain Gardner (eds), *The Medinet Madi Library of Manichaean Codices at 90*. Leiden, 96–122.

Gardner, Iain. 2020. *The Founder of Manichaeism: Rethinking the Life of Mani*. Cambridge.

Marx-Wolf, Heidi. 2016. *Spiritual Taxonomies and Ritual Authority. Platonists, Priests, and Gnostics in the Third Century C.E.* Philadelphia.

Ort, L. J. R. 1967. *Mani: A Religio-Historical Description of His Personality.* Leiden (esp. 95–106).

For more information about this fellowship, contact Dr Nicholas Baker-Brian (Baker-BrianNJ1@cardiff.ac.uk).

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Call for Individual Applications



LUND
UNIVERSITY

Project Title: “The Medical Case Story in the *Kitāb al-mujarrabāt* and Other Arabic Medical Collections” (StoryPharm **Fellow 3**)

Recruiting Organisation: Lund University (ULUND)

We are offering a 3-year PhD position with a generous research allowance in an international, multi-partner EU project. This subproject will examine the medical case story in its use as instruction to other practitioners and its possible function as part of patient treatment. It will focus on the *Kitāb al-Tajārib* by Abū Bakr Muḥammad b. Zakarīyā’ al-Rāzī (c. 865–925 CE). Other collections of Arabic medical case stories will also be investigated. Case stories formed an important narrative genre in all early medicine, but they have been studied almost exclusively as conveying information from one doctor to the next. This subproject will examine the case story’s narrative elements, the strategies promoting the physician’s authority and reliability, and doctor–patient interactions.

The successful candidate will be employed at Lund University in August 2025 and will be enrolled in the Joint Faculties of Humanities and Theology. The training includes a three-month academic secondment at the University of Bamberg (UNI BA) and a one-month non-academic secondment at David Collection (Copenhagen). At ULUND the PhD candidate will work under the supervision of Christian Høgel while Christoph Werner will act as a supervisor at UNI BA.

Objectives

Fellow 3 will aim at achieving the following results: (1) illuminate the rhetorical and narrative strategies employed by Islamic physicians to establish their medical authority and power; (2) show

how the doctor-patient interaction is manipulated in these narratives to further confirm the physician's authority; (3) establish the case story as a literary genre with its own conventions and characteristics.

Specific Requirements

A Master's Degree in Classics, Medieval Studies, or Arabic is required. Depending on project description, the employed doctoral fellow may be obliged to take some language training in the complementing language (either Ancient/Byzantine Greek or Classical Arabic).

The University wishes our staff to reflect the diversity of society and thus welcomes applications from all qualified candidates regardless of personal background.

Main Training Activities Specific to the Project

- Induction Week (University of Cyprus; UCY)
- Training in Critical Discourse Analysis (Lund University)
- Training in Narrative and in Literary Criticism (UCY)
- Training in Intersectionality, Sexuality, and Gender (UCY)
- Summer School (University of Bamberg)
- Training in Obtaining Funding in Project Management (online)
- Training in Entrepreneurship (online)
- Training in Publishing Industry (Bamberg State Library)

Expectations

The PhD candidate will fulfil the requirements of the PhD programme in either Ancient/Byzantine Greek or Arabic (see

https://www.ht.lu.se/fileadmin/user_upload/ht/filserver/doktorand/studieplaner-engelska-2023/Greek.pdf and/or

https://www.ht.lu.se/fileadmin/user_upload/ht/filserver/doktorand/studieplaner-engelska-2023/Semitic_languages.pdf), lead their research under the guidance of the supervisors, and present

their work at international conferences, in accordance with the consortium's communication and dissemination plan. Furthermore, they will cooperate with other fellow PhD students to fulfill the StoryPharm's training and other objectives. Participation in StoryPharm's training and other activities is compulsory.

Salary

The successful candidate will be employed full-time. The gross salary before taxes will be 31,500 SEK/month plus mobility allowance (3,000 SEK) and, only if applicable, family allowance (4,500 SEK).

The Application

The application package should contain a short document (max 2 pages) describing how Fellow 3 would approach the research. This is a crucial part of the evaluation as it is meant to reflect writing ability, creativity and grasp of theory and research. It is therefore crucial that candidates make their best effort toward making the document reflective of their true abilities.

When composing the text, Fellow 3 may wish to consider:

- What were the generic features governing tales of doctor-patient interaction in the Greco-Roman medical tradition?
- How did these narratives translate across language and cultural borders?
- How do the stories underpin the authority of physicians (in various ages/regions)?
- Were tales told to convince other physicians or to be reused in clinical situations, either as guidelines or as tales to be retold to patients?

Short Bibliography

Álvarez-Millán, Cristina. 2010. "The Case History in Medieval Islamic Medical Literature: Tajarib and Mujarrabat as Source," *Medical History* 54, 195–214.

Bouras-Vallianatos, Petros and Sophia Xenophontos (eds) 2018. *Greek Medical Literature and its Readers: From Hippocrates to Islam and Byzantium*. London.

Pietrobelli, Antoine and Marie Cronier 2022. "Arabic Galeanism from Antioch to Byzantium: Ibn Butlan and Symeon Seth," *Mediterranea: International Journal on the Transfer of Knowledge* 7, 281–315.

For more information about the three fellowships, contact Prof. Christian Høgel (christian.hogel@klass.lu.se).

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Third Call for Individual Applications



UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI
DI SALERNO

Fellow 7

Project Topic: “Images of Christ’s Miraculous Healings between Medical Awareness and Social Inclusion (9th–11th c. CE)”

Recruiting Organisation: University of Salerno (UNI SALERNO)

We are offering a 3-year PhD position with a generous research allowance in an international, multi-partner EU project. This subproject will investigate miraculous healing scenes in Central European paintings from the 9th to 11th centuries, beginning with the remarkable Christological cycles of Müstair (Unterengadin/Münstertal, Switzerland), Sant’Angelo in Formis, and the “Salerno Ivories” (Campania, Italy), as well as stunning painted cycles such as the crypt of Anagni (Latium, Italy). The subproject will focus on the depiction of individuals suffering from illnesses, physical deformities, and medical culture. It will explore the iconographic typologies used to represent illness, the interplay between artistic imagery, textual traditions, and contemporary medical knowledge practiced by both men and women, and eventually figures, objects and material culture related to healing knowledge or practices. The aim will be to uncover how visual narratives represented Christ as a healer, emphasising the relationship between divine compassion and human suffering in medieval art. Finally, the subproject will encourage the examination of connections with material objects and manuscript cultures—including religious texts and medical compilations that depict also the female practice of the medical profession—providing a comparative framework for understanding the narrative strategies of these cycles.

The successful candidate will be employed at UNI SALERNO and enrolled in the Department of Cultural Heritage Sciences. The training includes a three-month academic secondment at the University of Bamberg (UNI BA) and a one-month non-academic secondment at the Bamberg State Library. At UNI SALERNO, the PhD candidate will work under the supervision of Maddalena Vaccaro while Katharina Schüppel will act as a supervisor at UNI BA.

The successful candidate will be employed at UNI SALERNO and enrolled in the Department of Cultural Heritage Sciences. The training includes a three-month academic secondment at the University of Bamberg (UNI BA) and a one-month non-academic secondment at the Bamberg State Library. At UNI SALERNO, the PhD candidate will work under the supervision of Maddalena Vaccaro while Katharina Schüppel will act as a supervisor at UNI BA.

Objectives

Fellow 7 will aim at achieving the following results: (1) show whether artistic representations in non-medical contexts reflect actual medical knowledge and practices; (2) demonstrate if representations of disease and deformity are connected to instances of exclusion concerning certain types of sufferers in the examined societies.

Specific Requirements

A Master's Degree in History of Art or a related field is required. Candidates should demonstrate a solid grounding in medieval art, preferably of the examined period (9th–12th c. CE). Previous experience with digital humanities and the ability to work in an international research team are desirable.

The University wishes our staff to reflect the diversity of society and thus welcomes applications from all qualified candidates regardless of personal background. We are committed to fostering a diverse and inclusive environment, and we aim to create a supportive atmosphere that respects and promotes different perspectives, backgrounds, and experiences.

Main Training Activities Specific to the Project

- Induction Week (University of Cyprus; UCY)
- Training in Critical Discourse Analysis (Lund University)
- Training in Narrative and in Literary Criticism (University of Salerno)
- Training in Intersectionality, Sexuality, and Gender (UCY)
- Spring School (University of Bamberg)

- Training in Obtaining Funding in Project Management (online)
- Training in Entrepreneurship (online)
- Training in Publishing Industry (Bamberg State Library)

Expectations

The PhD candidate will fulfil the requirements of the PhD programme (a.y. 2024/2025: <https://web.unisa.it/en/teaching/phd-programmes?bando=12437> and <https://www.dottoratomem.it/en/phd-programme-regulation/>); and lead the research under the guidance of the supervisors and present their work at international conferences, in accordance with the consortium's communication and dissemination plan. Furthermore, they will cooperate with other fellow PhD students to fulfill the StoryPharm's training and other objectives. Participation in StoryPharm's training and other activities is compulsory.

Salary

The successful candidates will be employed full-time. The gross salary before taxes and fees will be €3,311/month plus mobility allowance (€600) and, only if applicable, family allowance (€495). There is no provision for 13th salary.

The successful applicants will be employed under full-time, fixed-term contracts governed by Italian labour law, UNI SALERNO regulations, and the rules of the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions.

In accordance with national law, certificates submitted to the UNI SALERNO selection procedures, if drafted in a language other than Italian, English, French, Spanish, or German must be accompanied by a legally certified translation into one of the said languages.

The Application

The application package should contain a short document (max 2 pages) describing how candidates would approach the research. This is a crucial part of the evaluation as it is meant to reflect writing ability, creativity and grasp of theory and research. It is therefore crucial that the best effort is made toward making the document reflective of candidates' true abilities.

When composing the text regarding the project, candidates may wish to consider:

- How do medieval visual representations of Christ's healings align with contemporary understandings of illness and deformity?

- What are the narrative strategies used in artistic representations to convey Christ's role as a healer, and how do these compare across different cultural contexts?
- Can the depicted interactions between Christ and sufferers offer insights into societal attitudes toward illness and disability during the examined period?
- How might territorial and environmental factors have influenced the representation of healing and religious imagery across different geographical contexts?

Short Bibliography

Caseau-Chevallier, Béatrice. 2021. *Rituels religieux et sensorialité (Antiquité et Moyen Âge). Parcours de recherche*. Milan.

Krötzl, Christian (eds.). 2015. *Infirmity in Antiquity and the Middle Ages. Social and Cultural Approaches to Health, Weakness and Care*. Farnham.

Mitchell, John. 2018. *Lombard Legacy. Cultural Strategies and the Visual Arts in Early Medieval Italy*. London.

Poilpré, Anne-Orange. 2024. *Histoires du Christ en images. Evangiles latins, VI^e-XI^e siècle*, Paris.

For more information about this fellowship, contact Prof. Maddalena Vaccaro

(mavaccaro@unisa.it).