

Postdoctoral Position in the Intellectual History at the Department of Global Studies

The Department of Global Studies, School of Culture and Society, Faculty of Arts, Aarhus University invites applications for a two-year fixed-term postdoctoral position in the intellectual history. We are looking for an innovative scholar with a theoretically and historically grounded approach to studying intellectual history in area studies and the environmental humanities contexts, preferably with a specialization in a non-European region, including and not limited to Japan, China, India, Southeast Asia, and Latin America.

The postdoctoral researcher will be part of the Assistant Professor Eiko Honda's experimental research network *Unearthing Multispecies Intellectual History: Earthing Trajectories of Area Studies* (2022-2025, funded by the Aarhus University Research Foundation).

The position is full-time and is expected to begin on 1 August 2023 or as soon as possible thereafter and ends 24th months thereafter.

Place of employment: Aarhus University, Department of Global Studies, Jens Chr. Skous vej 3-7, 8000 Aarhus C, Denmark.

The university wants its staff to reflect the diversity of society, and thus welcomes applications from all qualified candidates regardless of their personal background

Research context

Planetary crisis and the urgent need for sustainability today demands radical re-evaluation of the epistemologies behind global academic knowledge production that has long revolved around the nation-state frameworks and the vision of modernity modelled after the industrialised West. Within this context, intellectual history focused on human-only narratives dominated by Western male elites. Area Studies carry the possibilities to interrogate knowledge of broader regions without West-centricity. However, the field that historically emerged to study non-Western nations and regions as part of the Western colonial mission and control of international political governance has too long left the increasingly inescapable entanglement of nature and culture out of its core epistemology. *Unearthing Multispecies Intellectual History: Earthing Trajectories of Area Studies* (UMIH-ETAS) brings together scholars who work at the intersections of Intellectual History, Area Studies, and the Environmental Humanities to tackle the above challenges.

The project achieves the aim through two-fold conversations with hypotheses. One discussion is forging what the project PI calls multispecies intellectual history (MIH) where intellectual history draws inspirations from multispecies studies. Like multispecies studies, MIH examines the ways in which humans in various Area Studies regions such as Japan, China, India, and Latin America embodied and delineated their epistemologies inseparably from multitudes of plants, animals, minerals, climate, microbes, and all actors of the earth that influence one another. MIH thus engages in interdisciplinary and inter-regional conversations on the foundation of all knowledge production: epistemologies. It expects to yield novel notions and methods that unearth previously unknown historical trajectories to the changing epistemologies of the present time rooted in diverse localities. The dialogue and its results provide insights for other simultaneous discussion on global Area Studies attentive to historical multispecies entanglements. These conversations will be joined by artists as well as philosophers and scientists with relevant interests in epistemology and history.

The position

The successful applicant will be expected to:

- develop their research within the framework provided by the project, in close cooperation with the PI and broader research group
- participate in project activities such as workshops, collective writing, and research-based teaching.
- present their research at international meetings and publish results in peer-reviewed, international scientific journals in a timely fashion
- play a highly collaborative role in the research network, and participate in the daily working environment at Aarhus University

Application Deadline:
14 November 2022

Faculty:
Faculty of Arts

Institute/Faculty:
School of Culture and Society

Academic contact person:
Eiko Honda
Adjunkt
eiko.honda@cas.au.dk
+87159668

Vacant positions:
1

Hours per week:
37

Number of months:
24

Expected date of accession:
01/08/2023

- contribute to the organisation of research workshops and relevant events
- assist the PI in preparing a volume of papers for publication
- teach at BA and/or MA level (maximum 20%, by agreement) within the department.

Qualifications and requirements

Applicants for this position must hold a PhD degree or have equivalent level in history or a related field.

Applicants must document:

- doctoral-level experience of research on a related topic
- an interest in the nature of (inter)disciplinary knowledge production and their relevance to epistemologies of the past and the present
- the ability and willingness to engage in collaborative research, discussions, and co-authorships across different period, regional and/or disciplinary specialists
- knowledge of their own field, intellectual history, and the environmental humanities
- international research profile
- fluency in written and spoken English, and the willingness to acquaint themselves with Danish if they do not already have Danish skills. The university provide free, government-funded Danish classes.
- fluency in the local language of their specialised region of the world.

In view of the above, applicants are asked to submit:

- a research proposal (maximum three pages) in which they indicate how they will expand and detail a subproject in relation to the UMIH-ETAS's agenda.
- a concise statement of motivation for applying for the position (maximum one page)
- a maximum of five publications (note that a list of publications or links to publications are not enough, the papers must be uploaded with the application).
- a CV
- a teaching portfolio (not a condition)

The research activities will be evaluated in relation to the actual research time. We therefore encourage applicants to specify any periods of leave they may have had without research activities (e.g., maternity/paternity leave), so we can subtract these periods from the span of their academic career when evaluating their productivity.

Only submitted publications will be assessed; a list of publications is not sufficient. Links to publications is also not enough. As a result, applications without submitted publications will not be assessed.

Professional references or recommendations should not be included. Applicants who are selected for an interview may be asked to provide professional references.

The application must be submitted in English.

For further information about the position, please contact the project PI Eiko Honda eiko.honda@cas.au.dk with a subject line "UMIHETAS Postdoc."

For more information about the application, please contact HR supporter Marianne Birn, email mbb@au.dk.

Knowledge exchange

The successful applicant will be expected to exchange knowledge with various sectors of society and to contribute actively to public debate in areas related to the position.

Department of Global Studies

The Department of Global Studies provides a distinct approach to understanding our contemporary world by combining language-based area studies of Brazil, China, Japan, India and Russia with European and International Studies and a global

perspective. As an academic field, Global Studies was born as recently as the late 1990s, and its exponential growth and importance soared in the 2000s. Its main elements are all based on the insight that contemporary global conditions cannot be studied in ways reserved for states and their interaction only. By adopting a holistic approach, Global Studies takes history, cultural studies and anthropology just as seriously as political science, sociology, and economics.

For further information, please consult [the departmental webpage](#).

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 offering 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 more details about the school, please see [the School's webpage](#).

Qualification requirements

Applicants should hold a PhD or equivalent academic qualifications.

Formalities

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

- Appointments shall be in accordance with the [collective labour agreement between the Danish Ministry of Taxation 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 teaching portfolio, a complete list of published works, copies of degree certificates and examples of academic production (**mandatory, but no more than five 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. The 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](#)

Faculty of Arts

The Faculty of Arts is one of five main academic areas at Aarhus University.

The faculty contributes to Aarhus University's research, talent development, knowledge exchange and degree programmes.

With its 550 academic staff members, 275 PhD students, 9,500 BA and MA students, and 1,500 students following continuing/further education programmes, the faculty constitutes a strong and diverse research and teaching environment.

The Faculty of Arts consists of the School of Communication and Culture, the School of Culture and Society and the Danish School of Education. Each of these units has strong academic environments and forms the basis for interdisciplinary research and education.

The faculty's academic environments and degree programmes engage in international collaboration and share the common goal of contributing to the development of knowledge, welfare and culture in interaction with society.

Read more at arts.au.dk/en

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 8,000 employees, and has an annual revenues of EUR 885 million. Learn more at www.international.au.dk/