

Jobbnorge ID: 183522
Deadline: 8/1/2020
Website: <http://www.uis.no/>
Scope: Fulltime
Duration: Fixed Term

PhD position in Gender Studies

Job description

The University of Stavanger invites applicants for a PhD position in Gender Studies with a particular focus on ethics and technology-mediated care practices at the Faculty of Social Sciences. The position is affiliated with Centre for Gender Studies and is vacant from January 1, 2021.

This is a trainee position that will give promising researchers an opportunity for academic development leading to a doctoral degree.

Appointment is for three years with research duties only. The candidate will be part of the Radical Interdisciplinary Research School (ITEM) at UiS.

About the project

The PhD position is affiliated with the research project **Caring Futures: developing care ethics for technology-mediated care practices (QUALITECH)**, funded by the HELSEVEL-program with the Norwegian Research Council. This research project aims to develop care ethics in response to the increasing use of, and demand for, technology in care.

Increased efficiency and innovation are often presented as solutions to these new demands. The development and use of new technology are central aspects of these solutions. However, the evidence on ethical implications of technological innovation in current technology-mediated care practices is scarce. QUALITECH therefore revisits care ethics in practice- and experience-near contexts, at a time of changing health, care and welfare policies, services and practices.

Our principal research question is: how can technology-mediated care practices become care-ethically sound - and, correspondingly, how can care ethics become more technology-aware? The project consists of four work-packages: 1) Digital assessment templates in the child welfare services, 2) Professionals' ideals and sense of self in technology-mediated care practices, 3) The impact of robots and other caregiving technobodies on agency and quality of care, and 4) Management, design and implementation of technology in care practices.

This PhD position is affiliated with work-package 3: **The impact of robots and other caregiving technobodies on agency and quality of care**. Particularly, the research area for the PhD position is focused on the imaginaries of care robots. Today, care robots are making their way into the health and welfare sector, but care robots, as well as service robots, have been imagined and told in stories of (speculative) fiction for many years. More recently, imaginaries of such robots also manifest in policy documents for a more innovative and efficient health, care and welfare services. What can such imaginaries offer to a renegotiation of traditional care ethics on the one hand, and to addressing the increasing need for ethical consideration of technology-mediated care practices on the other? We are particularly concerned with how imaginaries, narratives and stories of care robots are entangled with questions of gender, sexuality, race, age, ability and class, for example, how they are (re)presented and circulated in culture and politics, and how these kinds of caregiving technobodies raise key ethical questions for contemporary society.

Project proposal

As an applicant, you must prepare a preliminary project proposal for a doctoral project within the subject area, which explains the problem, relevance, theoretical and methodological approach. We invite applicants to outline a project proposal of max 5 pages concerning imaginaries of care robots. There are several entry points to this particular research area, but suggested approaches are:

- a) Imaginaries as knowledge production: how can imaginaries of the care robot serve as thinking tools for epistemological questions of our time? Relevant cases are for example recent developments in the field of feminist posthumanities, diversity studies, STS, or in contemporary speculative fiction.
- b) Technologies of the welfare state: how does increasing use of care robots in the health and welfare services accentuate ethical and political challenges concerning user participation? Relevant cases are for example imaginaries of care robots in vulnerable user groups, and potential tensions between governance and participation in technology-mediated care practices due to imaginaries of the care robot as technological solutions.
- c) Situated imaginaries of the care robot: how do imaginaries of the care robot (re)produce gendered, racialized, class related or speciesist power dynamics and relations? Relevant case studies are for example embodiment of care robots (in fiction and/or in real life) and the ethics of social robotics.

Your preliminary project proposal will be included in the application assessment. During the first three months of the employment period, the project proposal will be further developed in cooperation with your supervisors and completed for the final project description

Qualification requirements

We are looking for applicants with a strong academic background who have completed a five-year master degree (3+2) within gender studies or related and relevant fields, preferably acquired recently; or possess corresponding qualifications that could provide a basis for successfully completing a doctorate.

To be eligible for admission to the doctoral programmes at the University of Stavanger both the grade for your master's thesis and the weighted average grade of your master's degree must individually be equivalent to or better than a B grade.

If you finish your education (masters degree) in the spring of 2020 you are also welcome to apply.

Applicants with an education from an institution with a different grade scale than A-F should attach a confirmed conversion scale that shows how the grades can be compared with the Norwegian A-F scale.

Emphasis is also placed on your:

- motivation and potential for research within the field
- ability to work independently and in a team, be innovative and creative
- ability to work structured and handle a heavy workload
- having a good command of both oral and written English

We offer

- varied duties in a large, exciting and socially important organisation
- an ambitious work community which is developing rapidly. We strive to include employees at all levels in strategic decisions and promote an informal atmosphere with a flat organisational structure
- salary in accordance with the State Salary Scale, l.pl 17.515, code 1017, NOK 479.600,- gross per year with salary development according to seniority in the position
- automatic membership in the [Norwegian Public Service Pension Fund](#), which provides favourable insurance- and retirement benefits
- favourable membership terms at a gym and at the SIS sports club at campus
- employment with an Inclusive Workplace organisation which is committed to reducing sick leave, increasing the proportion of employees with reduced working capacity, and increasing the number of professionally active seniors
- "[Hjem-jobb-hjem](#)" discounted public transport to and from work
- as an employee in Norway, you will have access to an optimal health service, as well as good pensions, generous maternity/paternity leave, and a competitive salary. Nursery places are guaranteed and reasonably priced
- [relocation programme](#) in event of moving to Norway, including support and language courses for spouses

Other information

See "[Regulations concerning terms and conditions of employment for the posts of post-doctoral research fellow and research fellow, research assistant and resident](#)" at the University of Stavanger.

The appointee will be based at the University of Stavanger, with the exception of a stay abroad at a relevant centre of research.

It is a prerequisite that the appointee has a residence which enables him or her to be present at/available to the academic community during ordinary working hours.

Candidates with minority experience in relation to racialization, ethnicity, gender, sexuality, and/or accessibility, are particularly encouraged to apply.

The position has been announced in both Norwegian and English. In the case of differences of meaning between the texts, the Norwegian text takes precedence.

Contact information

More information on the position can be obtained from professor Lene Myong, tlf +47 51831509, e-mail: lene.myong@uis.no. Questions about QUALITECH and the thematic focus for the position can be addressed to associate professor Ingvil Hellstrand, tel: 51831543, e-mail: ingvil.f.hellstrand@uis.no. Hellstrand will be main supervisor for the appointed PhD-candidate.

Information about the appointment procedure can be obtained from HR Advisor Helene Engelsingjerd Figved, tel: +47 51831558, e-mail: helene.e.figved@uis.no.

Application

To apply for this position please follow the link "Apply for this job". Register your application and CV including relevant education and work experience. In your application letter you must show your research interests and motivation to apply for the position.

The following documents must be uploaded as attachments to your application in separate files:

- project proposal (max 5 pages)
- certificates/diplomas
- references
- list of publications
- other documentation that you consider relevant

The documentation must be available in either a Scandinavian language or in English. If the total size of the attachments exceeds 30 MB, they must be compressed before upload. Information and documentation to be taken into account in the assessment must be submitted within the application deadline.

Please note that information on applicants may be published even if the applicant has requested not to be included in the official list of applicants - see [Section 25 of the Freedom of Information Act](#).

UiS only considers applications and attachments registered in JobbNorge.

UiS - challenge the well-known and explore the unknown

The University of Stavanger (UiS) has about 12,000 students and 1,800 employees. It is located in the third largest urban region in Norway, with a dynamic labor market and exciting cultural and leisure activities. We are the only Norwegian member of the European Consortium of Innovative Universities. The university has high ambitions. We will be a driving force in the development of knowledge in the region, and an international research university with an emphasis on innovation. Together with our staff and students, we will challenge the well-known and explore the unknown.

The Faculty of Social Sciences has about 2,200 students and 160 employees. The studies are based on a combination of theoretical and practical knowledge, on interdisciplinarity and cooperation with public and private sectors. New knowledge is generated from both practical experience and systematic research, or a combination of them. The educational offer is varied and includes Hospitality and Tourism, Media, Sociology, Social Work and Child Welfare, amongst others.

The Faculty consists of: Department of Media and Social Sciences, Department of Social Studies and the Norwegian School of Hotel Management. Centre for Gender Studies is also a part of the faculty.

Additional information

Place of service:

Ullandhaug 4036 Stavanger (Stavanger Municipality)