

COMPETITIVE SELECTION PROCESS NOTIFICATION

THE DEAN OF THE
FACULTY OF PHILOLOGY
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Krakow, .08.03.2021....

RECTOR
of the Jagiellonian University (Kraków, Poland)
announces a competitive selection process for the post of an ASSISTANT PROFESSOR
in the research staff
at the Institute of Oriental Studies of the Faculty of Philology,
academic field: cultural studies 30- months postdoc in Kurdish studies in the research project Activism and Its Moral and Cultural Foundations: Alternative Citizenship and Women's Roles in Kurdistan and The Diaspora (ALCITfem) financed by National Science Centre-Poland in the scope of Grieg programme/ Norway Grants.

The competitive selection process is open for all individuals, who meet the requirements set out in Articles 113 and 116.2.3) of the Act of 20 July 2018 – Law on Higher Education and Science, and who meet the following eligibility criteria according to § 165 of the Statute of the Jagiellonian University:

- 1) Holding at least a doctoral degree;
- 2) Having relevant scientific achievements;
- 3) Taking active part in academic life;

Detailed requirements:

- 1) Holding at least a doctoral degree; received not earlier than 7 years before the opening date of the call
- 2) Having relevant scientific achievements; including in the fields of Gender Studies, Kurdish Studies, Cultural or Social Anthropology, and/or Sociology
- 3) The candidate will be required to offer his/her own proposal for a 30 months research project directly related to the overall Research Programme and Work Package 2 (WP 2, see the attachment), entitled; **Covert Activism of Kurdish Women: The Image and Affect of Alternative Citizenship**. The proposal should be written in English. The researcher will be required to conduct research related to Work Package 2 with special focus on the WP's topic concerning people active in the Sorani spoken areas of Kurdistan, and people originating from these areas and now living in Europe. S/he will, however, be expected to write an independent project proposal that is directly related to WP2, but can take its own direction. The proposal will be further worked out in the first month of the project, in communication with the WP2 leader. Moreover, like all other team members, s/he will be supportive in conducting interviews for other Work Packages in the project. Also, she/he will be responsible for presenting the research results during joint seminars and on international conferences. Contributing to the 2 scientific papers and to the edited volume - the final result of the project is expected. All the members of the project are required to publish in Open Access journals and to contribute to the joint papers of the team.
- 4) Having the documented fluent knowledge of the Kurdish Sorani dialect and of English as shown by publications
- 5) Delivering at least one letter of reference with regard to scientific achievements
- 6) Willingness to join the research team and take active part in the ALCITfem tasks

Project description:

The project is an interdisciplinary research programme that is rooted in literary studies, cultural anthropology, gender studies and sociology. Methodologically and theoretically, the project combines and connects Humanities with Social Sciences through the cooperation of the following institutes: the Section of Kurdish Studies at the Institute of Oriental Studies (Faculty of Philology) of the Jagiellonian University (JU, Kraków), the Centre for Gender Research (STK, Senter for Tverrfaglig Kjonnsforskning) at the University of Oslo (UiO), the Centre for the Advanced Study of Population and Religion (CASPAR) at Cracow University of Economics (CUE), the Fafo, Institute of Labour and Social Research in Oslo and the Asia and Pacific Museum (Warsaw). It investigates how the Kurds, who lack state structures and state institutions, have operated outside of such structures by building cultural and social institutions of their own in the different states of which they are citizens. More about the project: http://www.kurdishstudies.pl/?en_alcitem,226

Salary indication: 7700 PLN (gross)

Starting date: 01.06.2021

The candidates who would like to take part in the competitive selection process should submit the following documents in English, to the email of dr. Wendelmoet Hamelink, a.w.hamelink@stk.uio.no, the leader of WP2.

1. application form expressing the candidate's will to join the project as a postdoc;
2. resume;
3. personal questionnaire filled in by the candidate; (see the forms under the link given below)
4. the individual research project related to WP2 (750-1500 words)
5. copy of the doctoral diploma or a diploma confirming the candidate's habilitation degree, if applicable;
6. information on the candidate's scientific, teaching and organisational achievements
7. list of publications (along with the respective publishing houses and the number of pages);
8. doctoral dissertation or habilitation dissertation review, if applicable;
9. at least one letter of reference
10. information regarding the processing of personal data; (see the forms under the link)

At the hiring stage, the following forms will be additionally required, the candidate must read them before applying:

11. declaration of the candidate, confirming that the Jagiellonian University will be their primary place of work, should they be selected in the competitive selection process; (see the forms)
12. declaration under Article 113 of the Law on Higher Education and Science; (see the forms)
13. declaration of acknowledging and accepting the rules and regulations concerning intellectual property management and commercialisation in force at the Jagiellonian University; (see the forms)

Opening date: 10.03.2021

Application submission deadline: 10.04.2021

The competitive selection process will be concluded by: 30.04.2021

Place of employment: Kraków, Jagiellonian University

The Jagiellonian University does not provide housing.

Declaration forms can be obtained at:

<https://dso.uj.edu.pl/-nauczyciele>

On behalf of
the Rector of the Jagiellonian University

Dean of the Faculty of

Attachment

Work Package 2 (WP2).

Covert Activism of Kurdish Women: The Image and Affect of Alternative Citizenship, Dr Wendelmoet Hamelink (Centre for Gender Research at Oslo University)

Objectives of WP2 (operationalisation of main objectives 1, 5 & 6)

- 1) Creates a critical historical understanding of the development, transformation and practice of cultural activism and women's movements as well as everyday resistance over the last five decades.
- 2) Investigates and documents the historical and current development of a number of specific cultural centres and women's initiatives, and their transnational connections.
- 3) Gives a voice to social and cultural actors who have not received much attention until now but have been highly influential in their local environment.
- 4) Investigates how local moral imaginations on identity, citizenship, and the position of women and men circulates/d and affects/ed local communities.
- 5) Gains insight into generational changes in activist practices and ideas about gender roles.

This WP is based on multi-sited fieldwork combined with media and archival research that will trace, document and analyse a range of small-scale women's initiatives in Kurdistan. It investigates how individual actors remade and re-imagined Kurdishness, womanhood and citizenship, and how this affected their communities. From conducted interviews in previous research projects, the PI learned that many initiatives that women developed on the ground have remained un-investigated and unnoticed by a larger public. This project focuses predominantly on such small-scale initiatives, which are not necessarily related to political parties or larger social movements. That does not mean, however, that they have also remained without affect/effect, both in the sense of emotion and influence. The project will offer a new understanding of how, in situations of conflict, oppression and trauma, minoritized communities are engaged in a continuing process of (re)imagining, visualizing, and circulating ideas and feelings about what it means to be a member of the community, thereby affectively producing alternative citizenship. In the case of Kurdish women, this is a double process of remaking Kurdishness as well as womanhood; their alternative citizenship projects are created not only in response to a hostile state environment, but also in response to a patriarchally structured society that has difficulty accepting and accommodating women's empowerment. Additionally, this WP offers a spatial perspective by mapping the different initiatives in the landscape of Kurdistan, by understanding each of them in their specific state,- social and cultural environment, and at the same time by investigating their mutual connections.

A Landscape of Covert Activism. The oppressive environments in which Kurds and Kurdish activists had to operate led to the formation of a strong resistance movement, including guerrilla struggle, which politicized civilian initiatives. The political movements that exist have mostly been dominant and authoritarian in character, absorbing or excluding competing movements and narratives. The dominance of these few political parties have not remained unchallenged among Kurds. Even though they have many followers, many others express their intention to stay away from the existing parties and criticize them for imposing and enforcing ideas, strategies and policies. It is therefore that small local initiatives are particularly interesting, as they will enable us to gain understanding into the actions, motives and moralities of people outside of the dominant party domain. Moreover, women have not only been overwhelmed by dominant political parties' actions, but were also sidelined by men and patriarchal structures, and were not recognised as people who could make a change. In spite of this highly restricted environment, women have developed countless small-scale initiatives. Young women organize(d) activities for women and youth in Iranian refugee camps in the Kurdistan Region in Iraq (KRI). In Syria, women organize(d) literacy classes for other women who had little or no education, and women wrote articles in Kurdish media to raise awareness for women's rights. In Turkey, women organize(d) health and sexual education for other women living in remote rural areas and had little access to such information. In the different regions, women also collected local stories, songs, oral histories and other local knowledge such as traditional recipes, religious rituals, and lists of Kurdish names. All these small initiatives together can be seen as a landscape that sheds light onto how larger transformations concerning women's participation within Kurdish communities came into being; how women navigated under continuous

pressures; how they found ways and spaces to make a change; and how they commemorated and dealt with painful and traumatic histories.

The Circulation of Image and Affect. Theoretically and methodologically, this WP builds on ideas about how societies engage in a continuous process of transformation through the affective circulation of narratives, objects and symbols. Gradually, through changing generational patterns and practices, new models become the social norm (Bjerrum Nielsen 2017), in our case models about belonging, citizenship, the family and gender roles. These changing patterns build on already existing moral and cultural ideas that circulate in a society and can be seen as collective memory. Cultural memory (Assmann 2013) is a particular kind of collective memory that refers to the continuous interaction of memory with outward symbols, cultural practices, and objects. These are carriers of memory, which circulate in a society and create feelings of belonging. Through their circulation, these symbols, objects, images and practices obtain affective value (Ahmad 2014). Repeatedly seeing a certain object, performing a certain behaviour, wearing a clothing style or hearing a narrative, begins to trigger similar emotions in people who share them. This is a selective process in which some objects, narratives (etc.) gain more importance than others: “public culture frequently privileges some experiences and excludes others” (Cvetkovich 2003: 37). Especially in situations of state oppression and violence, cultural memory and histories of minoritized groups become partly or largely excluded from the national public domain. Although internally, also minorities engage in the circulation and sharing of affective practices, objects and narratives, the process is much less self-evident than in the case of the majority population. Minoritized people therefore need to actively engage in their circulation by searching for alternative spaces and routes, by taking a certain level of risk (ranging from social exclusion to arrest and other types of violence), and they need to cope with experiences of exclusion and trauma as a result. They also need to cope with conflicting values about what the nation-state and its majority assume is ‘natural’ or ‘deviant.’ This WP will build on the above-mentioned theories to better understand how activism is initiated by women, how these initiatives circulate in the form of narratives, symbols and practices in communities, and how they forge change.

Methodology. This WP traces and analyses social transformation through small-scale women’s initiatives in the field of cultural and women’s activism. Through interviews, participant observation, media and archival research, the researchers will document narratives, symbols, images and practices that women have developed and shared with their local and transnational networks. Hamelink will carry out 25 life story interviews in Kurmanji and/or Turkish with female activists, and semi-structured interviews with people in the activists’ environment. Postdoc 2 will conduct another 20 life story interviews. By documenting and analysing small-scale women’s initiatives, this WP is not only engaged in academic analysis, but also contributes to the increased visibility and circulation of these practices and therewith supports the communities under study.

References

- Assmann, Aleida. (2011). *Cultural Memory and Western Civilization. Arts of Memory*. New York: Cambridge University Press.
- Bjerrum Nielsen, Harriet. (2017). *Feeling Gender. A Generational and Psychosocial Approach*. London: Palgrave Macmillan.
- Cvetkovich, Ann. (2003). *An Archive of Feelings. Trauma, Sexuality, and Lesbian Public Cultures*. Durham & London: Duke University Press