

To the ILOS department board

From: LCE (Literature, Cognition and Emotions) FPIII

Ad: D 1/2/20 "Proposed revision of the ILOS plan for positions" (Meeting on 16 March 2020)

In their note for discussion from 9 March, the ILOS department leadership recommends not filling the associate professor position in Comparative Literature that is linked to the LCE research and teaching initiative (FPIII). The position was guaranteed ("sikret") by the department board as the department's contribution to the initiative and indication of support for LCE.

In the assumption that this commitment would be honoured, the LCE group has taken up work, fulfilling the plan outlined in the application, and begun preparations for a Centre of Excellence (SFF) application.

The position contributes decisively to building critical mass in research expertise for our planned application for a Centre of Excellence with ILOS as a host institution. The deadline for the application is likely to be in November. It will be necessary to announce the position before the summer, and to fill it, for the LCE group to write an application that stands up in comparison with other applications where the host institution commits itself to give full support. It will not be possible to write an application that is creditable and competitive without such indicators of the host institution's commitment. As a consequence, we would have to stop the work on this application.

The LCE group and further collaborators have been working towards a strong interdisciplinary proposal for a Centre of Excellence that is one among the proposals selected by the Faculty of Humanities for special support last year. We hope that the ILOS department board will find it possible to maintain the position and support the application, which is the only one coming from the department, and to give us the opportunity to turn this extraordinary interdisciplinary constellation into a potential future Centre of Excellence.

The LCE research and teaching initiative

Karin Kukkonen, professor in Comparative Literature (ILOS), and Rolf Reber, professor in Cognitive Psychology (PSI)

Reiko Abe Auestad, professor in Japan Studies (IKOS)

Silvio Bär, professor in Ancient Greek (IFIKK)

Halvor Eifring, professor in China Studies (IKOS)

Stephan Guth, professor in Arabic Language and Middle Eastern Studies (IKOS)

Bruno Laeng, professor in Cognitive Neuropsychology (PSI)

Ljiljana Šarić, professor in Central-European and Balkan Studies (ILOS)

Thomas Schubert, professor in Social Psychology (PSI)

Beate Seibt, professor in Social Psychology (PSI)

Tone Selboe, professor in Comparative Literature (ILOS)

Stijn Vervaet, associate professor in Central-European and Balkan Studies (ILOS)

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