

RESEARCHER

Job description

A position as a researcher (SKO 1108) is available at the Department of Culture Studies and Oriental Languages, University of Oslo. The position will be for 20%, for a period of five years (2019-2023).

The researcher will take part in the ERC-funded project *Whales of Power: Aquatic Mammals, Devotional Practices, and Environmental Change in Maritime East Asia*. *Whales of Power* is concerned with the comparative study of human-cetacean relations in maritime East Asia, as expressed in popular worship practices and beliefs. We will examine several of these traditions in different parts of the region, through a combination of historical and ethnographic research. Marine mammals and associated worship practices will serve as a prism, through which we approach human responses to socio-economic and environmental change in Asian coastal communities. The project has three important theoretical objectives: 1) apply recent theoretical developments associated with “environmental humanities” to the comparative study of popular religion; 2) reconsider the role of local worship traditions in the Asian Secular Age, examining the new meanings attributed to ritual practices; and 3) establish a new comparative paradigm in Asian studies.

The researcher will help with the Vietnam-related part of the project, which focuses on Whale God (Cá Ông) worship in south and central Vietnam. S/he must have excellent Vietnamese language skills (oral and written). Tasks include:

- Reading, summarizing and translating Vietnamese written sources.
- Collecting data on existing Whale God temples (number, location, festival dates etc.).
- Establishing and maintaining connections with Vietnamese researchers, authorities, and religious institutions.
- Translating relevant documents (e.g. information sheet) into Vietnamese.
- Taking part in interviews in the field (i.e. in Vietnam), and interpreting if necessary.
- Smaller organizational tasks for the project as a whole (e.g. updating the website, organizing academic events, etc.).

For more information about *Whales of Power*, see the project website [add link].

Qualification requirements

- A Master’s degree
- Excellent command of Vietnamese (oral and written, including academic language).
- Good oral and written communication skills in English. Working knowledge of Norwegian is an added advantage.
- Personal suitability and motivation for the position.
- Some experience with academic research.

We offer

- Salary NOK per annum depending on qualifications
- A professionally stimulating working environment

- Membership in the [Norwegian Public Service Pension Fund](#)
- [Attractive welfare benefits](#)

How to apply

The application must include:

- Application letter describing the applicant's qualifications and motivation for the position
- Curriculum Vitae (with a list of education, positions, teaching experience, administrative experience and other qualifying activities, including a complete list of publications)
- Transcript of records of your Bachelor's and Master's degrees. Applicants with education from a foreign university must attach an explanation of their university's grading system

Please note that all documents must be in English or a Scandinavian language.

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.

The application with attachments must be delivered in our electronic recruiting system, please follow the link "apply for this job".

Short-listed candidates will be invited for an interview.

Formal regulations

See also [regulations](#) as well as guidelines for [the application assessment process](#) and [appointments](#) to research fellowships.

Following the Freedom of Information Act (Offentleglova) § 25, Chapter 2, demographic information about the applicant may be used in the public list of applicants even if the applicant opts out from the entry in the public application list.

The University of Oslo has an [Acquisition of Rights Agreement](#) for the purpose of securing rights to intellectual property created by its employees, including research results.

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

Deadline:

[så snart som mulig etter utlysning]

Contact persons:

Project leader: Aike P. Rots, a.p.rots@ikos.uio.no

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HR Officer: Steffen Remvik, steffen.remvik@hf.uio.no