

## Minutes MITRA Programme council 31 May 2017, 12.00 – 13.45, PAM489

Council members present: Daniel Maul, Hilde Henriksen Waage, Odd Arvid Storsveen, Toufoul Abou-Hodeib, Hanne Hagtvedt Vik, Hulda Kjeang Mørk & Ragnar Holst Larsen (secretary)

Absent: Sunniva Engh

### Orientation items:

#### 1/17 Application process and applicants

Student Advisor Ragnar Holst Larsen spoke briefly about the application process for Norwegian and Nordic applicants that is underway and said that a lot of the applicants hold a high academic standard. 67 persons applied for MITRA and 35 of these have MITRA as their first priority. We will have between 3-5 applicants from the application processes for international and EU-applicants, and some of the applicants from Norway and the Nordic countries are foreigners that currently are working and/or studying here.

### Discussion items:

#### 2/17 Status for MITRA-courses autumn 2017 and beyond

Daniel Maul presented the courses for the autumn 2017 and opened for a discussion for each course.

MITRA4000: The council discussed the take home exam and how we should approach the exam question. The council members agreed that the best solution would be to give the candidates two or three questions and make them choose one of these. The questions should have an overarching quality, covering more than one of the four thematic blocks.

Another request from Daniel was that the teachers made their Power Point slides available for the students. Hanne Hagtvedt Vik wanted a template that all the teachers could follow and Hilde Henriksen Waage agreed that this was a smart way to make the course feel more coherent. Toufoul Abou-Hodeib asked if the use of Power Point slides were expected by the master's students and Daniel stressed that this was only a requirement for this course and MITRA4010 and that the slides only needed to cover a small number of common points (content, historiography). Daniel also underlined that although the teaching in the course was meant to be lectures, the teachers are free to structure the teaching more like a seminar.

MITRA4001: Doug Rossinow will teach the course and it will be about global 1968.

MITA4421: Olav Njølstad will teach the lectures and Patrick Bernhard will have the responsibility for the two seminar groups. It is still a hybrid course covering international history and international relations. Daniel said that the current hybrid model was not the best solution and he and Olav agreed that the course needed to be significantly more of an international history course moving forward. The council agreed and said that even though you couldn't make a perfect course for both MITRA and PECOS-students; this change would be in line with the feedback in prior evaluations.

MITRA4020: Daniel and the rest of the council discussed the challenges of making sure that the MITRA and PECOS-students had the same level of basic understanding of method and theory in

history before taking MITRA4010 in the second semester. The current proposal is that this teaching will be given as part of PECOS4021 and MITRA4020, but for this to work it would have to be coordinated with and agreed upon by the PECOS Programme council. As for MITRA4010 there will be a meeting between Eirinn Larsen, Klaus Nathaus, Doug Rossinow and Daniel Maul about who will teach the course and how it will be structured. The council members agreed with Daniel that the focus for the course should be method and theory in international history instead of more general themes. There should also be a meeting of all concerned with the teaching of methods and theory of history on the master level at IAKH (and PECOS) in order to define common standards.

MITRA4300: Kim Priemel has been given the task of developing this course further and will work with the framework of three blocks; people, ideas and commodities.

MITRA4200: Ragnar Holst Larsen asked the members for contacts for new internship agreements and the members discussed different possibilities. Daniel and Ragnar also informed the council of a possible application to the Norwegian Center for International Cooperation in Education for funds that improves the internship possibilities.

### **3/17 Start of Studies**

Ragnar briefly informed about the program for the welcoming day and asked the council for suggestions for the seminar at the end of the day. Hanne stressed that the focus for the day should be why the students were there and what they wanted from the programme. Hanne suggested that we invite historians with attractive and interesting work that could inspire our new students. Hilde wanted to know if the plan for the seminar was something similar to what had been done on the regular master's programme in recent semesters, and Ragnar confirmed this, although the focus on the master's thesis would be reduced for MITRA. The conclusion was that Ragnar contacted Hilde and Mari to see if they were available that day and to see if we could get hold of someone outside of academia to inspire our new students.

### **4/17 Social programme**

Daniel informed the council about his plan for a social programme to be established for the first semester. The first point was to invite the students to Studenterhytta after Finn Erhard Johannessens model, and the head of the department had given positive feedback about financing the trip. Daniel also wanted to have excursions and had already spoken with Einar Lie about a trip to Statoil's headquarter and possible external financing. The council members thought this was a good idea and also agreed that we should discuss funding for these activities with the regular History programme council. The third plan was to establish an MITRA Film Club that had two-three film showings per semester with topics from the courses. Daniel wanted there to be a short reading list accompanying the films and encourage discussions. The club would be open to all history students and Daniel hopes that the students would take over the responsibility in the long term. The Council thought this was a good idea, but Toufoul said that in her experience it would be wise to not make such an activity too formal and closely connected to the regular teaching.

### **5/17 Open technical questions**

The programme council concluded that the teachers would use Fronter for the time being, since UiO has plans to change to another platform in 2018. Daniel also wanted suggestions for a new

evaluation system for the programme and its courses. Hanne strongly suggested that we learn and copy the evaluation system from “Internasjonale Studier”, in her experience this evaluation system would make sure the teachers got relevant feedback. Daniel underlined the importance in a functioning evaluation system, with new and (un)experienced teachers getting valuable feedback.

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|-------------|---|--|--|--|
| 4. semester | MITRA4095 - Master's thesis in Modern International and Transnational History   |  |  |  |
| 3. semester | MITRA4400 - Field Term - Internship for Modern International and Transnational History Students or MITRA4450 - Field Term - History Project for Modern International and Transnational History Students |  |  | MITRA4040 - Research and Writing Training in History III |
| 2. semester | MITRA4010 - Methods and Theory in Modern International and Transnational History  | MITRA4300 - Global Encounters 1850 - 2010 - Transnational Movements of People, Ideas and Commodities | MITRA4011 - Reading course II - Methods and Theory In Modern International and Transnational History | MITRA4030 - Research and Writing Training in History II  |
| 1. semester | MITRA4000 - Key Issues in Modern International and Transnational History  | MITRA4421 - War, Peace and the Nobel Peace Prize   | MITRA4001 - Reading course I - Key Issues in Modern International and Transnational History          | MITRA4020 - Research and Writing Training in History I   |
|             | 10 ECTS   | 10 ECTS  | 5 ECTS   | 5 ECTS   |