



Nordiska Afrikainstitutet

The Nordic Africa Institute

The Nordic Africa Institute is a centre for research, knowledge, policy advice and information on Africa. Based in Uppsala, Sweden, we are a government agency, funded jointly by Sweden, Finland and Iceland.

The Nordic Africa Institute invites applications for a

Postdoctoral position

Closing date for applications: 31 January 2019

About the Nordic Africa Institute (NAI)

The Nordic Africa Institute (NAI) was founded in 1962 and since then has provided knowledge in the form of high-quality research, timely information and extensive documentation on Africa. Over a period of half a century, NAI has remained committed to academic and policy research, information dissemination and documentation on African issues. NAI has followed the trends and development of Africa studies in the Nordic region and in African continent, and also actively initiated new ideas and forms of engagement to fulfil its mission as the main centre for African knowledge in the Nordic countries and to serve its stakeholders in the Nordic countries and globally.

The Nordic Africa Institute (NAI) is currently implementing a Five Year Strategy, 2017-2021, which has promoting academic and policy-oriented research programmes on Africa in the Nordic countries as one of its strategic goals. It is in pursuit of this goal that NAI is looking for a Postdoctoral researcher with demonstrable research skills and competences who can conduct independent academic and policy research on Africa.

NAI offers a stimulating intellectual environment, an interdisciplinary research orientation, a team of researchers from different social and scientific backgrounds, and a library with modern facilities. In addition, the institute is linked to an extensive networks of research institutions in Africa and the Nordic countries.

Job description

The postdoctoral candidate will be involved in the research project “The Space and Role of Political Science in the Evolving Democratic Transformation in Africa”. The Postdoctoral will work closely with Professor Liisa Laakso.

Project description

Today universities are under an increasing pressure to show the relevance and societal impact of their research and education for the society. Political science, whose roots as an academic discipline are connected to empirical research of liberal multi-party political systems involving also critical thinking, is particularly interesting in this regard, and even more so in societies experiencing political transitions like the ones on the African continent. Political science can have an impact for the legitimacy, functioning and consolidation of the political systems. The project will first analyze the profile of political science research and education in African political systems with different levels of democratization: What is studied and taught about political systems in Africa? The resources of political science? The employment of political science graduates? Secondly the project will look at the visibility of political science in Africa: Do political scientists feature in public discussion and media? Do they contribute to preparatory work on electoral laws, constitutional changes etc.? Do they cooperate with political parties?

Qualifications

- A PhD in a social science discipline preferably in Political Sciences, Sociology, Social science statistics or Anthropology
- Research interest and expertise in statistics and higher education, research and innovation policies
- Strong research skills and a good publication record
- Excellent knowledge of spoken and written English
- Excellent communication skills
- Strong organisational and interpersonal skills
- Knowledge in French, Portuguese or Swahili will be an added advantage
- Experience of work on Africa-related issues will be an added advantage

The application

The application should contain:

- A. A complete CV with a list of scientific publications where it is clearly indicated which publications are formally considered as peer reviewed.
- B. Three of the applicant’s own peer review publications (in three copies each if print copies are sent) relating to the proposed area of research.
- C. The names and addresses (phone, fax, e-mail) of at least two referees.

As part of the recruitment process, shortlisted candidates will be invited to present their proposed research projects for the Nordic Africa Institute.

Condition of Service

Contract period will be until December 2020. Salary is negotiable within the Institute's current salary levels. Starting date of the employment is negotiable.

Contact persons:

Professor Liisa Laakso, Eva-Lena Svensson, Human Resources Manager. Trade Union representatives: Johan Sävström (OFR/ST) and Henrik Alfredsson (Saco-S). All can be reached at +46 18 471 52 00.

The application should be sent:

- a) preferably by email to nai-applications@nai.uu.se. (Including publications to the extent possible or by indication of internet addresses where they might be available).
- b) or in hard copy by regular post to The Nordic Africa Institute, P. O. Box 1703, SE-751 47 Uppsala, Sweden.

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NAI is committed to an Equal Opportunities Policy in employment and since the institute strives for a balanced proportion of men and women, women are particularly encouraged to apply for the position.

More information about NAI's research focal areas and themes, on-going research activities, grants, library services and publications is available on the Institute's website: www.nai.uu.se.