



**UNIVERSITY
OF OSLO**

Vacancy: Policy researcher - Digital health innovation and governance

The position

We are looking for a highly motivated and skilled social scientist/ policy researcher for the project “Bits, bytes and bodies: Local innovation and digital healthcare in Tanzania.” The project is a collaboration between the Department of Sociology and Anthropology at the University of Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, and the Centre for Development and the Environment at the University of Oslo, Norway, funded by the Research Council of Norway and led by Dr. Tom Neumark and Dr. Vendelin Simon.

Background

The WHO says harnessing the power of digital technologies is essential to achieve universal health coverage. Recently, there have been large investments in the development of digital technology to improve healthcare in low- and lower middle-income countries. However, there are concerns that high costs, weak regulations and design that is poorly suited to local social and cultural contexts challenge the potential of the digital revolution to improve health equity. These concerns have led to global initiatives to foster ‘local innovation’ to meet the needs of end-users and health systems rather than those of outside foreign experts or private investors. The research project seeks to understand the meaning and practice of ‘local innovation’ in the design, governance and use of digital health technologies, focusing on Tanzania.

The candidate will contribute to a study of the governance of digital health in Tanzania, working in close collaboration with Dr. Katerini T. Storeng and the rest of the project team. This involves conducting qualitative policy research to analyse how Tanzanian government institutions work with international partners and investors to develop and implement Tanzania’s digital health strategy and to promote, facilitate and build local capacity for digital health innovation. More information can be found at: www.sum.uio.no/english/research/projects/bits-bytes-and-bodies

Main responsibilities:

- Conduct original qualitative/health policy research on collaboration between Tanzanian and international partners in governance and policy on digital health innovation
- Participate in regular meetings with the project team
- Write up findings for publication in peer-reviewed journals and present at conferences
- Contribute to project reports and dissemination

Required qualifications and personal qualities

- Higher degree (Masters degree or PhD) in a relevant discipline within the social sciences

- Excellent command of both written and spoken English and Kiswahili
- A good understanding of Tanzanian health policy, including relationship to external partners
- Documented background in qualitative methodologies including data collection methods, such as participant-observation and in-depth interviewing, preferably within expert communities and policy circles
- Ability to work proactively and independently with minimal supervision and with a flexible work-attitude
- Excellent writing, communication and interpersonal skills
- Excellent computer software skills - and experience with qualitative data analysis software (for example, N-VIVO).

What we offer

- A one-year fixed term contract project under the department of Sociology and Anthropology, with the University of Dar es Salaam, starting in late 2024/early 2025.
- An annual salary of up to 20,000 USD (depending on experience) including health insurance
- A research stay to the University of Oslo in Norway
- Supervision from experienced researchers in Tanzania and Norway
- Funding for computer equipment, books and conferences

How to apply

Interested candidates are requested apply through this secure University of Oslo online form:

<https://nettskjema.no/a/440351>

Please submit:

- a single PDF containing:
 - A cover letter showing in detail your motivation for this position and how you fulfil the qualifications (max 2 pages)
 - CV (max 2 pages)
 - Certificates and transcripts from BA, MA and, if applicable, PhD.
- The names and contact details of two references
- A PDF with evidence of writing skills. This can include a publication, an MA thesis written by the candidate, or another writing sample.

For more information, contact Dr. Katerini T. Storeng (katerini.storeng@sum.uio.no) and Dr. Vendelin Tarmo Simon (vendelin.simon@yahoo.com)

Closing date:

September 9, 2024