

Edubba Travel Grant for PhD students working on Sumerian grammar

Two travel grants for PhD students working on Sumerian grammar are available to attend the inaugural meeting of the Copenhagen Sumerian Circle, a newly constituted group with the goal of continuing the work on Sumerian grammar and linguistics. This initiative is funded through the generous support of the Edubba Foundation, a Danish private foundation that has the goal to support small subjects in the humanities, especially those subjects that have an illustrious research history in Denmark.

How to Apply

Application materials consist of a short letter of interest of not more than 2 pages, including information on the PhD project, as well as a CV. Applications and informal enquiries can be addressed to Nicole Brisch (nmbrisch@hum.ku.dk) or Cale Johnson (J.C.Johnson@bham.ac.uk).

The deadline for applications is: May 24, 2019.

Copenhagen Sumerian Circle: First Meeting

Both research on and especially the teaching of Sumerian has been plagued with divergent approaches and theoretical presuppositions as well as a poorly defined (sub)disciplinary identity, making it difficult to justify curricula and research projects to non-specialists. This has led to a widespread assumption that Sumerian grammar is incoherent or, at least, poorly understood. The newly founded Copenhagen Sumerian Circle is dedicated to the development of a well-defined research agenda for Sumerian linguistics as well as the definition of best practices and levels of competence in the teaching of Sumerian.

The theme of the meeting is “Current problems and future directions in the study of the Sumerian language” and we are particularly interested in papers that address how to make research on Sumerian into a productive area of investigation, in particular how to build consensus on key facts within this area of specialization. Thus discussions of “meta” issues that hinder the production of new synthetic descriptions or even surveys of the most difficult questions in the study of Sumerian grammar would be particularly welcome. We are planning on a two-day meeting, with one day dedicated to individual papers and a second day with several brain-storming sessions for improving this area of research.

The first meeting is due to take place in Copenhagen on August 15-16.