

Grant-funded postdoctoral researcher in mysticism studies

We are looking for a highly motivated **grant-funded postdoctoral researcher** to work in the project **Mysticism in Society: Theorizing Mystical Consciousness** (MISTIC) in the Faculty of Social Sciences at Tampere University, Finland (<https://www.tuni.fi/en/about-us/faculty-social-sciences>).

Job description

The position involves desk and field research in the project financed by Kone Foundation, publishing independent and co-authored articles as mutually agreed, jointly writing a monograph, attending relevant conferences and presenting research, assisting in organizing project meetings and conferences, and communicating about the study. The work is conducted in a team under supervision of the Principal Investigator and in close collaboration with the Program in the Study of Mysticism (www.studyingmysticism.com).

The main topic of study in the project is to conduct empirical research towards building a theory of mystical consciousness that can explain the ways in which mystics are embedded in society. The researcher will conduct historical case studies of mystics in non-Western traditions, specifically from Islam, Hinduism, and/ or Buddhism to appreciate how mystics use and transform language, relate to community, and contribute to society. The work also calls for field research on and around recent or contemporary mystics in one or more of these traditions on the same lines.

The incumbent will be based physically in Finland and attend regular meetings and seminars as an active member of the group. The working language is English, although some article-writing in Finnish is encouraged. The position involves 35 months of individual funding at Kone Foundation's Grant Level II (postdoctoral researcher), paying €3200/month gross. Travel and other research funds will be available separately. Grants are tax-exempt in Finland up to the amount equivalent to the Finnish state grants for artists (€26.988,24 per year). Neither Kone Foundation nor Tampere University are the employers for grant recipients, and the incumbent will be responsible for taxes per law, including deductions. For more information on tax matters, please visit Finnish Tax Administration (www.vero.fi/en-us).

All grantees are required to register with The Farmers' Social Insurance Institution (www.mela.fi/en/), which provides pension, accident, and group life insurance coverage for grant recipients in Finland. Statutory insurance payments are approximately 15–20% of the monthly grant. Tampere University will provide working space and a computer.

For more information on grant practicalities, please visit Kone Foundation's website: <https://koneensaatio.fi/en/grants/forgrantrecipients/funding-practicalities/>.

Requirements

The position is open for candidates with a doctoral degree and at least two years of relevant research in the social scientific study of religion. Sound knowledge of qualitative research methods and social theories of religion are essential, as is a strong command over academic English. Previous research and familiarity with the scholarship in religion and society is also a requisite, while studies on mysticism are considered an advantage. Good communication skills and demonstrable skills in teamwork will also be considered an advantage.

Assessment criteria

This is a position primarily focused on research. The assessment of the applicants will primarily be based on their research qualifications and potential as researchers. Emphasis will be placed on research skills within the field. Research publications, especially in the field of mysticism studies, will be assessed carefully for the ability to design and conduct high quality research independently and to publish in scientific venues. Candidates for this position are expected to have a strong background in social scientific studies in religion, preferably in mysticism studies, and a keen interest in the topic. Other qualifications include good communication and teamwork skills, strong knowledge productivity tools like MS office, citation software, and qualitative analysis software, as well as some teaching experience in religious studies.

Consideration will also be given to how the applicant's experience and skills complement and strengthen the existing team, and how they stand to contribute to its future development.

We offer

You will have the chance to contribute to cutting-edge research on mysticism and society, including both historical and contemporary case studies, with independence in research combined with team support and supervision from the Principal Investigator. The position provides opportunities for academic growth through publishing, conference participation, and collaborative writing, as well as a dedicated workspace and computer at Tampere University. In addition to the grant, research and travel funding will be available, and you will join a vibrant academic community with networking possibilities in Finland and internationally.

To apply please,

- write a letter of intent (maximum two pages) outlining why you are suited to this position and your research idea;
- attach a detailed CV and a list of publications; and
- include a list of up to two referees who may be contacted.

Applications will be reviewed from 1 February 2026, and the position will remain open until filled.

Shortlisted candidates may be approached for a Zoom or in-person interview.

Contact information

Please send all materials and direct any queries to the Principal Investigator, Sociology Professor Ali Qadir: ali.qadir@tuni.fi.