

Department of Culture Studies and Oriental Languages

Doctoral research fellowship within the project

“In 2016: How it felt to live in the Arab World five years after the ‘Arab Spring’”

Description

One PhD Research Fellowship (SKO 1017) in contemporary Arabic literature (incl. film) or Social Media studies is available at the Department of Cultural Studies and Oriental Languages (IKOS) at the University of Oslo (UiO). IKOS seeks to recruit a PhD candidate with excellent research qualifications who will work on a doctoral project within the range of the research project *In 2016: How it felt to live in the Arab World five years after the “Arab Spring”* [link to project website at IKOS]. The project is funded by the Norwegian Research Council (NFR).

In 2016 takes its inspiration from H.-U. Gumbrecht’s seminal study *In 1926*. Its key objective is to identify the most important dispositives with which Arabs will conceive, in 2016, of the world(s) they live in, and the categories they use to structure their “lifeworld(s)”. The PhD candidate’s own research, its guiding questions and approach shall fit harmonically into those of the framing of *In 2016* project. The successful applicant will form part of a core research project group consisting of two professors at UiO, one postdoctoral researcher, and her/himself.

The applicant’s own project shall base itself mainly on fresh material appearing in Egypt or Tunisia in the course of the target year 2016. The material shall either consist of Arabic literature (in the wider sense, incl. film etc.) published during this year, or of selected postings in some social media from the same period. Primary sources will be collected, preferably, during two longer stays in the target country in 2016. Analysis shall have a focus on everyday culture and *Lebenswelten* and be informed by the overall question of “how it felt” to live five years after the ‘Arab Spring’ in a country that had been pioneering the movement.

The successful candidate will participate in the research training program organized by the Faculty of Humanities (cf. regulations and supplementary provisions for the faculty’s researcher training) and must engage in the designated research activities on a full-time basis. The PhD research fellowship is granted with the aim of leading to the successful completion of a doctoral dissertation (monograph or article-based) to be defended in public for the PhD degree. Applicants already holding a PhD degree will not be considered for this fellowship.

The project is expected to start in October 2015 and will be available for a period of three years. The PhD thesis is expected to be completed within this time frame.

Qualifications and Personal Skills

- A Master's degree or equivalent in relevant subjects, particularly Arabic studies, Modern Arabic literature or film, Arabic Media Studies, Cultural history of the Arab world, Anthropology of the modern Middle East. The Master's degree has to have been achieved by the time of application.
- Excellent command of relevant varieties of Arabic.

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

- the project's scientific and innovative merits
- the project's relevance for the overarching *In 2016* project
- the applicant's academic and personal qualifications to complete the dissertation within the given time frame
- the applicant's ability to complete research training
- good collaboration skills and an ability to join interdisciplinary academic communities.

The short-listed candidates will be called for an interview.

We offer

- salary level 50-56 (NOK 421 100 - 465 300, depending on level of expertise)
- a challenging and stimulating working environment
- attractive welfare arrangements

Submissions

Applicants must submit the following attachments with the electronic application, preferably in pdf format:

- letter of application
- Curriculum Vitae
- list of publications
- transcript of records of the candidate's master's degree. Foreign applicants are advised to attach an explanation of their university's grading system
- project description, including a detailed progress plan for the project (maximum 5 pages, see Template for project descriptions)

The UiO's electronic recruitment system will ask you to upload the attachments in the above mentioned order. Transcript of records should be uploaded as 'Attachment' under 'Other'. Please note that all documents must be in English or a Scandinavian language.

Research proposal

The research proposal must not exceed 14,000 characters (including spaces and footnotes) and is expected to answer the following seven areas:

1. main objective and summary of the project
2. background of the project
3. theoretical framework
4. research question(s) and expected findings (hypothesis)
5. method
6. proposed dissemination
7. progress plan

All research proposals must be based on this template and applications with a research proposal longer than 14,000 characters will not be considered. A list of publications no longer than 3000 characters can be submitted additionally. See also Template for research proposal.

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.

See also Guidelines for appointments to research fellowships at the Faculty of Humanities.

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

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