

Assistant Professor in Southeast Asian Studies specialising in Governance, Justice, and Sustainable Futures

Strategic Context

Description of the Current Research Environment: Southeast Asian Studies is a core component of the Centre's research and teaching and forms one of the specialisation tracks in its MSc programme, contributing to courses at the bachelor's, master's, and PhD levels. Recent projects on Southeast Asia have received funding from the European Commission, Formas, the Swedish Research Council, and the Bank of Sweden Tercentenary Foundation.

Thematic Focus: We seek a candidate specialising in "Governance, Justice, and Sustainable Futures in Southeast Asia" who can establish a research programme that advances the Centre's profile in sustainability research. We welcome research on how changing political institutions, social structures, values, rights, and cultural practices shape responses to sustainability challenges such as climate vulnerability, resource governance, inequality, demographic change, and civil society engagement.

Independent initiatives from the department to strengthen the environment: The Centre is committed to a strong Southeast Asia profile through ongoing international collaborations in education and research, lecture series, and thematic workshops held in Lund and in the region. The Centre is investing in interdisciplinary links across the university, expanding field-based research networks with universities and civil society in Thailand, Indonesia, Cambodia and Myanmar, and supporting early-career scholars through mentoring and project development. The new position will be part of these efforts, contributing to an expanded and internationally competitive environment and reinforcing synergies across ongoing research projects.

The Role and Responsibilities of the Assistant Professor

Strategic Motivations for the Recruitment: Southeast Asia is home to the world's largest stateless population, the longest-running civil war, and the third-largest democracy. The region is central to global supply chains for critical minerals, faces emerging challenges such as scam centres and online fraud, and is highly exposed to climate and biodiversity risks. Despite its global importance, Southeast Asia has received limited scholarly attention in the Nordics. This position will strengthen the Centre's research profile, support comparative work across Asia, and advance strategic priorities in sustainability and global studies while increasing competitiveness for external funding.

Commitment of the Hosting Department: The Centre provides a collegial and supportive research environment. The assistant professor will be integrated into active research clusters, receive mentoring from senior colleagues, and have access to research infrastructure, administrative support, and co-funding for workshops, project development, and international collaborations. Through a strong teaching programme in Asian Studies, guest researcher schemes, lecture series, and outreach activities, the Centre will support the development of an independent research profile and strong international networks.