

**OPPORTUNITY FOR EARLY AND MID-CAREER CAREER SCANDINAVIAN RESEARCHERS IN  
ARCHAEOLOGY, EGYPTOLOGY, PHILOLOGY AND OSTEOLOGY**

**REINVIGORATING SCANDINAVIAN ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH ON NUBIA AND AFRICAN  
COLLECTIONS**

**CALL FOR APPLICATIONS**

*Background*

With generous support from the Joint Committee for Nordic Research Councils in Humanities & Social Sciences (NOS-HS), the Department of Archaeology and Ancient History, Uppsala University, the Department of Archaeology, University of Oslo, and the Department of Archaeology, University of Copenhagen, in collaboration the Gustavianum Museum, Uppsala and Stavanger Museum, plan to hold three Early Career Masterclasses and Practical Workshops in Nubian and African archaeology in 2019 and 2020. These events aim to explore the intellectual history of the Scandinavian Joint Expedition to Nubia as part of the international UNESCO campaign to salvage and record archaeological and historical sites threatened by the construction of the Aswan High Dam in the 1960s.

Uniquely, the expedition involved researchers from Sweden, Norway, Denmark and Finland, generating a wealth of data and a series of nine major excavation reports. Many of the finds, including human osteological material, were exported from the Sudan and are now housed in museum and institutional repositories in all four countries, and are accessible for further study. Among those who participated, some later developed careers in African archaeology, while others gained prominence in Egyptology or osteoarchaeology. In marked contrast, Nordic involvement in Nubian archaeology has dwindled, as has the number of Scandinavian researchers actively involved in African archaeology more generally.

The three workshops we are organising aim to change this by reinvigorating research on the Nubian collections in all four countries. We hope to do this by exploring the interconnections between sub-Saharan Africa, Nubia and Egypt, and through accompanying theoretical and practical masterclasses to encourage more early stage researchers to engage with African archaeology.

*Analytical Framing*

The overarching analytical 'red thread' of the workshops will be the concept of interconnections. Participants will explore this from multiple perspectives, including material, biological, geographical, and ideological interconnections in the past between Nubia and lands to the north and south, east and west, as revealed by, or potentially amenable for detection through, comparative, integrated analysis of the assembled SJE collections. Here, key objectives are to identify what previous work on this material has demonstrated about the nature of, continuities in, and changes to interconnections in the northern Sudan from the Stone Age to the end of the medieval period, and what more might potentially be learned through the application of new analytical methods and theoretical approaches. Interconnections will also be examined through the production of an intellectual history of the SJE, the careers of the archaeologists and other scholars who participated, the legacies of their ideas and discoveries, and the biographies of the museum collections themselves. Both components will place an emphasis on the networks that constituted these connections, their degrees of entanglement and the affordances they offered.

So as to provide a tighter focus for discussion of these multiple interconnections, while at the same time providing a mechanism for engaging early and mid-career researchers from different Nordic countries, the workshops and master-classes will adopt different, but related, theoretical perspectives. The former will approach interconnections from the perspectives of networks and biographies; the latter will examine these in terms of environments and mobility.

The key research questions to be explored are as follows:

What were the substantive and intellectual legacies of the SJE for a) Nordic archaeology and Egyptology, and b) African archaeology?

What are the main priorities for future research on the SJE collections and legacy data, and how can addressing these be used to strengthen inter-Nordic country collaboration?

In what ways can a revitalisation of research on SJE materials be used to strengthen research on African archaeology more generally in Nordic countries?

What are the most pressing issues facing the curators of these resources in terms of documentation, digitization, conservation, display and public engagement?

#### *The Masterclasses and Workshops*

All three workshops will run for two days, and all will include a combination of short presentations about the work of the SJE and the results and hands-on examination of a selection of material recovered from the excavations, along with the excavation archives and other associated material. The first will be held at the Gustavianum Museum, Uppsala, from the 13<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> May 2019. The following workshop will be held at Stavanger Museum in the autumn of 2019, and the final one will be held in Copenhagen in the summer of 2020.

**Applications for funded places (six in total are available) to participate in the opening workshop are now invited.** The project will cover the cost of travel and overnight accommodation (where needed), and lunch and dinner will also be provided on the days of the workshop & masterclass.

*Workshop 1* aims to develop an intellectual history of the SJE that includes biographical perspectives of the main actants and actors, their legacies, and the affordances these provide for future research. The Workshop will focus particularly on identifying possible future research projects, and especially those that explore the interconnections between environment and mobility. For those new to the field, this initial workshop will provide an ideal opportunity for participants to be introduced to the extensive field documentation from SJE (mainly in English, but with some in Swedish and Norwegian) in the Gustavianum combined with hearing the personal reflections of SJE team members. It will bring to light the constraints under which the SJE worked and the decisions that were made in order to understand the datasets and place legacy material in context.

The overall objective of the Masterclasses is to provide a context to offer more detailed training in analytical approaches for early and mid-career researchers interested in developing their own research projects on Nubian material, or from other African settings. So as to provide coherence to this training, and in view of the varied SJE data sets that are available, these will focus on different dimensions of human:environment relations, chronologies and mobilities.

*Masterclass 1* will consider Human-environment relations. This will explore reconstructions of the historical ecology, climatic and hydroclimatic dynamics of Nubian landscapes with a focus on natural resources extraction and circulation; the affordances the environment provided for both mobility and settlement; and the potential of using GIS to further understanding of the available datasets. The Masterclass will also review some of the recognised challenges presented by big archaeological data sets and legacy material and the potential role of digital technologies.

### *Eligibility*

Funded positions are restricted to Early Career Researchers (MA and PhD) and Mid-Career (post-doctoral researchers, junior lecturers) in Archaeology, Egyptology, Osteology or Philology based in Nordic Countries (applicants do not have to be based at a university, but must be able to demonstrate they remain research active in their field, or have a previous track record of working on Nubian materials).

### *How to Apply*

Applicants should submit a short (maximum half an A4 page of text) justification for motivation in which they outline their reasons for participating in the Workshops and Masterclasses, and how their studies will benefit as a result.

Applicants should also identify a possible research topic that engages with the SJE material currently held in Scandinavia and/or the project archives. This research proposal should identify the theme and subject material, the main aims and objectives, methods and potential contributions to knowledge. Suitable references following the APA style should be included (maximum one page, inclusive of any supporting references and illustrations).

Applicants should also indicate their travel and accommodation needs, and provide details of one academic referee, who must supply a letter of reference.

Applications should be saved as a PDF e-mailed as an attachment to all three of the undersigned to reach them by midnight 15<sup>th</sup> April 2019. Successful applicants will be notified within seven days of the closing date. Letters of Reference **MUST** reach the project leaders by the same deadline, and it is the responsibility of applicants to ensure that their referee understands this. Incomplete applications will not be considered.

Send your completed applications to **ALL** of the following:

Prof Paul Lane [pjl29@cam.ac.uk](mailto:pjl29@cam.ac.uk)

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