



ERC-Funded PhD Position in Assyriology

Applications are invited for a full time fixed term position for a Doctoral student in Assyriology at the Department of Near Eastern Studies of the University of Vienna (Austria) to be funded by the ERC-2018-STG “Repetition, parallelism and creativity: an inquiry into the construction of meaning in Ancient Mesopotamian literature and erudition” (REPAC). The appointment is for 3 years, starting May 1, 2019 (or as soon as possible thereafter), with the possibility of a two-year extension upon positive evaluation.

Job description

We are looking for a curious, learning oriented, and self-directed candidate with a strong interest in Ancient Mesopotamian literature and erudition.

The candidate will work within the ERC-2018-STG-funded research project “Repetition, parallelism and creativity: an inquiry into the construction of meaning in Ancient Mesopotamian literature and erudition” (REPAC).

REPAC is envisaged as a contribution to the intellectual history of Ancient Mesopotamia. The project investigates selected corpora of literary, magical and divinatory texts with a view towards elucidating structures of analogistic thought that cut across text genres. Methodologically, it adopts a combination of methods grounded in philology, textual criticism and historical interpretation. The project also aspires to interdisciplinarity, aiming better to integrate Mesopotamia within the discourse on Ancient intellectual history.

REPAC’s core team is composed of four members, the PI, one postdoctoral research fellow and two PhD candidates in Assyriology.

The PhD candidate will be supervised by the PI, Dr. Nicla De Zorzi, and is expected to complete a PhD thesis within the time of the appointment. Main focus of the research will be the development of patterns of meaning through analogical reasoning in Ancient Mesopotamian divinatory compendia.

The candidate will play an active role in the research of the group and will be actively involved in the design of new research concepts. The candidate is also expected to participate in the project’s teaching and training activities, to organize seminars and other events, and to publish articles both independently and in collaboration with other team members.

Eligibility criteria

To apply for the position, candidates must hold an internationally-recognized graduate (MA) degree in Assyriology or Ancient Near Eastern studies or demonstrate that they will have such a degree by May 2019.

Ideal candidates should have solid philological training in reading Akkadian texts, excellent research skills, as well as good communication skills. Candidates who can bring evidence of relevant research experience with Ancient Mesopotamian divinatory texts will be preferred.

Excellent written and spoken English is a requirement for the position.

Please submit:

- a curriculum vitae (CV, resume)
- a cover letter that explains your motivation for applying to the advertised position and describes your past achievements and research interests
- contact email of two potential referees
- a writing sample (15-20 pages in English)
- copies of certificates and copies of translated documents
 - copies of certificates of any academic degrees or advanced qualifications indicating grades and explaining the home's university grading system
 - copies of document(s) certifying knowledge of English language

The application procedure:

Applications should be submitted via the Job Center to the University of Vienna (<http://jobcenter.univie.ac.at>) no later than 15.01.2019, mentioning reference number 9265.

Qualified applicants are invited for a first interview (on Skype) within three weeks of the application deadline. Short-listed candidates are subsequently invited for a second interview at the Department of Near Eastern Studies of the University of Vienna (travel and hotel costs will be reimbursed).

All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, colour, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, age, status as an individual with disability.