

Report for Research Assistantship National Science Foundation  
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Matthew Cook

During fieldwork in Oslo in May and June 2013, I have worked on two projects. I have worked on the MINDS team project on stakeholder involvement in skilled migration. This project involved tasks and skills that build upon the team's work over the last year. In the first two weeks while Ben and Jaylyn were here, I primarily scheduled interviews with stakeholders, and I looked up information about informants that were recommended by interview participants. I started contacting people two weeks before we came to Oslo, and Ben and Jaylyn were able to participate in 11 interviews with Dr. van Riemsdijk during their two-week stay. The team has interviewed 33 people in four weeks, including interviews for my dissertation. I also conducted archival research in the National Library to study back issues of *Scandinavian Oil and Gas Magazine* and *Norway Exports* – two trade magazines for Norway's oil and gas industry. We used these magazines to study the history of the oil and gas industry in Norway and to look for references to engineering shortages.

In the last two weeks of fieldwork, I researched and wrote sections of a manuscript on talent recruitment to the oil and gas industry, and I wrote small sections of a research report. I wrote sections on international schools in Norway, engineering and IT shortages, skilled migration conferences, Norway's economy, Global Talent Management, global engineering shortages, and the effects of a "resource curse." I also wrote a 6-page analysis of a survey that we conducted in Spring 2013.

I have also worked on my dissertation research on city branding in Oslo. In particular, I investigate the scalar and network politics used by city branding stakeholders in the Oslo region and I interviewed 14 people in two weeks. I will apply for funding to return to Norway next year to continue interviewing stakeholders involved in Oslo's city branding and to participate in workshops when the final branding project is presented.

I have learned a lot about the city branding process and the politics regarding city branding in Oslo and Norway. Second, I gained experience writing short academic reports for the manuscript and fieldwork report. Third, I conducted archival research for the first time, which taught me that it is a useful way to understand the historical context of a research subject. I also learned that archival research takes a lot of time

and that unexpected difficulties can and will occur, particularly when scanned images are not saved to a thumb drive. Finally, I built upon the experiences from last year's fieldwork with new insights in the management of multiple research projects.

Working at FAFO has been very productive and helpful. I have felt that I am a part of a larger community of scholars here, and the conversations I have had with FAFO's researchers and students have shaped the direction of my dissertation. I am especially grateful for the support and welcome given by Sissel Trygstad and her research group, and to Olav Elgvin for discussing his research on city branding in Norway's municipalities. Their recommendations for contacts and research angles have expanded my research beyond the city scale to include the regional and national scale. These suggestions have played a large role in the decision to focus on city branding in the Oslo region. I also greatly appreciate FAFO's provision of a desk, access to the Internet, printing, and lunch. Without this institutional support, fieldwork would be a lot more difficult. Finally, I thank the National Science Foundation and its Geography and Spatial Science division for funding my Research Assistantship and fieldwork in Oslo.