



From small-scale cooperative herding groups to nomadic empires – a cross-cultural approach

Fact Sheet

Project Information

COMPLEXITY

Grant agreement ID: 101043382

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20 October 2022

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End date

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Funded under

European Research Council (ERC)

Total cost

€ 1 998 859,00

EU contribution

€ 1 998 859,00

Coordinated by

STIFTELSEN NORSK INSTITUTT
FOR KULTURMINNEFORSKNING



Norway

Project description

From cooperative herding groups to hierarchical societies

What do we know about nomadic empires? Can we explain the transition of cooperative pastoralist groups to complex organisations? The livestock (as the primary source of wealth) is believed to reduce inequalities and prevent pastoralism of supporting hierarchical societies. However, there is evidence that environmentally induced livestock losses sharpen wealth inequalities. The EU-funded COMPLEXITY project will develop a theoretical explanation of political organisation from acephalous societies in Africa to imperial confederations in Inner Asia by perceiving cooperative herding groups as the building blocks of nomadic societies. The project will cross-culturally document the prevalence of cooperative herding groups, investigate how

evolutionary factors impact pastoral cooperation and how cooperation affects pastoral performance and inequality.

Fields of science (EuroSciVoc)

[natural sciences](#) > [computer and information sciences](#) > [databases](#)

[agricultural sciences](#) > [animal and dairy science](#) > [domestic animals](#) > [animal husbandry](#)



Programme(s)

[HORIZON.1.1 - European Research Council \(ERC\)](#) MAIN PROGRAMME

Topic(s)

[ERC-2021-COG - ERC CONSOLIDATOR GRANTS](#)

Call for proposal

[ERC-2021-COG](#)

[See other projects for this call](#)

Funding Scheme

[HORIZON-AG - HORIZON Action Grant Budget-Based](#)

Host institution



STIFTELSEN NORSK INSTITUTT FOR KULTURMINNEFORSKNING

Net EU contribution

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Total cost

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Address

STORGATA 2

0155 Oslo

 **Norway** 

Region

Norge > Oslo og Viken > Oslo

Activity type

Research Organisations

Links

[Contact the organisation](#)  [Website](#) 

[Participation in EU R&I programmes](#) 

[HORIZON collaboration network](#) 

Beneficiaries (1)



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