

PhD Fellowships

European Research Council: Advanced Grant

Egalitarianism: Forms, Processes, Comparisons

The Department of Social Anthropology at the University of Bergen (Norway) is currently initiating a major EU-funded research project on Egalitarianism. At least 3 PhD Fellowships (initially tenured for three years) are being offered for candidates with a strong degree in Social Anthropology (or its equivalent in another Social Science discipline) and interested in pursuing field research within the overarching frame of the project.

The Egalitarianism Project is directed by Prof. Bruce Kapferer and involves the active participation of internationally recognized scholars in anthropology and cognate disciplines. The Project is articulated within a global network of other institutions in the UK, Scandinavia, Australasia/Pacific, Europe, India, Africa and the Americas.

The Egalitarianism Project represents a comparative examining of the historical and contemporary forces of Egalitarianism. This is broadly conceived as involving forces underpinning the efforts of human beings at any point across the globe to break free from forms of constraint, limitation, and oppression of a socio-political and cultural nature. One idea behind the Project is to critically pursue conventional perspectives on egalitarian processes through empirical work on specific cases, with a view to opening up understanding of relevance to contemporary socio-political orders, social and economic re-alignments flowing from technological innovations, current crises concerning ecology and the environment, etc. It is stressed that an emphasis in the Project is to treat Egalitarianism as a broad concept embracing issues relating to equality, equity, equalitarian societies (utopias), communitarianism, participatory democracy, social justice, distributive forms of power and wealth, the Commons, etc. but as also to do with social movements or various forms of socially organized desire for ending or overcoming social, political and cultural impediments to the realization of human potential.

Successful candidates will be prepared to participate with a team of committed researchers and to pursue independent research. Those selected will be located in Bergen, Norway, for their initial preparations for research and for the writing-up period following research leading to the PhD. Successful candidates will be expected to participate in various field workshops. All successful candidates will receive a yearly stipend of £ 41,565 plus travel expenses to and from the field as well as other normal field expenses (e.g. equipment) over and above personal maintenance.

Applications should be made through the *JobbNorge* interface and must conform to the requirements stated there:

<http://www.jobbnorge.no/ledige-stillinger/stilling/101873/3-phd-fellowships-at-the-department-of-social-anthropology>

Prospective candidates should submit their CV and one or two paragraphs indicating their major research interests.

A copy of the application letter, project description and CV should be sent to Hanna Skartveit: hanna.skartveit@sosantr.uib.no

The closing date for application is 20 July 2014.

Successful candidates should expect to begin their tenure at the start of September 2014 or soon thereafter.

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