

# Postdoctoral fellowship (fixed-term contract) in the research project Locally Crafted Empires (LoCiS), School of Culture and Society

The research project *Locally Crafted Empires: Intersecting identities under Imperial rule in Western Asia as expressed in local portrait cultures (1st c. BCE-5th c. CE)* (LoCiS) headed by Professor of Classical Archaeology and Art, Rubina Raja, at the School of Culture and Society, Faculty of Arts, Aarhus University (AU), is looking to recruit a full-time (37 hours/week) postdoctoral researcher. The postdoctoral researcher will be working on specific project tasks set out by the project director.

The position is for 2 years. The position will commence on 1 January 2027 or as soon as possible thereafter.

## About the project

The LoCiS project investigates the rich but understudied local portrait cultures of ancient Western Asia with the aim of determining how they reflect local and regional entanglements with and responses to different imperial hegemonies. LoCiS aims to reveal new knowledge about intersecting identities on an individual, local and regional level through a *long durée* perspective with a global historical outlook. The thousands of surviving portraits have not been studied comprehensively – neither diachronically nor in contexts or in cross-regional perspectives. LoCiS aims at offering unprecedented insights into the multilayered narratives of the varied individual experiences in antiquity.

The postdoc will work closely with Professor Rubina Raja and other project members. Tasks include work on the project database and catalogues, producing a monograph, co- and single-authored articles and contributions, organizing conferences, workshops and guest lectures, undertaking research travel. The postdoc will specifically undertake research on locally produced portraits from the region of West Asia from 100 BCE – 500 CE. The more narrowly defined region will be subject to definition together with the project director at the time of a potential interview for the position. Applicants should therefore specify in their application the region(s) within the study area where they believe their strongest competences lie.

We are looking for candidates who are specialised in Classical Archaeology with a focus on the eastern Mediterranean regions and the Near East in the period between 100 BCE – 500 CE and who have a solid research profile and demonstrates wide-ranging knowledge of the archaeology (in particular iconography) and history of West Asia – here defined that the region from and including Egypt to Anatolia and from the Tigris to the Mediterranean with a focus on visual culture.

## Qualifications

Applicants must hold a PhD degree in Classical Archaeology or document equal qualifications and be able to demonstrate expertise in ancient visual culture.

Applicants must also be able to document:

- Research and knowledge in archaeology on topics relevant to the outlined project.
- Relevant academic publications.
- The ability to work critically with archaeological and ancient historical sources.
- A methodological and structured approach to work.
- Good organisation skills and excellent attention to detail.
- Flexibility and the ability to prioritise.
- Excellent time-management skills and ability to meet deadlines.
- Excellent interpersonal and collaborative skills.
- The ability to speak and write professional/academic English.
- The ability to read French, German and Italian.

Please submit up to two publications for assessment. The status of each publication must also be stated (published/being published/in manuscript form respectively). Note that only publications that are actually submitted with the application will be assessed; a list of publications is not sufficient. Applications that are not accompanied by publications will not be assessed.

**Application Deadline:**  
01 May 2026

**Institute/Faculty:**  
School of Culture and Society

**Faculty:**  
Faculty of Arts

**Academic contact person:**  
Rubina Raja  
Professor  
+4587162046  
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+4527188390

**Vacant positions:**  
1

**Number of months:**  
24

**Hours per week:**  
37

**Expected date of accession:**  
01/01/2027

The university is keen for its staff to reflect the diversity of society and thus welcomes applications from all qualified applicants, regardless of their personal background. Members of the academic staff at the School of Culture and Society are expected to contribute to a vibrant, dynamic and collegial work environment.

#### **Further information**

The application must be uploaded in English.

For further information about the position, please contact Professor Rubina Raja ([rubina.raja@cas.au.dk](mailto:rubina.raja@cas.au.dk)). Applicants are encouraged to make contact with the project director before applying.

For more information about the application process, please contact HR support at [iks-hr-sag@au.dk](mailto:iks-hr-sag@au.dk).

The workplace will be at Institute for Culture and Society, Aarhus University, Jens Chr. Skous Vej 5, 8000 Aarhus C, Denmark.

#### **The School of Culture and Society**

The LoCiS project is anchored at the School of Culture and Society. At the School of Culture and Society, the object of research and teaching is the interplay between culture and society in time and space:

- From the traditional disciplines of the humanities and theology to applied social research
- From Antiquity to the issues facing contemporary societies
- From local questions to global challenges

The school's ambition is to produce compelling research with an international resonance as well as to offer teaching and talent development of the highest quality. The school has a broad cooperative interface with society as a whole, both in Denmark and abroad, and contributes to social innovation, research communication and further and continuing education.

For further information about the school, please see <http://cas.au.dk/en/>.

For more information on the *Locally Crafted Empires* project, please see <https://projects.au.dk/locally-crafted-empires>

#### **Qualification requirements**

Applicants should hold a PhD or equivalent academic qualifications.

#### **Formalities**

Faculty of Arts refers to the Ministerial Order on the Appointment of Academic Staff at Danish Universities ([the Appointment Order](#)).

- Appointment shall be in accordance with the collective labour agreement between the Danish Ministry of Finance and the Danish Confederation of Professional Associations.
- Further information on qualification requirements and job content may be found in the [Memorandum on Job Structure for Academic Staff at Danish Universities](#).
- Further information on the application and supplementary materials may be found in [Application Guidelines](#).
- The application must outline the applicant's motivation for applying for the position, attaching a curriculum vitae, a complete list of published works, copies of degree certificates and examples of academic production (**mandatory, but no more than two examples**). Please upload this material electronically along with your application.

Aarhus University also offers a Junior Researcher Development Programme targeted at career development for postdocs at AU. You can read more about it here: <https://talent.au.dk/junior-researcher-development-programme/>

If nothing else is noted, applications must be submitted in English. Application deadline is at 11.59 pm Danish time (same as Central European Time) on the deadline day.

Aarhus University's ambition is to be an attractive and inspiring workplace for all and to foster a culture in which each individual has opportunities to thrive, achieve and develop. We view equality and diversity as assets, and we welcome all applicants.

Shortlists may be prepared with the candidates that have been selected for a detailed academic assessment. A committee set up by the head of school is responsible for selecting the most qualified candidates. See this link for further information about shortlisting at the Faculty of Arts: [shortlisting](#)

#### **About Arts**

The Faculty of Arts is one of Northern Europe's most significant faculties for research and higher education in the humanities, theology and education. Within this broad academic scope, the faculty comprises approximately 700 researchers, 200 PhD students, 9,000 Bachelor's and Master's degree students, and 1,500 further and continuing education students. We believe that the best ideas arise when different perspectives meet – and that research, teaching and innovation are best developed in dialogue with the surrounding society.

You can find more information here: [Faculty of Arts | Aarhus University](#)

*The application must be submitted via Aarhus University's recruitment system, which can be accessed under the job advertisement on Aarhus University's website.*

#### **Aarhus University**

*Aarhus University is an academically diverse and research-intensive university with a strong commitment to high-quality research and education and the development of society nationally and globally. The university offers an inspiring research and teaching environment to its 38,000 students (FTEs) and 8,300 employees, and has an annual revenues of EUR 935 million. Learn more at [www.international.au.dk/](#)*