

The University of Agder offers more than 150 study programmes and an active and leading research environment. We emphasize respect, openness and the ability to show commitment and pride concerning both your own and others' results. Our 1100 staff and 11000 students enjoy daily life and scholarly activities at our modern and functional campuses in Kristiansand and Grimstad.

Post-doctoral position

The University of Agder invites applications for a fixed term 100 % position for a period of three years as a post-doctoral fellow. The position is linked to the department of Religion, Philosophy and History, and is located in Kristiansand, Norway. The starting date is July 1st 2016 or by agreement.

The post-doctoral position is a key part of a 36-month research project titled "Modeling Religion in Norway" (MODRN), which is funded by the Norwegian Research Council. A full project description can be obtained from Prof. LeRon Shults (leron.shults@uia.no). The MODRN project aims to create cutting-edge computer simulations that enable "virtual" social experimentation - for example, testing alternative social policy proposals. The key to such simulations is the integration of empirically validated theories from the scientific study of religion and secularization with massive Norwegian datasets. This work will be guided by national and international experts in the fields of computer modeling, religious and secular diversification, and Norwegian public policy. MODRN will produce important new tools for evaluating hypotheses about - and policies for - religious and socio-political change in Norway, Northern Europe and beyond.

Some expertise in computer modeling and simulation is required, with knowledge of AnyLogic and/or NetLogo preferred. The ideal candidate will also have expertise in one or more of the following areas: mining big data, predictive analysis, cognitive or social scientific study of religion. The job requires the ability to collaborate well as a member of an interdisciplinary and international research team, working with computer modelers at the [Virginia Modeling, Analysis, and Simulation Center](#), with scholars of religion at the [Institute for the Bio-Cultural Study of Religion](#), and with a select group of scientific advisors and public-policy makers in Norway.

The post-doctoral fellow must have a Ph.D. or equivalent in a relevant discipline (e.g., modeling and simulation, scientific study of religion). It is desirable that applicants have graduated within the last five years. Applicants must have submitted their Ph.D. thesis before the application deadline, and must have passed their final Ph.D. examination before appointment.

Assessment of applicants will include consideration of their Ph.D. research, as well as other publications. Consideration will also be given to the applicant's personal and scholarly ability to contribute to the main project, as well as the applicant's ability to cooperate with others as part of an interdisciplinary scholarly community. Relevant work experience will also be considered. Excellent oral and written communication skills are also required.

The working language of the project is English, but some of the empirical data related to the planned computer simulations is in Norwegian, so knowledge of a Scandinavian language would be beneficial. The appointee must be able to demonstrate excellent organizational skills, and the capacity to work both independently and as part of a team. Short-listed applicants can be invited for an interview.

Appointment is made by the University of Agder's Appointments Committee for Teaching and Research Positions.

The Norwegian public service is committed to reflecting the diversity of society, and the personnel policy of the University of Agder aims to achieve a balanced workforce. All qualified persons are therefore encouraged to apply for the position, irrespective of cultural background, gender, age or disability.

The position is remunerated according to the State salary scale, salary plan 17.510, code 1352, salary grade 60-67 (NOK 508.800 - 580.000). A 2 % compulsory pension contribution to the Norwegian Public Service Pension Fund is deducted from the pay according to current statutory provisions.

The following additional documentation must be uploaded as attachments with the online application:

- ° Statement of suitability for the job (up to 3 pages in English)
- ° CV (including the names of up to 3 referees)
- ° Certified copies of academic transcripts
- ° List of publications
- ° Scientific papers and dissertations/monographs (up to 5)

Please note that the application must be submitted online. The applicants are fully responsible for submitting complete documentation before the closing date. Without complete documentation we cannot, unfortunately, include you in the assessment process. In accordance with §25(2) of the Freedom of Information Act, applicants may request that their name do not appear on the public list of candidates. The University, however, reserves the right to publish the name of applicants. Applicants will be notified in advance of any publication.

Closing date: 10.03.2016

For further information please contact Head of department, Hans Hodne, phone +47 38 14 20 66, hans.hodne@uia.no or professor LeRon Shults, phone +47 38 14 20 71, leron.shults@uia.no

In case of discrepancies between the Norwegian and the English version of this description, the Norwegian version takes precedence.

Jobbnorge ID: 121731, Deadline: 3/10/2016