Doctoral Research Fellowship on contemporary Latin American futurisms and science fiction

Job description

A Doctoral Research Fellowship (SKO 1017) in Global Culture Studies is available at the Department of Culture Studies and Oriental Languages, University of Oslo.

The PhD candidate will take part in the ERC funded project “CoFutures: Pathways to Possible Presents,” led by Bodhisattva Chattopadhyay. CoFutures studies contemporary futurisms, future fictions, or science fiction. CoFutures takes these fictions as the starting point for an enquiry into societal imaginaries of possible change. The project takes a transmedial approach to futurisms, and extends its analysis to literature, film, the arts, and interactive media, including video games.

This PhD position will be connected to a specific work package within the project, and will be supervised by the project leader. It will contribute to the main project through its respective case study.

The PhD will work on Latin American (Latin@/Latinx) futurisms. The project can be based on science fiction from one Latin American country, but a transnational comparative perspective will be considered an advantage.

Proposals for this position must highlight contemporary work and focus on issues such as climate change, demographic change, and/or technological change. Applicants should be able to demonstrate an interest in SF or future fictions related research, and they should ideally have engaged in SF arts or SF community or SF fandom work. The use of contemporary approaches in theory and criticism including environmental humanities and science fiction scholarship is necessary, and knowledge of Digital Humanities methods will be considered a plus.

Applicants should frame their project proposals within the overall framework of the CoFutures project, and be familiar with the overall project’s contents and objectives. For more information about the project, and the different work packages, see the project website. If you have any questions, please contact the project leader, Bodhisattva Chattopadhyay (bodhisac@uio.no).

The successful candidate is expected to join the existing research milieu or network and contribute to its development. In addition to her/his respective work package, the candidate will take part in group activities including seminars, workshops, and research excursions. The candidate will have access to the UiO’s SF library, the largest public collection in the Nordic countries, and the project fellows will also have access to the project’s state of the art Games and Interactive Media Research Lab.

The PhD candidate appointed will be affiliated with the Faculty’s organized research training. The academic work is to result in a doctoral thesis that will be defended at the Faculty with a view to obtaining the degree of PhD. Read more about the doctoral degree.

The PhD candidate will start on 1 August 2020, or as soon as possible thereafter. The appointment is for a duration of 3 years. All PhD Candidates who submit their doctoral dissertation for assessment with a written recommendation from their supervisor within 3 years or 3 ½ years after the start of their PhD position, will be offered, respectively, a 12 or 6 month Completion Grant.

Qualification requirements

- A Master's degree or equivalent in ANY discipline but applicants must be conversant with relevant theories in science fiction studies. Preference might be given to candidates with empirical knowledge or personal engagement with SF arts or SF fandom communities. The Master's degree must have been obtained and the final evaluation must be available by the application deadline.
- Fluent oral and written communication skills in English, and fluency in Spanish and/or Portuguese.
- Personal suitability and motivation for the position.

To be eligible for admission to the doctoral programmes at the University of Oslo, applicants must, as a minimum, have completed a five-year graduation course (Master’s degree or equivalent), including a Master’s thesis of at least 30 ECTS. In special cases, the Faculty may grant admission on the basis of a one-year Master course following an assessment of the study programme’s scope and quality.

In assessing the applications, special emphasis will be placed on:

- The project's scientific merit, research-related relevance and innovation
- The applicant's estimated academic and personal ability to complete the project within the time frame
- The applicant's ability to complete research training
- Good collaboration skills and an ability to join interdisciplinary academic communities

We offer

- Salary NOK 479 600- 532 300 per annum depending on qualifications
- A professionally stimulating working environment
- Membership in the Norwegian Public Service Pension Fund
- Attractive welfare benefits

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How to apply

The application must include:

- Application letter describing the applicant’s qualifications and motivation for the position
- Curriculum Vitae (with a list of education, positions, teaching experience, administrative experience and other qualifying activities, including a complete list of publications)
- Transcript of records of your Bachelor’s and Master’s degrees. Applicants with education from a foreign university must attach an explanation of their university’s grading system
- Project description, including a detailed progress plan for the project (3-5 pages, see Template for project descriptions)

Please note that all documents must be in English or a Scandinavian language.

Educational certificates, master theses and the like are not to be submitted with the application, but applicants may be asked to submit such information or works later.

The application with attachments must be delivered in our electronic recruiting system, please follow the link “apply for this job”.

Short-listed candidates will be invited for interview in person or on skype during weeks 20-21.

Formal regulations

Please see the guidelines and regulations for appointments to Research Fellowships at the University of Oslo.

No one can be appointed for more than one PhD Research Fellowship 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 appointment may be shortened/given a more limited scope within the framework of the applicable guidelines on account of any previous employment in academic positions.

The University of Oslo has an agreement for all employees, aiming to secure rights to research results etc.

Contact information

Project Leader: Bodhisattva Chattopadhyay

HR-Officer: Steffen Remvik

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 Culture Studies and Oriental Languages (abbreviated IKOS from its Norwegian name) is one of the seven departments at the Faculty of Humanities. The Department has a broad competency in the study of religion and culture and in language based area studies of South Asia, East Asia and the Middle East and North Africa. The Department has several study programmes at both BA and MA levels. Among the Department’s 110 employees about 40 are PhD and Postdoctoral Fellows.

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