Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the SapienCE Centre of Excellence

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Postdoctoral Research Fellow position
There is a vacancy of one position as postdoctoral research fellow in Cultural and Cognitive Evolution at the Department of Psychosocial Science, Faculty of Psychology, University of Bergen (UiB). The position is for a fixed-term period of 3 years and is associated with an NFR financed Centre of Excellence, the Centre for Early Sapiens Behaviour (SapienCE).

About the project/work tasks:
- The SapienCE Centre of Excellence, established in 2017, focuses on the behavioural origins of Homo sapiens in southern Africa between 100,000 and 50,000 years ago. Its main goal is to unravel where, when, and why early humans started to think and behave the way we do today, by combining archaeological excavations and dating with climate modelling on the one hand and cognitive and behavioural research on the other.
- The postdoctoral fellow will be part of an interdisciplinary project linking the three major clusters, with the goal to investigate the role of mushrooms for cultural and cognitive evolution.
- Main supervisor will be Prof. Dr. Andrea Bender (UiB); co-supervision by a member of one of the other teams will be possible, depending on the specialization chosen by the candidate.

The postdoctoral project
- will investigate the cognitive behaviours involved in the gathering and consumption of wild mushrooms, with a focus on knowledge acquisition and organization, recognition processes, risk assessment, and decision-making under uncertainty
- can be expanded in one of several directions, depending on the candidate’s expertise and interests, including
  - a review of the cultural history of mushroom foraging and/or early human diets more generally
  - a comparison with the usage of mushrooms by non-human primates
  - a phylogenetic analysis of its evolutionary trajectories
  - an exploration of its potential impacts on cultural and cognitive evolution
- is expected to contribute to the integration of diverse datasets across disciplines and to the development of a theoretical model on the behavioural origins of Homo sapiens

Qualifications and personal qualities:
- At the time of application, the applicant must have successfully defended the Ph.D. in psychology or a related field with a focus on cognition such as anthropology, archaeology, biology, or cognitive science.
- The applicant must have expertise in designing, running, and analysing cognitive experiments with humans and/or field studies on cognitive behaviour in primates; additional experience in at least one of the following methods is desirable:
  - cross-cultural and/or cross-linguistic research
  - cultural transmission studies
  - anthropological, archaeological or primatological fieldwork, ideally with a focus on ethnobiology
  - harvesting large-scale ethnographic databases
  - phylogenetic comparative analyses with Bayesian computational tools
- A potential to publish high-impact articles is required.
- The applicant must be able to work independently and in a structured manner, yet must also have the ability to cooperate with others. It is especially advantageous to have had experience in cross-disciplinary collaboration.
- High proficiency in both written and spoken English is required.
- Broad scientific interest beyond the applicant’s own field is expected. Familiarity with research from the fields of culture and cognition and/or of cultural and cognitive evolution will be considered an advantage (but is not required). Interest in and expertise on mushrooms is also desirable, but neither necessary nor sufficient in itself.

Personal and relational qualities will be emphasized. Research experience, ambitions, and potential will also count when evaluating the candidates.
About the position of postdoctoral research fellow:
The position of postdoctoral research fellow is a fixed-term appointment with the primary objective of qualifying the appointee for work in top academic positions. The fixed-term period for this position is 3 years. Individuals may not be hired for more than one fixed-term period as a postdoctoral research fellow at the same institution.

Upon appointment, applicants must submit a project proposal for the qualifying work including a work schedule. For postdoctoral research fellow positions associated with externally financed projects, the completion of the project proposal for the qualifying work will take place in consultation with the project/centre manager. It is a requirement that the project is completed in the course of the period of employment.

We can offer:
- Exciting development opportunities as part of your role in a strong professional environment
- Salary at pay grade 61 (code 1352 / pay range 24) according to the state salary scale upon appointment. This currently amounts to an annual salary of NOK 553 500 before taxes. Further promotions are made according to length of service. For particularly highly qualified applicants, a higher salary may be considered
- Enrolment in the Norwegian Public Service Pension Fund
- Good welfare benefits

Your application must include:
- A brief account (in English) of your research interests and motivation for applying for the position. This should include a paragraph each on how the qualification criteria described above are met, and how the research interests pertain to the advertised position.
- The names and contact information for two reference persons. One of these must be the main supervisor from the PhD programme.
- CV (in English)
- Transcripts and diplomas (higher education)
- Relevant certificates
- A list of any works of a scientific nature (publication list), if applicable.
- Any publications in your name you want to be included in the evaluation of your application

Please note that applications, along with the information and attachments linked to the application in Jobbnorge, will be evaluated after the closing date for applications. Attachments must be in English or a Scandinavian language, and any translations must be certified. It is the applicant’s responsibility to ensure that all the necessary information has been submitted by the closing date for applications.

It is particularly important that each of the attachments that are to be taken into account in the assessment is uploaded in full as an attachment to your application.

General information:
Detailed information about the position can be obtained by contacting:

- Andrea Bender, Department of Psychosocial Science, Faculty of Psychology, University of Bergen, Andrea.Bender@uib.no

The state labour force shall reflect the diversity of Norwegian society to the greatest extent possible. People with immigrant backgrounds, gap in their CV and people with disabilities are encouraged to apply for the position. Information about disabilities or gap in CV can be used for registration purposes at University of Bergen.

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.

Further information about our employment process can be found here.

About The University of Bergen (UiB)
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 five departments and two centres at Faculty of Psychology. Read more about the faculty and departments.

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