

Call for PhD Research Fellowship at Fridtjof Nansen Institute: “Challenges to Ocean Governance: Regional Disputes, Global Consequences? (OCEANGO)”



https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Ships_from_the_Royal_Australian_Navy,_Indian_navy,_Japan_Maritime_Self-Defense_Force_and_the_United_States_Navy_participate_in_Malabar_2020.jpg

A position as PhD Research Fellow is available at the Fridtjof Nansen Institute, Lysaker, Norway. The fellowship is for three and a half years and is financed by a grant from the Norwegian Research Council that concerns the project “Challenges to Ocean Governance: Regional Disputes, Global Consequences? (OCEANGO)”. The purpose of the fellowship is research training leading to the successful completion of a PhD degree as well as contribution to the overall progress of the research project.

Job description:

Disputes over maritime space are increasing in magnitude – but our understanding of international politics and the maritime domain remains limited. The four-year research project *OceanGov* combines two strands within the social sciences – international relations and international law – in an interdisciplinary approach to examine disputes at sea. We will identify conditional propositions and trends explaining why some disputes at sea escalate whereas others are settled, within three maritime domains: The Arctic Ocean; the Black Sea; and the East China Sea. From this, we will embark on an in-depth study of ocean governance and international politics, linking region-specific findings with global governance trends more generally.

As the political and economic significance of the maritime domain is increasing worldwide, and spatial disputes are emerging as a consequence, we ask what determines the emergence and evolution of disputes over marine resources and maritime space in a regional context? Why do some maritime spatial disputes escalate into conflict? Can examination of specific regional contexts lead to some conditional propositions that determine the likelihood of a maritime dispute escalating or being resolved?

Studying how states deal with disputes over the delineation of maritime rights and space can offer insights into ocean governance processes and related international politics. How are global ocean

governance mechanisms – with an emphasis on the UNCLOS – influenced by regional dynamics, which in turn constrain the very same dynamics? How is the UNCLOS regime developing and adapting in order to deal with emerging maritime disputes? How can we theorise the link between regional practice and global ocean governance?

The project aims both to improve our understanding of specific disputes in changing regions and to apply these findings to improve our general understanding of governance over maritime space and maritime resources.

The PhD candidate dedicated to this project will focus on the topic at large (regional disputes and global governance) and partake in the respective work packages (focus to be agreed with the candidate) and the synthesis. The specific focus of the PhD thesis need not cover the whole scope of the project but must at a minimum relate to one of the questions listed above.

Qualification requirements:

Formal qualifications:

Required

- Master's degree or equivalent in social sciences or humanities in disciplines such as political science, international law, human geography, sociology, social anthropology, economics, STS, history, or area studies
- 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:

- Knowledge and competence related to ocean politics and/or Law of the Sea
- Proficiency with qualitative methods
- Interdisciplinary work experience

We offer:

- Salary NOK 482 200 – 516 400 (Ltr. 54-58) per annum depending on qualifications and seniority as PhD Research Fellow
- A full time contract from July 2021 – December 2024, including three years PhD and half a year participation in other research projects.
- Attractive welfare benefits and a generous pension agreement
- Vibrant academic environment
- Inclusion in the research group for Polar and marine issues
- 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 Fridtjof Nansen Institute (FNI) is an independent foundation engaged in research on international environmental, energy and resource management politics and law. FNI is the leading Norwegian research institute on international law and political cooperation in the Arctic and concerning ocean politics in general.

The fellowship requires admission to the PhD programme at for example the Faculty of Social Sciences or the Faculty of Law at UiO or another 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.

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 will 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 Andreas Østhagen, e-mail: ao@fni.no

Deadline: 12 March, 2021