

won the Margaret Mead Award (see 'Quality of research' above), was based on a PhD thesis supervised and defended at this department and also supported by the Hugo Valentin Centre. This is an excellent example of collaboration between the two institutions.

Actions for successful development

Apart from those already mentioned, there are other opportunities for collaboration. For example, the university's network on Sami studies (Uppsam) is a valuable interdepartmental initiative and there is potential for the department to take greater advantage of its strong work in this field, which could also be a springboard to develop more collaboration with archaeology.

Effects of the KoF07-evaluation

Since KoF07, the number of PhD students has apparently been reduced from around 30 to around 15. Since the students gave the department a very strong endorsement, this should presumably be seen as a positive development.

Other issues

The self-evaluation report was written in two separate sections, giving the impression of two quite separate fields uncomfortably inhabiting one department. This was not, however, what we found when we actually visited the department. This department has found ways to cooperate without diluting the distinctive identities of its two parts and we hope this will continue.

Department of Archaeology and Ancient History

General assessment of the department

The Department of Archaeology and Ancient History consists of the following disciplines: a) African and Comparative Archaeology; b) Nordic Archaeology; and c) Classical Archaeology and Ancient History. Egyptology is also part of the department. Each of these disciplines has initiated and is involved in a number of research activities, some of which cut across two or more disciplines and cover an admirably large geographical area, time span, and range of topics. This is a well-functioning department, whose constituent parts make up a coherent unit. Even though the individual disciplines pursue a variety of research goals and research programmes, there is a clear sense of co-operation as regards the construction of a common infrastructural base as well as the formulation of long- and short-term research strategies. In fact, part of the key to the department's success seems to be that its various researchers share a number of theoretical and methodological goals. Willingness to create synergies and personal enthusiasm on the part of the department's staff are clearly in evidence.

Research is divided between landscape archaeology, GIS analyses and excavations. The department is famed for a research profile that brings the material and written historical record into a fruitful interplay. The material evidence is combined with the evidence of the written texts with a view to shedding light on a number of macro-historical questions that also have current relevance. Especially notable topics of research are: historical ecology, urbanism and agro-urban landscapes, and human responses to environmental change. The subfield of GIS-based landscape archaeology informs almost all of these research directions, reflecting the fact that, while this department is anchored in the humanities, it also draws inspiration from the natural sciences.

Ancient History is in close and constant collaboration with archaeologists, and the same is true of the re-emerging field of Egyptology. Despite their small number the staff of Classical Archaeology and Ancient History working especially with history make a substantial contribution to this department, and that contribution can only grow stronger with the newly-appointed professor. The department has proved successful in securing external funding, and it is to be hoped that it will further develop that ability in the future. It is also distinguished by its willingness to interact and collaborate with specialists from other departments both within and from outside its own faculty/domain (*Agora* is a shining example in this area). The publication output is impressive, qualitatively as well as quantitatively. African and Comparative Archaeology, and Classical Archaeology and Ancient History, have a strong, international publication profile, though the same could be said of the entire department.

Quality of research

The transdisciplinary project *The Urban Mind* is not only innovative but also has the potential to become a world-leading project. One therefore wonders why its research findings are not published with an internationally renowned press. The GIS-based landscape archaeological project (including its technical infrastructure) enjoys international recognition and has the potential to develop into a top-quality, interdisciplinary research endeavour. The field of Classical Archaeology and Ancient History is distinguished by its high international publication profile and it achieves an internationally high standard.

Research environment and infrastructure

The composition of the staff is very satisfactory and boasts a good gender and age balance. The staff members have established a series of fruitful co-operative activities, particularly around the build-up of the GIS laboratory. Further funding of this relatively costly undertaking will no doubt increase the department's research output. All in all, the department enjoys a good research environment, and is doing a good job of negotiating generational change. One new Chair has been appointed and two such appointments are expected to occur within the next few years.

Networks and collaborations

The department has been successful in creating a number of international networks. In addition, not least through their fieldwork in a number of countries, the staff have established extensive webs of collaboration with colleagues from within and outside the discipline of archaeology. Several research topics not only bring the archaeological and historical disciplines together, but ensure interdisciplinary co-operation beyond the department. These include: the phenomenology of religion, studies of cults in context, archaeological narratives, gender studies, and the study of democratic institutions.

Opportunities for renewal and emerging science

Within the last few years the department has seen a marked renewal of its activities, especially those centred around Landscape Archaeology and the World Historical Ecological Network (WHEN). Clear evidence of this is the Rethinking Human Nature project. These initiatives represent new and exciting directions, and at the same time unite the different archaeologies of the department into a common scholarly endeavour.

Actions for successful development

The department has made well-coordinated efforts to attract external funds. As a result, African and Comparative Archaeology possess a sustainable base. However, the WHEN project, which could have a major international impact, needs all the support it can get if it is to realize its very great potential.

Effects of the KoF07-evaluation

Finding the disciplines to be rather atomized, the KoF07 report recommended a greater degree of cooperation between them. We find that this goal has been accomplished successfully, at least in part through sensible and forward-looking use of the resources that came as a result of the KoF07 evaluation. These resources have been used to develop new research initiatives and projects that both have great international potential and promise to strengthen internal co-operation.

Other issues

The department has been successful in producing new and talented doctoral candidates. The staff demonstrate a very high engagement and involvement in scholarly activities while at the same time they are mindful of communicating their research to a broader public.