

**To: Hilde Spjelkavik Kveseth, Head of Office, SAI  
and Rune Flikke, Head of Department, SAI  
Faculty of Social Sciences, Department of Social Anthropology  
Universitetet i Oslo**

**Re.: Application for Ph.D. research stay**

My ph.d. research project is an anthropological exploration of the conversion and transformation of 'conventional' farming systems to more sustainable forms of farming in mid-west Jutland, Denmark. 'Conventional' signifies farming that make use of 'modern' technologies; artificial fertilizer, agrochemicals, machine power, antibiotics etc. Thus, conducting research among conventional farmers in Denmark has connected me to worlds wherein toxicity and pollution is considered intrinsic to sustaining productivity, efficacy, and ultimately life.

Since spring 2020, I have been attending a reading group, AnthroTox, that springs from a research project at UiO. Here we have discussed ways to engage anthropologically with toxicity and pollution in terms of methodology, analysis and theorisation.

Joining the UiO based reading group has provided generative critical perspectives on how to theorize and analytically conceptualise the toxicity I encountered in my field site. I seek to develop this perspective further in my dissertation, preferably in dialogue with a professional community where I can participate in and contribute to disciplinary conversations on subjects such as - but not limited to – sustainable transition of farming and the role of toxicity in this, the work of boundaries in preserving specific kinds of systems, and farming in general.

I believe my research holds the potential to contribute critically and generatively to already existing discussions within the environmental humanities, particularly on the toxic as an empirical phenomenon and as an analytical prism through which to understand the contemporary world and its transformations.

During my proposed stay at the Department of Social Anthropology (SAI), I wish to take part in research activities at Oslo School of Environmental Humanities (OSEH), for instance in relation to the Research project AnthroTox and the research group on Anthropogenic Soils.

Ursula Münster and Marianne Elisabeth Lien have both agreed to help facilitate my research stay and to work with me while I am there. I have attached a screenshot of the correspondence between Marianne and me.

If possible, I would like to join your department in the spring semester of 2023 (15th of March - 15th of June), as this period fits well with my overall PhD plan and has been approved by my supervisor at AU, Jens Seeberg.

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