

## **1 Postdoc and 2 PhD positions in the research program "The senses of Islam: A cultural history of perception in the Muslim world"**

The postdoc (3 years) and the two PhD positions (4 years) are embedded in the research project "The senses of Islam: A cultural history of perception in the Muslim world" (SENSIS), funded by a Consolidator Grant of the European Research Council and led by Prof. Dr. Christian Lange, Dpt. of Philosophy and Religious Studies, University of Utrecht. SENSIS is a five-year research project (September 2017-August 2022) that studies the history of Muslim conceptualizations of the senses and of sense perception. SENSIS seeks to attract researchers in the following five areas: (1) epistemology, (2) mysticism, (3) ethics, (4) law, and (5) poetry of the Islamicate world. A central concern of SENSIS is to achieve a method transfer from disciplines such as sensory history and the material study of religion to the study of Islam. The postdoc position is advertised, in the first instance, for areas (1) and (5), and the two PhD studentships are advertised for areas (3) and (4) of the research project, but should applicants wish to pursue other lines of inquiry they are encouraged to consult with Prof. Dr. C.R. Lange (C.R.Lange@uu.nl). A description of SENSIS can be found on the vacancies website of the University of Utrecht.

### **Qualifications applicants for the two PhD positions:**

- an MA or equivalent degree in Islamic Studies, Religious Studies, or a cognate discipline, or an MA thesis in one of these fields already accepted by the MA committee;
- knowledge of at least one primary Islamicate language (preferably Arabic, but other languages will also be considered);
- proficiency in academic English as well as the ability to work with secondary literature in modern European languages;
- ability to work independently and in a team, with good organisational and communication skills.

### **Qualifications applicants for the Postdoc position:**

- a PhD in Islamic Studies, Middle Eastern Studies, or associated fields; or a PhD dissertation in one of these fields already accepted by the PhD committee;
- knowledge of at least one primary Islamicate language (preferably Arabic, but other languages will also be considered);
- excellent track record and research skills relative to experience;
- excellent academic writing and presentation skills;
- publications in good journals or (in the case of books) with internationally recognized academic publishers;
- the ability to work both independently and as part of a team, with good organisational and communication skills;
- proven interest in interdisciplinary work is considered an advantage.

### **Offer PhD positions:**

We offer two PhD positions (1 fte each), initially for a period of 18 months. Upon good performance and a positive evaluation, the contract will be extended for the remaining period of 30 months (4 years in total). The gross monthly salary starts at €2,191 in the first year, and ends at € 2,801 in the fourth year, on a fulltime basis.

### **Offer Postdoc position:**

We offer a postdoc position (1 fte), initially for a period of 12 months. Upon good performance, the contract will be extended for another 24 months (three years in total). The starting salary ranges between € 3,193 and € 3,427 (gross monthly salary on a fulltime basis depending on experience and qualifications (salary scale 10).

Utrecht University offers a pension scheme, a holiday allowance of 8% per year, an end-of-year bonus of 8.3% and [terms of employment](#). Conditions are based on the Collective Employment Agreement of the Dutch Universities. More information: [working at Utrecht University](#).

**About the organization:**

A better future for everyone. This ambition motivates our scientists in their research and inspiring teaching. At [Utrecht University](#), the various disciplines collaborate intensively on major societal themes. Our focus is on Dynamics of Youth, Institutions for Open Societies, Life Sciences and Sustainability.

The [Faculty of Humanities](#) has around 7,000 students and 900 staff members. It comprises four knowledge domains: Philosophy and Religious Studies/Islamic Studies, History and Art History, Media and Culture Studies, and Languages, Literature and Communication. With its research and teaching in these fields, the Faculty aims to contribute to a better understanding of the Netherlands and Europe in a rapidly changing social and cultural context. Enthusiastic and committed faculty members and excellent amenities in the historical city center of Utrecht, where the Faculty is housed, contribute to an inspiring working environment.

**Additional information:** For additional information about SENSIS, please contact Prof. dr. C.R. Lange (C.R.Lange@uu.nl). Please also refer to the websites of the Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies and of Utrecht University for general information.

**Applications** should contain the following: (1) an application letter that sets out your qualifications and motivation for applying for the position; (2) a curriculum vitae; (3) two references (either as hardcopy or per email, sent directly by the referee to C.R.Lange@uu.nl or to Christian Lange, Dpt. of Philosophy and Religious Studies, Utrecht University, Janskerkhof 13, 3512 BL Utrecht, The Netherlands); (4) a copy of your master thesis (for applicants to the PhD positions) or two samples of published work (articles or chapters; unpublished chapters of the PhD dissertation will also be considered); (5) a transcript of grades and/or scan of the PhD certificate.

Please apply through the vacancies website of the University of Utrecht.

Interviews will be scheduled for the first week of May 2017. Candidates selected for the interviews will be asked to write a short research design related to their chosen research area in the project. Employment will become effective in September 2017 on a date negotiable with the project leader but not later than 1 October 2017.

**The application deadline is 31 March 2017**