PhD position in Social Anthropology

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**PhD position**
There is a vacancy for a PhD position at the Department of Social Anthropology, as a part of the project “Technoscientific Immortality: A study of Human Futures”, which is funded by the Research Council of Norway’s Program for groundbreaking Research, running from 2021 until 2025. The position is for a fixed-term period of 4 years, of which 25% will be dedicated to teaching, supervision and administrative tasks at the Department.

**About the project:**
“Technoscientific Immortality: A study of Human Futures” (Immortality) examines changing conceptions of the human being, mortality, and social relations in an increasingly technologically advanced world. Technological innovation in human-computer interfaces, medical breakthroughs in biotechnology, and an emerging notion that ageing is a disease seem to seriously challenge established understandings of what a human being is or might be. Based on comparative ethnographies from five different case studies this project will investigate the socio-cultural foundations for, and effects of, the increasing interest in new forms of immortality (as “living on” in AI, “mind upload/transfer, cryonics etc) through techno-scientific developments.

The PhD fellow will have a primary responsibility for case study 3 in the research agenda of Immortality, entitled “Grief-bots and digital resurrection of kin”

This research task is summarised as follows:

This is an ethnographic study of selected start-ups in the US that provide digital “resurrection” services by offering online preservation of memories as well as creation of online avatars for the preservation of your own “legacy”. The PhD will conduct online research to map the field, selecting a handful of companies and projects to be more thoroughly studied, based on prior consent and access arrangements. The PhD will also conduct fieldwork in the tech-development environment in Silicon Valley. Focus here will be on the social movements in the area, where transhumanist groups work very actively, as well as accessing research and education environments, in order to get a more general overview of the milieu from which the start-ups usually emerge.

Applicants are requested to develop a research proposal, including descriptions of fieldwork and timeline, that addresses these dimensions of research outlined for case study 3, and that relates the research to the overall information on the project available at [https://www.uib.no/en/immortality/142361/about-project](https://www.uib.no/en/immortality/142361/about-project).

**Qualifications and personal qualities:**
- The applicant must hold a master’s degree or the equivalent in social anthropology.
- The degree has to be completed by the application deadline.
- The requirement is generally grade B or better on the master’s thesis and for the master’s degree in total.
- As an applicant you should be able to work independently while also cooperating in a larger research group, have considerable work capacity, as well as an enthusiasm for research and the active communication of research results.
- Proficiency in written and spoken English.

**About the PhD position:**
The duration of the PhD position is 4 years, of which 25 per cent of the time each year comprises required duties associated with teaching, administration, and dissemination of results. The employment period may be reduced if you have previously been employed in a recruitment position.

**About the PhD training:**
As a PhD research fellow, you will take part in the PhD training programme at the Faculty of Social Sciences, UiB. The programme corresponds to a 3-year period and leads to the PhD degree. To be eligible for admission you must normally have an educational background corresponding...
to a master’s degree with a scope of 120 ECTS credits, which builds on a bachelor’s degree with a scope of 180 ECTS credits (normally 2 + 3 years), or an integrated master’s degree with a scope of 300 ECTS credits (5 years). Master’s degrees must normally include an independent work of a minimum of 30 ECTS credits. It is expected that the topic of the master's degree is connected to the academic field to which you are seeking admission for the PhD.

We can offer:
- Salary at pay grade 54 upon appointment (Code 1017) on the government salary scale (equivalent to NOK 482 200 per year). Further promotions are made according to length of service in the position.
- A good and professionally inspiring working environment
- Enrolment in the Norwegian Public Service Pension Fund
- Good welfare benefits

Your application must include:
A cover letter including a brief account of your research interests and motivation for applying for the position.
Project proposal: A research proposal of 5-8 pages must accompany the application. The proposal should present the topic, the research problem(s) and choice of theory and methods, according to the specific requirements given above. The proposal should also include a progress plan for the different parts of the project.
Admittance to the PhD programme will be based on the research proposal.

- CV
- Transcripts and diplomas showing completion of the bachelor's and master's degrees.
- Relevant certificates/references
- A list of academic publications
- Academic publications that you want to submit for assessment.
- Master Thesis
- If you have a master's degree from an institution outside of the Nordic countries, or a 2-year discipline- based master's degree (or the equivalent) in a subject area other than the one associated with the application, you may later in the application process be asked to submit an overview of the syllabus for the degree you have completed.
- The names and contact information for two reference persons. One of them must be the main advisor for the master's thesis or equivalent thesis.
- The application and appendices with certified translations into English or a Scandinavian language must be uploaded at Jobbnorge.

Closing date: June 3, 2021. The application has to be marked 2021/6392.
Applications submitted without a project description or applications sent as e-mails will not be considered. Only submitted documents will be subjected to an expert assessment.

General information:
Additional information about the position is obtainable by contacting the Professor Annelin Eriksen annelin.eriksen@uib.no
Practical questions regarding the application procedures should be directed to HR Manger Bjørn Arild Petersen, Bjorn.Petersen@uib.no.
Appointed research fellows will be admitted to the PhD programme at the Faculty of Social Sciences. Questions about the programme may be directed to Adviser-PhD Hanne.Gravermoen@uib.no.

The University of Bergen applies the principle of public access to information when recruiting staff for academic positions.
Information about applicants may be made public even if the applicant has asked not to be named on the list of persons who have applied. The applicant must be notified if the request to be omitted is not met.
The successful applicant must comply with the guidelines that apply to the position at all times.
For further information about the recruitment process, click here.

Life as a PhD candidate at UiB
Marion Claireaux tells about life and work as a PhD candidate at UiB.
Video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nrtp6VxMeJ4&index=2&list=PLf8ZIYfAO0qjhROTj6SthDbSScgDISO6G

About The University of Bergen
The University of Bergen is a renowned educational and research institution, organised into seven faculties and approximately 54 institutes and academic centres. Campus is located in the centre of Bergen with university areas at Nygårdshøyden, Haukeland, Marineholmen, Møllendalsveien and Årstad.
There are seven departments and three centres at Faculty of Social Sciences. Read more about the faculty and departments.

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