

Postdoctoral Researcher in Assyriology
Faculty of Humanities, Leiden University, vacancy number: 16-186

The Faculty of Humanities at Leiden University invites applications for a:

Postdoctoral Researcher in Assyriology (1.0 fte) vacancy number: 16-186

Project description

The postdoctoral researcher will carry out research on the social history of Babylonia under Persian rule. This is part of the ERC-funded project, "Persia and Babylonia: Creating a New Context for Understanding the Emergence of the First World Empire" headed by Dr. Caroline Waerzeggers. The project seeks to explain the relative success of Achaemenid Persia, which established the first super-size empire in history (c. 550–330 BCE). We will develop a substantial new data set from Babylonian cuneiform sources and use this data set for creating a long-term and deeply contextualized perspective on the emergence of Persia as the first world empire.

The postdoctoral researcher will be responsible for designing and developing an online prosopographical database of individuals mentioned in cuneiform records from southern Mesopotamia under Assyrian, Babylonian and Persian rule. For the design of the database, the researcher will work together with IT specialists and the PI (Waerzeggers). Data collection will be done by a team of three fulltime research assistants under the supervision of the postdoctoral researcher. Furthermore, the post holder is expected to carry out original research on the social history of Babylonia under Persian rule, and disseminate results through appropriate academic and non-academic channels. Together with the project team, the post holder will be expected to organize workshops, events, and lectures, and to set up and maintain collaborations with affiliated projects.

Key responsibilities

- Develop an online prosopographical database;
- Supervise a team of research assistants;
- Carry out and publish original research;
- Facilitate joint activities and data sharing;
- Disseminate the project to non-academic parties and on social media.

Selection criteria

- A PhD degree in Assyriology with a focus on social history. Candidates near completion of the degree will be considered;
- Excellent command of the Babylonian language and script, preferably of the cuneiform archival sources from mid-first millennium BCE Babylonia;
- Expertise in prosopographical research and database analysis;
- Experience with database design;
- A research and publication record that is commensurate with career stage;
- Commitment to high-quality research, publication, and dissemination, including through social media, blogs or websites;
- Excellent managerial skills;
- Ability to work as part of and in support of a larger team.

Our Faculty/ Institute

The Faculty of Humanities is an international centre for the study of languages, cultures, arts, and societies worldwide, in their historical contexts from prehistory to the present. We take culture broadly to include religions, philosophies, and worldviews as well as literature art, and technology. We aim to contribute to knowledge, the sustainable well-being of societies, and the understanding of the cognitive, historical, cultural, artistic, and social aspects of human life. In research and teaching, we focus on Dynamics of Diversity, meaning the mobility of people, language, culture, ideas, art, and institutions in a globalizing world, and their interconnectivity through the ages. Our faculty is home to more than 5,400 students and 800 staff members. For more information, see <http://www.hum.leidenuniv.nl>.

The postdoctoral researcher will hold a position in the Leiden University Institute for Area Studies (LIAS). LIAS is committed to the integration of disciplinary and regional-historical perspectives, on a solid foundation of excellent language skills, and comprises a School of Asian Studies and a School of Middle-Eastern Studies.

Current staff in Assyriology have expertise in Sumerian language and culture, Hittite language and culture, the Akkadian language, and the history of Mesopotamia from the early second to the late first millennium BCE. The local research environment includes the Netherlands Institute of the Near East with its excellent research library, the National Museum of Antiquities.

Terms and conditions

We offer a fixed-term position from January 2017 through December 2018, with a possible extension of up to three additional years until December 2021.

The salary range for a postdoctoral researcher is from € 3,400.- to €4,654.- gross per month (pay-scale 11), commensurate with qualifications, with substantial additional holiday and end-of-year bonuses. Depending on qualifications, the researcher may start at the appropriate step in scale 10 until she/he fully meets the requirements for scale 11 as specified by the Faculty of Humanities, particularly with regard to the number of years of relevant work experience. Candidates from outside the Netherlands may be eligible for a substantial tax break.

Diversity

Leiden University is strongly committed to diversity within its community and especially welcomes applications from members of underrepresented groups.

Information

Enquiries can be made to Caroline Waerzeggers (c.waerzeggers@hum.leidenuniv.nl).

Information about the Faculty of Humanities and about Leiden University can be found at www.leiden.edu.

Applications

Applications period runs up to and including August 14, 2016. Interviews are planned for mid-September 2016.

Applications should be in English, and be submitted to vacatureslias@hum.leidenuniv.nl, with the items listed below included in this order in a single PDF document named 'FAMILY NAME – Given name – 16-186':

- A cv including education and employment history and publications;
- A letter of motivation;
- One sample publication or other piece of written work (e.g. thesis chapter);
- Names, positions and email addresses of two referees (no reference letters).