

PhD Research Fellow in “Just Energy Transitions” at Fridtjof Nansen Institute

A position as PhD Research Fellow in “Just Energy Transitions” is available at the Fridtjof Nansen Institute, Lysaker, Norway. The position is part of FME Include - the research centre on socially inclusive energy transition, led by Centre for Development and the Environment, University of Oslo.

The purpose of the fellowship is research training leading to the successful completion of a PhD degree.

The Fridtjof Nansen Institute has an ambition to be an internationally leading research institute within energy, environmental and resource management.

Job description:

In a context of climate change and degradation of natural resources, national electricity systems are under significant pressures for change, including processes of decarbonization, digitalization, new patterns of production, transport and consumption of electricity, and flexibility requirements. Norway is no exception, and pressures for transitional developments originate from sources like technological developments, EU regulations, new practices, and new actor groups. Insufficient scholarly attention has been directed at how political contingency, contestation, and justice can affect the ongoing transitions. Moreover, there is a risk that transitions create a series of obdurate challenges that can overcome even the best of intentions, leading to unjust consequences both within and outside of the national energy system. These may relate to different actors and groups of actors, infeasible policies, implementation challenges, and/or problems with social acceptance, or interconnections between the Norwegian stationary energy system and global structures. Finally, a socially inclusive energy transition may help meet other key goals, like decarbonization, resource efficiency, entrepreneurship, and value creation. These challenges are still insufficiently understood and require further academic analysis and theory building. Of particular importance are the questions of political feasibility and energy justice implications relating to *recognition* of individual and groups, *procedural* justice issues including differences in influence and marginalisation, and *distributional aspects*, which are areas in need of scrutiny.

The PhD will analyse political processes relating to Norwegian stationary energy system transitions, and implications for energy justice and/or political feasibility. This may include political representation, influence, contestation, and developments linked to policies changing the Norwegian stationary energy system. The extent to which various types of private, public, and voluntary sector actors participate in and/or have ownership to the energy transitions is a key question. The thematic focus may be, but is not limited to, sector-wide issues or strategic selection of developments related to one or more areas of relevance, including but not limited to new forms of central or decentral production, prosuming and energy storage, new roles for grid companies and other actors, interaction with electric vehicles, smart grid issues and communication technologies, and/or demand-side flexibility. Comparisons to other jurisdictions may be feasible. The student is expected to conduct an empirical study.

The PhD student will be employed at the FNI and be an active part of the research centre Include, led by Centre for Development and the Environment, University of Oslo. The goal of Include is to develop knowledge-based solutions that can facilitate a just and socially inclusive low-carbon energy transition. The position is contingent on acceptance at the Faculty for Social Sciences at University of Oslo.

Qualification requirements:

Formal qualifications:

Required

- Master's degree or equivalent in social sciences such as political science, human geography, sociology, anthropology, economics, STS, psychology, energy studies, environmental studies or other relevant field
- Foreign completed degree (M.Sc.-level) corresponding to a minimum of four years in the Norwegian educational system
- Average grades at Ma level equivalent to B or better (by the Norwegian system). In some cases, exceptions can apply
- A Master's degree must be completed by the application deadline for the candidate to be considered
- Fluent oral and written communication skills in English
- Working proficiency communication skills in a Scandinavian language

Personal attributes:

Required:

- Curious and creative
- Great communication and presentation skills – both written and oral
- The ability to collaborate, cooperate, and contribute as part of a team

Desired:

- Experience with energy systems research
- Proficiency with quantitative research methods and tools as well as qualitative methods
- Interdisciplinary work experience

We offer:

- Salary NOK 479 600 – 513 600 (Ltr. 54-58) per annum depending on qualifications and seniority as PhD Research Fellow
- A four-year contract of 75% PhD activity and 25% other project work
- Attractive welfare benefits and a generous pension agreement
- Leading international academic environment within energy and climate policy analysis
- Inclusion in Include's interdisciplinary and thriving research group
- Access to training facilities

How to apply:

The application must include:

- Cover letter - statement of motivation and research interests
- CV (summarizing education, positions and academic work - scientific publications); maximum four pages
- Project description; maximum 10 pages
- Copies of the original Bachelor and Master's degree diploma, transcripts of records and letters of recommendation
- Documentation of English proficiency if English is not native language
- Publications and academic work that the applicant wishes to be considered; maximum of three attached to the application
- Names and contact details of 2-3 references (name, relation to candidate, e-mail and telephone number)

The fellowship requires admission to the PhD programme at the Faculty of Social Sciences at UiO or other relevant Norwegian University. The application to the PhD programme must be submitted to the department no later than two months after taking up the position. For more (UiO) information, see: <https://www.sv.uio.no/english/research/phd/application/external-funding.html>

The application with attachments must be submitted by email to Head of Administration Claes Lykke Ragner, claes.ragner@fni.no. Foreign applicants are advised to attach an explanation of their University's grading system. All documents should be in English or a Scandinavian language.

Applicants may be called in for an interview.

Interviews, background and reference checks will be conducted after initial shortlisting has taken place. All candidates can expect to receive notification informing them of their status on the shortlist within three weeks of the closing date.

The Fridtjof Nansen Institute strives for a balanced gender composition in its workforce. Those from ethnic minority backgrounds or different abilities are encouraged to apply.

Contact persons:

For further information please contact: Tor Håkon Jackson Inderberg, phone: +47 92016644, e-mail: thinderberg@fni.no

Deadline: 15 November, 2020