

## **Suggestions from Archaeology and Conservation for IAKH's plan for human resources for the years 2018-2022**

At a meeting held on the 10<sup>th</sup> of October, the Archaeology group outlined the needs and ambition for the research and teaching in Archaeology in the coming years. Two fields were identified which need strengthening to fulfil the demands in teaching, research and not least societal demands:

Archaeometry/Environmental Archaeology and Critical Cultural Heritage. At a joint meeting held on the 17<sup>th</sup> of October, the Archaeology Group and the Conservation Group decided to submit a joint proposal for the 2018-2022 plan for human resources for IAKH. This decision is based on long-term strategies for better integration of common goals for teaching and research within the two disciplines.

We propose the following three positions (in a non-prioritized order):

- **A full-time Associate Professor position within the field of Archaeometry/Environmental Archaeology.**
- **A full-time Associate Professor position within the field of Critical Cultural Heritage.**
- **A half time position as lab-assistant at the *Saving Oseberg* Laboratory.**

*We propose that the lab-assistant should be a joint position between KHM and LAKH, where both institutions cover half of the cost for a full-time position. LAKH's financial contribution will thus be 1/2 position.*

We will briefly outline the needs and logic behind the suggestion.

The programmes for Archaeology and Conservation have long wished to develop more integrated approaches to teaching and research in relation to the natural sciences. This integration would capitalize on disciplinary overlaps, as well as existing capacities.

Staff members of both Conservation and Archaeology believe that a position in Archaeometry/Environmental Archaeology is crucial for the future of both disciplines in Norway. Such a permanent position, tied into the "Environmental Humanities", would strengthen and develop the natural science aspects of both educational programmes in line with international disciplinary standards and new technologies that continually define and redefine these fields. Teaching and research grounded in the natural sciences have to date been partially supported in Conservation Studies, while at Archaeology the existing course on Archaeometry is primarily taught by temporary staff. In addition, members of the Archaeology staff are teaching in object-oriented and material-oriented courses in Conservation. A permanent position in Archaeometry/Environmental Archaeology, anchored at Archaeology, but serving the interface of the two disciplines, would provide consistency in the Archaeology program, and strengthen the quality of the natural science components for both programmes, well beyond that which can be supported today. It is important that both programs live up to contemporary expectations of the disciplines, and that we provide students with the knowledge and skills asked for in their future labour market. We see that other institutions are increasingly moving in the direction of the natural

sciences, and we have a responsibility for ensuring that the educational programs in Oslo will remain attractive to both Norwegian and foreign students in the future. In the HUMEVAL there is also a call for handling the national need for lab-based research in Archaeology, which this position will aim at.

The position in Critical Heritage is tied into the HEI-project of the faculty's *Faglige prioriteringer III*, in which both Conservation and Archaeology are partners. As identified in HUMEVAL, *Humaniora i Norge* (Meld. St. 25) and Horizon 2020 one of the areas in the humanities with the most significant societal impact is critical cultural heritage studies. This is also a field where IAKH can develop a strong and long-term partnership with the heritage sector and strengthen teaching through project-based, work-life anchored components. Teaching within this field has in the past 10 years mainly been done by temporary staff. Currently, there is only ½ a position with this field of study (Fredriksen). The increasing demands for public outreach and engagement with the public discourses is one aspect of this need, the ethics and juridical aspects of cultural heritage another. Many students with a degree in Archaeology or Conservation find work in the heritage management sector, which is increasingly expecting students to have prior training in this field.

To support both the new Associate Professor in Archaeometry/Environmental Archaeology and current staff at Archaeology and Conservation, a lab-assistant is essential for those who require access to the laboratory developed for the Saving Oseberg project at KHM, which will eventually be located at Økern. Today both Archaeology and Conservation depend on access to the Saving Oseberg laboratory facilities for a range of analyses, and access is often restricted due to the limited resources at the lab. At Conservation there is already a great and urgent need for a lab-assistant who can maintain the laboratory equipment and assist students and staff members in carrying out analysis, beyond the existing 20 % position, which does not extend to teaching. Furthermore, the kinds of research cooperation that the Oseberg laboratory can offer would be most fruitfully exploited if there were a close and prolonged personal relationship between participating researchers. At present no such sustained relationship exists. We believe that such a joint laboratory position between IAKH and KHM would be a significant prerequisite for consolidating the research infrastructure at the University (as recent white papers have highlighted). Within the archaeological academic environment, we notice that applications for research funding are already being rejected on the grounds that they do not meet the demands for integrating lab-based research in the discourses of the field of archaeology. The position would also make sense in terms of the forthcoming co-localization of Conservation and Archaeology. With a physical co-localization of Archaeology and Conservation and joint access to laboratory equipment with a permanent contact person in the form of a new joint position with KHM, Conservation and Archaeology would be very close to achieving the goal of efficient research infrastructure. This may lead to new and innovative research and higher quality of teaching.

Proposers:

Faggruppene for Arkeologi & Konservering