

Self-assessment of Scientific quality – Panel 5 (MAKS 3 sider)

The area of the evaluation panel consists of archaeology, conservation, history, cultural history and history of ideas. The five areas are organized in three different departments at the University of Oslo: Department of Archaeology, Conservation and History (IAKH); Department of Culture Studies and Oriental Languages (IKOS); and Department of Philosophy, Classics, History of Art and Ideas (IFIKK).

Brief overview of the research activities within the area

Archaeology is integrated through four related themes, all of which are cross-disciplinary: 1) critical heritage studies, 2) environmental archaeology and archaeometry, 3) prehistoric technology, innovation and societal transformation, and 4) historical and contemporary archaeology. Geographically the focus is on three areas: the Nordic region, the Mediterranean and southern Africa.

Conservation is an interdisciplinary field with strong bonds to archaeology, history, art history and chemistry. The research area is at present painting conservation, with emphases on medieval paintings and church art and late-19th/early-20th century paintings from the era of emergent independence.

History has a broad specter, ranging from Norwegian history from the Viking period to contemporary history, Western European history from antiquity until today, and the modern history of the Middle East. Thematically the research is focused mainly on economic and social history, political history, and contemporary international and transnational history.

Cultural history has strengths in the history of knowledge, museology and themes related to the *Norwegian Folklore Archive*. History of knowledge draws together cultural history, history of science, museum studies, conceptual history, literary history, and intellectual history. In museology, the weight is on museums and the history of knowledge; museums and the politics of identity; and how museums organize and manage culture and nature. The *Norwegian Folklore Archive* acts as a center for explorations into the field of digital humanities.

History of Ideas has its main focus on children and childhood in history, 18th Century intellectual history and media history, the history of the university, the history of punishment, political philosophy, the cultural struggles in the 20th Century and New Testament Apocrypha, Augustine. History of ideas has also initiated and contributed extensively in research on the role of periodicals in the gestation and dissemination of Enlightenment ideas and habits of mind in Northern Europe.

Scientific priorities with special emphasis on fields where researchers have made substantial contributions to the international research community over the last five to ten years

Faculty prioritized areas

Three areas in the panel are among the disciplines prioritized by the faculty for the period 2015-2018 ([Faglige prioriteringer](#)). The areas were selected on the basis of their research strength, defined as level of publications, external funding, research training and research collaboration.

Archaeology has developed several research projects within its prioritized fields and has at the moment four research projects funded by the Research Council: "Using the Past in the Past. Viking Age Scandinavia as a Renaissance?"; "Historical Ecology and State Formation in the Shashi-Limpopo Region in Southern Africa: A Cross-Disciplinary Approach"; "Meeting Make History. Hunters' Rock Art and Lands of Identity in Mesolithic Northern Europe"; "Thanatos: Dead bodies live data. A study of funerary material from the Hellenistic-Roman-Byzantine town Hierapolis in Phrygia, Turkey"; and a mobility stipend for "Archaeology of Dwelling. Architecture, household, and social structure in Scandinavia through deep time, 1800BCE - 1000CE".

Cultural history and museology is prioritized with emphasis on history of knowledge and museology. History of Knowledge has a significant rise in externally funded projects, international collaboration and highly ranked publications. The research covers and explores a wide range of different fields of knowledge and practice, such as historiography, political discourse, cartography, the cultural history of animals, early forms of anthropology and ethnology, cultural encounters, as well as the all-encompassing field of natural history. In the field of museology, the Centre for Museum Studies (established in 2011) acts as the focal institution aiming to organize research, provide a meeting-place for long term collaborations and to contribute to new knowledge and new practices in the museum field. The centre is host to the projects "Museum: A culture of copies" and "Synchronizing the World. Globalization and Multiple Times" which are both funded by the Research Council. In addition Mattias Ekman held a personal Post-Doctoral Research Fellowship from the Research Council for his project "*Spatial Orders of Memory and Knowledge*".

Middle East Studies is prioritized by the Faculty. Most of the researchers within this field are located at IKOS and are placed in HUMEVAL panel 4. The Middle East historians at IAKH cooperate with their IKOS colleagues and reinforce this area with a strong international publishing profile and several PhD candidates.

Other strong fields

Medieval studies is an interdisciplinary field with high activity. The group has two projects financed by the Research Council: "The Nordic 'Civil Wars' in the High Middle Ages in a comparative perspective" and "Graphicacy and Authority in Early Europe: Graphic Signs of Power and Faith in the Early Middle Ages (c. 300-1000)". The two historians leading the former project have been selected for a year's stay at the Centre for Advanced Study, The Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters in 2017-18. The PI of the latter project has been granted membership at the Institute for Advanced Study at Princeton for the fall of 2016.

Conservation is host to the interdisciplinary project "After the Black Death: Painting and Polychrome Sculpture in Norway, 1350 – 1550", financed by the Research Council. The project is a collaboration between conservators, historians, archaeologists, art historians and chemists.

History of childhood has made substantial contributions to the international research community and has a research project financed by the Research Council: "Tiny Voices from the Past: New Perspectives on Childhood in Early Europe". The project has also developed a big network of international scholars (50-60 are actively involved).

History of the production of culture has been awarded a HERA-project with a PI at IAKH for the project "Enterprise of Culture" and a mobility stipend from the Research Council for the project "Gangs, Brands and Intellectual Property Rights: Interdisciplinary Comparative Study of Outlaw Motorcycle Gangs and Luxury Brands".

Economic history in Early Modern Scandinavia has been awarded funding from the Research Council for the project "Copper in the Early Modern Period. A Comparative Study of Work and Everyday Life in Falun and Røros". The project is a collaborative project between the University of Oslo and Uppsala University.

The institution's strategy for developing the area, including strategies for scientific publications, knowledge exchange, and the role of external funding

All three departments give high priority to further increase the level of international publication, collaboration, and acquisition of research funding, having strategies tailored to the Faculty's policy and priorities. This includes starting at an early stage in people's academic careers, with bachelor courses and master programs in English as well as student mobility schemes within the Erasmus structure. Furthermore, it includes a focus on international recruitment. For example at IAKH, five of the eight permanent positions advertised the last three years have been filled by international candidates.

Specifically on strategies:

Department of Archaeology, Conservation and History has a strategic plan, [IAKHorisont 2020](#) (in Norwegian). To support high-quality research and internationalization the department will offer extra research funding to prolific researchers, encourage employees to spend sabbaticals abroad, and give extra support to staff members who have a publication record, a research proposal, and a CV that make them serious contenders for ERC grants or SFF status.

Department of Culture Studies and Oriental Languages has a strategic plan, [Strategisk plan 2010-2020](#) (in Norwegian). The department wants to contribute to national and international collaboration, strengthen the strong fields and maintain the high level of external funding.

Department of Philosophy, Classics, History of Art and Ideas has a strategic plan, [IFIKK 2020](#) (in Norwegian). The department will continue to evaluate publishing when sabbaticals are offered, give all researchers a limited amount of research funding, and encourage staff to apply for external funding.