Postdoctoral Fellow (Assistant Professor) on Autocratic Politics

Job description

The Department of Political Science wants to recruit 1-2 excellent social scientists with a background from political science or closely related fields such as Economics or Sociology. The successful applicants will work as a Postdoctoral Fellow (Assistant Professor) on the ERC Consolidator Grant project ‘The Emergence, Life, and Demise of Autocratic Regimes’ (ELDAR). The appointment(s) is for a fixed, non-tenured term of 4 years with a 20% requirement for teaching and 5% requirement for various project administrative tasks. This means that 75 % of the working time over four years is devoted to research.

ELDAR will investigate three aspects of autocratic politics: 1) the emergence of autocratic regimes; 2) policy-making (“life”) in autocracies in the areas of education, infrastructure and industrial policy, social policies, and media regulation; 3) autocratic regime breakdown. In doing so, ELDAR will address the preferences and capacities of vital actors in autocratic politics - the leader, regime support groups, and mobilized opposition groups. Team members will also study the specific, and diverse, institutions that underpin autocracies.

The project is led by Professor Carl Henrik Knutsen and is funded by an ERC Consolidator Grant. It runs from 2020-2025. ELDAR will be part of the Department’s internationally leading research group on Comparative Institutions and Regimes (CIR). We encourage applicants to read about ELDAR and the project team in the project proposal.

The main purpose of the fellowship is to qualify researchers for work in higher academic positions within their disciplines.

Qualification requirements

A comprehensive assessment of the applicant's scientific qualifications forms the basis of appointment.

Applicants must hold a degree equivalent to a Norwegian doctoral degree in Political Science or a closely related discipline before taking up the post. The Doctoral dissertation must be submitted for evaluation by the closing date. Appointment is dependent on the public defense of the doctoral thesis being approved.

Candidates with a record of high-quality publications, especially in leading peer-reviewed international journals, will be prioritized. However, the length of the applicant's research career (discounted for parental leave, etc.) will be taken into account when considering the number of such publications: The intention is to recruit the person that has the best prospects for contributing to the project’s research outputs by publishing research of the highest quality over the coming 4-year period.

The candidate should, in the cover letter (maximum 2 pages), briefly explain how his/her research profile and agenda will contribute to the overall goals of the project, including one or more of the suggested datasets or papers outlined in the ELDAR research proposal (link above). The applicant should further detail additional suggested contributions in the form of one or two research ideas in an accompanying research proposal (maximum 2 pages).

While not necessary, candidates with prior research experience on one or more of the topics covered in ELDAR will be at an advantage. Further, for one of the positions, candidates familiar with formal modelling, game theory, or agent-based modelling will have a clear advantage. For the second position, candidates with quantitative methods skills relevant for the project (see project proposal) will have an advantage.

Other desired qualifications and experiences include experiences with previous systematic data collection efforts, either in individual or collective projects, strong administrative and organizational skills, very good command of English, and programming and statistical software skills. Finally, the applicants’ teaching experiences and qualifications may, and personal suitability for the position will, be taken into consideration.

Postdoctoral fellows who are appointed for a period of four years are expected to acquire “basic pedagogical competency” in the course of their fellowship period within the teaching duty component of 20 %.

We offer

- Salary according to “SKO 1352 postdoktor”, pay grade 59-67, NOK 523 200-605 500 per year (approx. 52 000 - 61 000 Euro)
- Budget for travel and research assistance
- An internationally leading research team
- A pleasant and stimulating working environment
- A good pension scheme through the Norwegian Public Service Pension Fund
- Excellent welfare schemes, including possibilities for University kindergarten
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- Oslo’s high-quality of living and rich opportunities for culture and outdoor activities

How to apply
The application must include all of the following items:

- A cover letter (max 2 pages, incl. statement of motivation, summarizing research interests, and how applicant will contribute to ELDAR)
- A project description (max 2 pages; if cover letter and project description are merged, the maximum is 4 pages)
- A CV (summarizing education, positions, pedagogical experience, administrative experience, and other qualifying activities)
- A complete list of publications
- Copies of educational certificates (academic transcripts only).
- Up to 3 academic works that the applicant wishes to be considered due to their quality or relevance for the project. The 3 works should include at least one single-authored piece and at least one published journal article.
- List of reference persons: 2 or 3 references (name, relation to candidate, e-mail, and phone number)

The application with attachments must be delivered via our electronic recruiting system. Foreign applicants are advised to attach an explanation of their University's grading system. Please note that all documents should be in English (or a Scandinavian language).

The application deadline is 15 April 2020. The screening and evaluation of the candidates will begin immediately and a short-list will be ready in June. Interviews will be held in early August. The position will be awarded from late August 2020.

**Formal regulations**

Please see the [guidelines and regulations](#) for appointments to Postdoctoral fellowships at the University of Oslo.

No one can be appointed for more than one Postdoctoral Fellow period at the University of Oslo.

According to the Norwegian Freedom of Information Act (Offentleglova) information about the applicant may be included in the public applicant list, also in cases where the applicant has requested non-disclosure.

The University of Oslo has an [agreement](#) for all employees, aiming to secure rights to research results etc.

The University of Oslo aims to achieve a balanced gender composition in the workforce and to recruit people with ethnic minority backgrounds.

**Contact information**

PI of ELDAR and Research Group Leader CIR, Prof. Carl Henrik Knutsen, phone number: +47 228 54244, email: c.h.knutsen@stv.uio.no

Please also feel free to contact any of the other project members if you have questions pertaining to specific sections of the project, as outlined in the project proposal.

Head of Department Bjørn Erik Rasch, email: b.e.rasch@stv.uio.no, Telephone: +47 22 85 51 83

Questions regarding the electronic application should be directed to HR Officer Sylvi Anita Varsi Øien, email: saoien@sv.uio.no, Telephone: +47 22 85 69 07

**About the University of Oslo**

The University of Oslo is Norway’s oldest and highest ranked educational and research institution, with 28 000 students and 7000 employees. With its broad range of academic disciplines and internationally recognised research communities, UiO is an important contributor to society.

The Department of Political Science is a part of the Faculty of Social Sciences and conducts research, teaching and dissemination. The Department currently has 33 permanent academic staff members, 13 research fellows conducting PhDs, six postdoctoral fellows and ten administrative employees. About 1100 students are currently enrolled in Bachelor’s, Master’s and PhD study programmes in political science, as well as the interdisciplinary Bachelor’s degree programmes in International Studies and Public Administration and Leadership, and the Master’s degree programme in Peace and Conflict Studies. The department is the host of C-REX Center for Research on Extremism.

Jobbnorge-ID: 183082, Søknadsfrist: 15. april 2020