

## Conflict of interest statement – appointment of doctoral committee

In connection with the evaluation of MPhil Kanako Uzawa's doctoral thesis "*Crafting our future together -Urban Diasporic Indigeneity from an Ainu perspective in Japan-*" we kindly ask you to assess your impartiality. Professor Torill Nyseth and Associate Professor Torjer Andreas Olsen have supervised the thesis.

Kanako Uzawa's will submit an article-based doctoral thesis where one of the three articles are co-authored. This is article "*Urepa ('Growing Together'): The remaking of Ainu-Wajin relations in Japan trough an innovative social venture*", co-author: Mark K. Watson, Associate Professor at Department of Sociology & Anthropology, Concordia University, Canada.

The following important questions can assist you in your self-assessment of impartiality:

	Question	Yes	No
1	Are you a member of the family or the candidate or the supervisor(s)?		X
2	Have you co-authored any publications with the candidate or the candidate's supervisor(s) in the last four years?		X
3	Have you had any supervisory function with respect to the candidate?		X
4	Do you know of any other relationships that you think or believe may be likely to impair your impartiality?		X

If you have additional comments, please note them in the box below. This is particularly important if you have answered "Yes" to any of the questions above. If there is uncertainty as to whether there are circumstances that may impair your impartiality, this should be stated here. On the basis of your information, the department and the faculty will make an independent assessment of impartiality.

**In accordance with the Public Administration Act §§ 6 – 10, I consider myself to be impartial in this case.**

Place: Alta Date: 24 / 3 2019

Britt Kramvik  
Signature + name in capital letters  
BRITT KRAMVIK

### **Law regarding partiality/impartiality**

The provisions in the Public Administration Act seek to ensure objective and impartial proceedings, which strengthen the public confidence in the assessments made. These provisions apply to anyone acting on behalf of the public.

The current provisions on disqualification are specified in the Public Administration Act, Sections 6–10. The individual is obliged to consider his or her impartiality and within an adequate time notify about conditions that might lead to his or her disqualification.

### **Concerning the assessment of partiality**

Disqualification of an individual occurs automatically because he or she is a party to the case; or, for example, because the individual is a close relative of or in relationship with the candidate or the supervisor(s).

Special circumstances may lead to disqualification; such cases necessitate a discretionary assessment in the appointment process. Not all special circumstances lead to disqualification; it is therefore important that such circumstances be recorded and assessed separately. Examples of special circumstances can be that the individual has had some form of supervisory function over the candidate; joint publications; project collaboration; a close professional affiliation with the candidate; etc. Crucial to the assessment are the size of the academic community, the type of collaboration, and the time of the contact.

### **Consequences of disqualification**

Disqualification may result in the invalidation of a decision that has been made.

### **The Public Administration Act: Section 6. (requirements as to impartiality).**

A public official shall be disqualified from preparing the basis for a decision or from making any decision in an administrative case

- a) if he himself is a party to the case;
- b) if he is related by blood or by marriage to a party in direct line of ascent or descent, or collaterally as close as a sibling;
- c) if he is or has been married or is engaged to a party, or is the foster parent or foster child of a party;
- d) if he is the guardian or agent of a party to the case or has been the guardian or agent of a party after the case began;
- e) if he is the head of, or holds a senior position in, or is a member of the executive board or the corporate assembly of a company which is a party to the case and which is not wholly owned by the State or a municipality, or an association, a savings bank or foundation that is a party to the case.

He is similarly disqualified if there are any other special circumstances which are apt to impair confidence in his impartiality; due regard shall inter alia be paid to whether the decision in the case may entail any special advantage, loss or inconvenience for him personally or for anyone with whom he has a close personal association. Due regard shall also be paid to whether any objection to the official's impartiality has been raised by one of the parties.

If the superior official is disqualified, the case may not be decided by any directly subordinate official in the same administrative agency.

The rules governing disqualification shall not apply if it is evident that the official's connection with the case or the parties will not influence his standpoint and neither public nor private interests indicate that he should stand down.