UNIVERSITETET I BERGEN

Styre: Fakultetsstyret ved Det samfunnsvitenskapelige fakultet **Dato:** 28.01.2020
Styresak: 6/20 **Arkivsaksnr:** 2019/21348-BOH
Møtedato: 18.02.2020

Opprykk til professor etter kompetanse i informasjonsvitenskap – Søknadsrunde 2019 – Godkjenning av sakkyndig vurdering og tildeling av opprykk

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Bakgrunn

Førsteamanuensis Morten Fjeld, Institutt for informasjons- og medievitenskap, søkte 31. august 2019 om opprykk til professor etter kompetanse i informasjonsvitenskap.

Etter forslag fra Institutt for informasjons- og medievitenskap oppnevnte fakultetsstyret følgende komité for å vurdere Fjeld sin kompetanse:

- Professor Tone Bratteteig, Universitetet i Oslo
- Professor Kaisa Väänänen, Tampere University
- Professor Johannes Schöning, University of Bremen

Professor Tone Bratteteig ble oppnevnt som leder for komiteen.

Medlemmene i den sakkyndige komité konkluderer enstemmig den 13. januar 2020 med at Morten Fjeld er kompetent for opprykk til professor i informasjonsvitenskap. Han oppfyller de faglige kriteriene til omfang, kvalitet og bredde i vitenskapelig produksjon. Komiteen skriver følgende «*The committee finds that Morten Fjeld is eligible to be promoted to full professor in Information Science».*

Morten Fjeld fikk frist til 30. januar 2020 med å levere merknader. Han har ikke kommet med noen merknader.

I henhold til *Forskrift om endring i forskrift om ansettelse og opprykk i undervisnings- og forskerstillinger* § 2-1 (15) skal søkers egen institusjon fatte vedtak om godkjennelse av bedømmelsen og tildele opprykk på grunnlag av denne.

Fakultetsledelsens merknader

Fakultetsledelsen anbefaler at den sakkyndige vurderingen godkjennes, og at Morten Fjeld tildeles opprykk og lønn som professor i informasjonsvitenskap fra søknadstidspunktet 31. august 2020.

Forslag til vedtak:

Styret ved Det samfunnsvitenskapelige fakultet godkjenner den sakkyndige vurderingen av Morten Fjeld, og tildeler ham opprykk og lønn som professor i informasjonsvitenskap fra søknadstidspunktet 31. august 2019.

Jan Erik Askildsen
dekan

Alette Gilhus Mykkeltvedt
fakultetsdirektør

Vedlegg:
- Sakkyndig vurdering

Promotion to full professorship for associate professor Morten Fjeld

Department of Information Science and Media Studies at the University of Bergen, in the Faculty of Social Sciences

Assessment by

- Professor Tone Bratteteig, University of Oslo
- Professor Kaisa Väänänen, Tampere University
- Professor Johannes Schöning, University of Bremen

Morten Fjeld has worked as a professor for 15 years in Chalmers, the last 7 years as a full professor. He has been a visiting professor in Tohoku University, Japan (16 months) and NUS Singapore (5 months) and has had adjunct professorships at Bergen University (2 years) and University of Zurich (2 years).

Below we outline the main assessment points under "research" and "education". The final section discusses and concludes our evaluation. The assessment is unanimous.

Research: Scope and depth, novelty, independence and collaboration

Morten Fjeld's research has covered multiple HCI-related topics over the years, with a consistent focus on the interaction itself, i.e., the relation between technology and humans, and on how "new" technologies may expand the ways humans can interact by combining physical and virtual aspects of technology. He has contributed to research on 1) tangible and tabletop user interfaces and 2) mobile, haptic, and wearable user interfaces, applied in 3) image-based medical diagnosis and 4) ad hoc collaboration. The research topics over the years have been timely and (at the time) original and novel, and contributed to advancing the HCI research field.

Fjeld is a very productive expert in the area of HCI internationally and the quantity of his academic publications exceeds well the requirements: he is a co-author of 19 peer-reviewed journal papers (e.g. in CSCW, ACM TIST and similar high-quality venues) and has published 84 peer-reviewed conference papers (e.g. in ACM CHI, ACM ISMAR, ACM ISS, and ACM HRI). Fjeld has published in good / very good outlets but also in less-esteemed channels, but overall the quality of the publication outlets is high. His papers target a wide range of publication outlets, depending on the timeliness of result; this is typical in computer science where peer-reviewed conferences and workshops are often the best place to publish particularly timely results. His research interests are deliberately very broad as is required in contemporary pervasive computing and interaction design research, while he has a particular expertise in the development of tangible interfaces. This demonstrates the quality and breadth of his research.

The committee would have wanted to see more individually authored and first-authored papers by Fjeld. His latest first-authored paper was published in 2015 (a discussion paper in First Monday) and one before that in 2009. In his application he gives a quite extensive explanation of why this is the case, which we agree to. However, more individually authored and first-authored papers would have made his own research profile more clear and made an even more convincing case for his promotion. However, references have an increasing trend (Google Scholar) and his h-index is healthy (currently 25 according to Google Scholar).

The research projects reported in Fjeld's papers contribute to advancing the research field by pushing the limits of what kind of interaction is possible by utilizing technical features, yet with a practical consideration of users' tasks. Our impression is that Fjeld has managed to create a set of very good

research initiatives, all resulting in interesting prototypes and research papers, and we have no doubt about him being a good research leader for the group(s) of good PhD students and post docs in his lab.

Fjeld has initiated and managed a range of cutting-edge research projects, some of which with EU funding and some involving major industries. As PI, he has lead projects for over 4 Meur since 2012; his role in the acquisition of the funding has apparently been significant – although the details of his responsibilities in funding acquisition are not revealed. His independence as a research manager is well proven. Fjeld has also worked internationally with several universities, companies and institutes, e.g., in Switzerland, Sweden, Singapore, and Japan, establishing new collaborations between these sites. He also lists several long-term industrial collaborations, and this has created potential for practical impact of the research. The application does not describe his industry relations in any detail, but leaves no doubt that Fjeld is very good at creating collaboration in his local environment. The application also does not provide information on societal impact beyond company collaboration.

Across his research areas, both theoretical and practical contributions have been made although the theoretical side of the research is less elaborated at his side of the reported research collaborations (e.g., Activity Theory). His research is driven by a vision of future human computer interaction, and emphasizes practical usability. Fjeld's orientation to users' real-life tasks requires collaborative research between computer sciences, electrical engineering, social science and psychologists, as well as the medical domain experts where his results are applied. Fjeld's ability to conduct research across traditional disciplinary boundaries demonstrates that he can carry out the type of research collaboration sought by research funding agencies and commercial organisations. His research also makes use of a range of methodological approaches to design (e.g. activity theory for the design of groupware).

Regarding the broader impact in the scientific community, Fjeld has initiated new labs / research directions – more specifically, t2i and Data Science @ Chalmers. He has also participated in academic reviews and has organized international conferences such as ACM NordiCHI 2016 and ACM VRST 2017. His research work has been recognized through the award of several prizes throughout his academic career, e.g., early on with the ETHZ medal for his PhD work.

Education: Teaching, teaching development and supervision

Morten Fjeld has taught six distinct courses in HCI-related topics related to Interaction Design, Tangible Computing, Ubiquitous Computing, Mobile Computing, and Computer-Supported Collaborative Work. The courses have been on all three levels (BSC/MSC/PhD), and they follow "traditional" HCI curricula and seem up to date.

Moreover, Fjeld seems to be an excellent supervisor for projects and students at all levels. He has supervised BSc and MSc students (although there is no information how many); and seven CS/HCI PhD candidates until graduation (three in Chalmers, three at ETH Zurich and one at NUS Singapore). Several other doctoral supervisions are ongoing.

In terms of pedagogical training, Fjeld has passed two (assumed 2 cu each) pedagogical courses in 2006, and a number of shorter courses in 2001. By this he fulfills the requirements of some formal training in teaching at a university level. There is no extensive explanation of his teaching philosophy or approach in the application.

It is not clear from the application if there have been broader responsibilities in educational development, e.g., if Fjeld has developed larger study entities (such as the Interaction Design and Tehnology MSc programme in Chalmers), or if someone else has been in charge of the broader planning of the programmes in which the courses belong. There is also no explicit information about

Fjeld's service to the university, i.e., acting in various bodies or committees to develop the university community at large. Such activities beyond advancing own research and field are often required or expected from a full professor.

We conclude that the extent of teaching is good, but a full professor is expected to have a broad teaching experience from all levels of the education system, hence, this is the weakest part of Fjeld's competence.

Overall assessment

Morten Fjeld is a creative academic problem-solver, a genuine innovator that has made important contributions to the field of HCI. He is also a conscientious researcher who gets research done effectively, carefully and to a very good standard. Moreover, he is a highly effective academic writer. In short, he is a professional all-around academic, who fully fulfils the requirement of a full professorship.

The committee finds that Morten Fjeld is eligible to be promoted to full professor in Information Science and Media Studies at the University of Bergen. Both his research and teaching fit well into the broad field of HCI, hence falling into the field of the position. We think he scores sufficiently well on all the assessment criteria; scope, quality, breath, independence and collaboration, visibility, and relevance, required of a full professor. We are confident that Fjeld will make use of his scientific potential at the University of Bergen and will continue to "produce" relevant as well as visible outputs. We are confident that he will be a good asset to University of Bergen.

Oslo, Tampere, Bremen – January 13. 2020

Tone Bratteteig

Kaisa Väänänen

Johannes Schöning