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LUNDS UNIVERSITET

A Postdoctoral Research Position in Political Science with a Specialization in Sustainability and Governance

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Lund University, Faculty of Social Sciences , The Department of Political Science

Lund University was founded in 1666 and is regularly ranked as one of the world's top 100 higher education institutions. The University has 41 000 students and 7 500 staff based in Lund, Helsingborg and Malmö. We are united in our efforts to understand, explain and improve our world and the human condition.

The Faculty of Social Sciences at Lund University is one of the leading education and research institutions in Sweden and operates both in Lund and Helsingborg.

The Department of Political Science at Lund University is one of the leading Political Science Departments in the Nordic countries, and in recent years, it has very successfully competed for external research funding, and has hired a number of international scholars. One of the central research areas of the department is environmental politics.

Job description

The postdoctoral position is part of two new research projects on the politics and governance of plastics. As a 'petroculture', plastics is a defining feature of modern societies; a versatile material with a range of uses, from the everyday to the very specialised. While plastics have clear benefits, it also causes significant damage to the environment and human health. Since around 8% of the fossil oil taken out of the ground is used for manufacturing plastics and the rates of recycling is low (38% in Sweden and 26% in the EU), 'decarbonising' the realm of plastics becomes a key challenge. Research at Lund University aims toward a future society in which plastics are sustainably developed, produced, used and recycled. The projects engages an interdisciplinary group of LU researchers from biotechnology, engineering to innovation systems, political science, and a range of stakeholders along the entire value chain of plastics, from production to consumption and waste.

The post-doctoral fellow will be expected to carry out research on the politics and governance of plastics. This includes, for example, contributing to mapping the current socio-technical system of plastics, changes in norms and behaviour, and assess transition pathways in collaboration with stakeholders. The work will also include organising seminars and workshops, as well as field-work (case studies and advanced study-group visits) into various sites along the value chain of plastics. However, the fellow will also conduct independent research and will be free to develop his or her own theoretical ideas, and choose the methods that he or she finds most appropriate. The holder of this post will be expected to conduct research (about 80 %) and to teach/admin (about 20 %) if there is a need for this at the department. The post-doctoral fellow will be expected to have the Department of Political Science in Lund as their main place of work.

Qualifications

Eligibility for employment as a postdoctoral researcher is restricted to applicants with a PhD degree in a relevant subject. Priority is given to applicants who have completed their PhD less than three years prior to the deadline for applying to the post. The three-year limit can be extended in cases of parental leave, sickness leave or similar circumstances occurring after the PhD defence. Applicants who have yet to complete their PhDs are welcome to apply but should demonstrate that they will receive their PhD degree before the end of 2016.

We seek candidates with a PhD in Political Science or related discipline (e.g. Geography, Sociology, Anthropology), and competence within the areas of power, policy and governance. Research skills and academic promise will be the main selection criteria. The ability to work and communicate in a multi-disciplinary environment is also very important as well as to conduct research independently. An key qualification for the position is the capacity to contribute to the research projects overall goals.

It is not required that the applicant have done previous research on plastics, environmental politics, climate change, sustainability, waste management, but proven knowledge in these areas are a merit.

Other information

The projects that the post-doc is supposed to contribute to is primarily 'Sustainable Plastics and Transition Pathways' (STEPS, funded by MISTRA),

Sustainable Product Chains for Plastics (SUSPLAST, funded by the Kamprad Foundation), but perhaps also Realising Innovation in Transitions for Decarbonisation (REINVENT Decarbonisation, funded by EU H2020).

Application Procedure and Content

The Lund University job application portal should be used when applying. Your application must contain:

- A cover letter (describing why you are interested in the position and what makes you suitable for it).
- A CV (which includes information on degrees, completed courses, work experience, and publications),
- A copy of your Ph.D. diploma (or a document describing when you will finish your Ph.D.),
- Two article-length writing samples (approximately 10000 words)
- Two letters of recommendation.

Lund University welcomes applicants with diverse backgrounds and experiences. We regard gender equality and diversity as a strength and an asset.

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Type of employment	Temporary position longer than 6 months
Contract type	Full time
First day of employment	1 March 2017, or per agreement
Number of positions	1
Working hours	100%
City	Lund
County	Skåne län
Country	Sweden
Reference number	PA2016/3647
Contact	Johannes Strippel, Associate Professor , +46 46 222 40 06, Johannes.Strippel@svet.lu.se Tomas Bergström, Head of Department , +46 46 222 96 87, Tomas.Bergstrom@svet.lu.se
Union representative	SACO:Saco-s-rådet vid Lunds universitet, 046-222 93 64, kansli@saco-s.lu.se OFR/ST:Fackförbundet ST:s kansli, 046-222 93 62, st@st.lu.se SEKO: Seko Civil, 046-222 93 66, sekocivil@seko.lu.se
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