



Til: Instituttstyret

Fra: Instituttleder

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Sakstype: Vedtakssak

Møtesaksnr: 4/2025

Møtedato: 26. februar 2025

Notatdato: 14. februar 2025

Arkivsaksnr:

Saksbehandler: Inger-Lise Schwab

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## Kunngjøring av stipendiatstilling (SKO 1017) i samfunnsgeografi (ekstern finansiert)

Stillingen er tilknyttet Andrea Nightingales ERC Advanced Grant «*Unruly entanglements of sociomaterial change, knowledge and power in energy frontiers* (UNRULY)».

Stillingen er fullfinansiert i tre år.

Stillingen ble ikke besatt etter utlysning høsten 2024 og styret vedtok i møte 27. november 2024 å sende saken tilbake til instituttleder. Stillingen foreslås lyst ut på nytt med revidert kunngjøringstekst.

### FORSLAG TIL VEDTAK

*Styret ved Institutt for sosiologi og samfunnsgeografi godkjenner kunngjøringsteksten og vedtar å lyse ut én stipendiatstilling (SKO 1017) for tre år uten pliktarbeid eller fire år med pliktarbeid.*

Anniken Hagelund  
instituttleder

Inger-Lise Schwab  
kontorsjef

*Vedlegg*  
Kunngjøringsteksten

## **PhD Research Fellow (1) in Human Geography within ERC research project UNRULY**

### **Job description**

One PhD research fellowship (SKO 1017) in human geography is available at the Department of Sociology and Human Geography.

The position forms a part of the ERC Advanced Grant-funded research project UNRULY – *Unruly entanglements of sociomaterial change, knowledge and power in energy frontiers*. The position is for three years, or four years with a 25% teaching component. The position is dedicated to a Nepali case study. The successful candidate will join the overall UNRULY research project which has an additional PhD student and two postdoctoral researchers.

### **About the project**

UNRULY is dedicated to understanding uncertainty related to hydropower projects in the face of climate change. The project explores how entangled social, political and environmental processes shape change. We are especially interested in the non-linear processes of change which are not factored into existing models such that efforts to manage the future create more uncertainty. At present, existing research methods have not kept pace with social science theoretical developments which reject a conceptual separation of social from environmental and material processes. UNRULY is an ambitious, anti-colonial project that seeks to creatively challenge existing research conventions and reimagine novel approaches to our shared planetary crisis.

The project builds from theoretical advances in geography, science and technology studies (STS), feminist theory, socioenvironmental systems and cognate disciplines on reframing ontologies of 'environment' and 'society'. The project seeks to advance methodological approaches that take these conceptual insights seriously. Methodologically, the project will experiment with acoustic methods, embodied methods, story-telling and stochastic mathematics to think through how uncertainty shapes energy justice concerns and outcomes of renewable energy projects, working on the ground in Nepal and Sub-Saharan Africa to co-create new insights with local people.

The UNRULY team is led by Professor Andrea J. Nightingale and will be comprised of two postdoctoral fellows, two doctoral fellows (PhD Candidates), three research affiliates, and an advisory board of international academic leaders.

All project activities will be conducted in English.

Contact [Prof. Nightingale](#) for a description of the project.

### **More about the position**

The doctoral fellow's independent project is expected to engage with UNRULY's ambitions to advance theory and methods in order to understand how uncertainty and chaotic change shape efforts to expand energy access. It is desirable to demonstrate strong interdisciplinary and creative thinking skills as well as an ability to work in Nepal.

The PhD fellow will be dedicated to advancing the Nepal case study. This case will investigate how the recent changes in governance interact with developmental ambitions to expand energy production and export. Nepal has undergone a revolution in the structure of the state in the past 12 years which combined with donor supported climate change programs, technological investments and social-cultural change have shaped the way that renewable energy is implemented and the struggles for justice that result. The fellow is expected to be able to carry out independent research

in rural areas of Nepal and to achieve a level of local language competence. Experience with participatory research methods and knowledge of decolonial practices will be an advantage. The fellow will also work with local research assistants to help with translation and participatory methods.

Fellows will be core members of the UNRULY research team as well as part of the research group on Sustainable Transformations, which provides a stimulating scientific context for research on environment-society and sustainability challenges. They will also have opportunities to engage with Professor Giulia di Nunno of the Risk and Stochastics group at the Department of Mathematics, UiO and other colleagues across the university. The project includes a close collaboration with Dr. Helene Ahlborg of the division of Environmental Systems Analysis at Chalmers Institute of Technology, and Dr. Aaron Rice of the K. Lisa Yang Center for Conservation Bioacoustics at Cornell University. The positions include opportunities for research exchanges at these institutions.

Candidates who are creative with an interest in interdisciplinarity and sociomaterial change are strongly encouraged to apply. Training in methods will be provided as needed. Note that this is not a socioenvironmental systems analysis project; candidates who come with that background need to show an ability to work outside of systems frameworks in the project proposal.

The positions require participation in the [Faculty of Social Sciences' organized research education programme](#) and the completion of a doctorate in human geography. The candidates who are hired will automatically be admitted to the PhD programme.

Residence within commuting distance from Oslo is expected during the appointment, but the PhD fellows will also spend time abroad for training and research.

### **Qualification requirements and assessment criteria**

Applicants will be assessed on the quality and relevance of the project proposal, their academic grades and their academic and personal prerequisites to carry out the project. The hiring process will include an interview.

- Applicants must hold a master's degree (or equivalent) with a minimum of five years at bachelor's and master's degree level in either geography, anthropology, science and technology studies (STS), (socio)environmental systems analysis, environmental studies, or cognate disciplines. If candidates can demonstrate suitable professional expertise related to the social sciences, master's degrees in energy or engineering will be considered.
- Applicants must have average grades of A or B in their master's degree.
- Outstanding written and oral proficiency in English as documented by:
  - TOEFL, with a minimum result of 550 on the Paper-based Test (PBT), or 80 on the Internet-Based Test (iBT) OR
  - IELTS, with the result 6.0.
- Methodological skills in **one** or more of the following:
  - Qualitative methods in social science, including participatory, anti-colonial and feminist methods.
  - Quantitative methods in social science or research in uncertainty and risk.
  - Interdisciplinary conceptual and methodological frameworks.
- Ability to do fieldwork in Nepal.
- Ability to contribute to the aims of the UNRULY project.

### We offer

- Salary **NOK XXX-XXX** per annum ...
- A professionally stimulating working environment
- Attractive **welfare benefits** and a generous **pension agreement**, in addition to Oslo's family-friendly environment with its rich opportunities for culture and outdoor activities

### How to apply

The application should be written in English and must include:

- Application letter (1-2 pages). Please describe your motivation for applying for a PhD based on a Nepal case study and explain how your background, research and experience are relevant to the UNRULY research project. Indicate which of the qualification requirements you meet.
- Project proposal. 2-3 pages (maximum, candidates who exceed this limit will be disadvantaged). Please address the following 'working hypothesis': 'New relations emerging within energy transitions generate unruliness beyond existing risk assessments and justice concerns. Identifying and characterizing this space requires creative thinking.' The proposal should address how you would approach the project conceptually and methodologically and its relationship to your current experience. Please include a timeline of suggested activities and how you imagine filling any gaps in your current experience.
- 3-page CV summarizing education, positions, research experience, and other activities. The period of enrolment (admission-completion) in the master's study programme must be specified.
- A complete list of publications (if relevant).
- Academic diplomas and transcripts (university degrees only).
- List of 2 references (name, relation to candidate, e-mail and phone number).

The application with attachments must be delivered in our **electronic recruiting system**. Foreign applicants are advised to attach an explanation of their university's grading system. Please note that all documents must be in English (or a Scandinavian language in the case of transcripts; the application materials should be in English).

The final hiring decision is the responsibility of the department's board and will be based on an evaluation of the overall qualifications of the shortlisted candidates as well as the department's needs.