The Faculty of Social Sciences (Department of Government) of the University of Vienna is advertising

PhD and Postdoctoral positions within the MULTIREP project

Overview:

The positions are offered within the MULTIREP project led by Ass.-Prof. Christopher Wratil (personal website). They are focused on research and come without any teaching obligation (if desired, there will be opportunities to deliver some teaching).

MULTIREP – "Multidimensional Representation: Enabling An Alternative Research Agenda on the Citizen-Politician Relationship" is a five-year research project funded by a Starting Grant from the European Research Council (September 2023 – August 2028). The project aims to expand quantitative scholars' understanding of political representation beyond the traditional conceptions of substantive and descriptive representation. It seeks to identify additional dimensions of representation that citizens care about, using in-depth interviews and survey-experimental techniques. For the most important dimensions, the project will develop novel quantitative survey and text-analytical tools to measure citizens' preferences and politicians' behavior, and it will also advance normative standards to assess the quality of representation. Thereby, MULTIREP aims to reshape the scope and depth of quantitative empirical research on representation and enable an alternative research agenda on the citizen-politician relationship. Ultimately, the project seeks to address declining trust in democratic politics by providing a more complete picture of what it means for citizens to feel represented. A description of the project can be found here.

The project is hosted by the Department of Government at the University of Vienna, a vibrant research environment with currently four European Research Council projects and several further third-party funded projects, providing for an international community of PhDs, postdocs and faculty. Key research areas of the Department include political representation, party competition, political institutions and political behavior. For many years, Vienna has consistently been ranked as the most livable city in the world in several international rankings.

PhD position

Job description:
- Be enrolled in the Vienna Doctoral School of Social Sciences (ViDSS) and complete a PhD thesis on a topic related to the aims of the project
- Sign a doctoral thesis agreement within 6-9 months of arriving in Vienna
- Participate in research, publication and administration activities within MULTIREP
- Collect and analyze data, contribute to the development of new methods
- Develop new concepts and theoretical arguments
- Collaborate with other project members (research assistants, PhDs, postdocs, principal and co-investigators)
- Participate actively in internal seminars of the Department as well as international conferences and workshops
- Starting date: September or October 2023
- Contract: 4 years (75%, 30 hours/week)
- Salary: approx. €34,000 p.a. gross, with some increase after three years of service (Austrian take-home pay calculator)
- Benefits: paid annual leave, social insurance (incl. healthcare, pension), flexible working hours, home office arrangements, funds to attend methods trainings and collect data for PhD research

Your profile:
- Masters/postgraduate degree in political science or related discipline completed by October 2023
- Excellent marks in undergraduate and postgraduate study, especially on research-related assessments (e.g. master/bachelor dissertation)
- Strong research interest and focus on political representation, political attitudes of citizens, or politicians' communication activities
- Interest in the political theory of representation
- Willingness to acquire new methodological skills during the doctorate, including the participation in international summer schools (e.g. in the United States)
- Strong communication skills, ability to integrate in and contribute to team work, high reliability, attention to detail, eagerness to learn, pro-active attitude, intellectual independence
- Excellent command of English (knowledge of German is not necessary)
- MULTIREP will hire team members with varying sets of skills and experiences. Candidates should highlight in their cover letter a selection of the following desirable skills and experiences that relate to their profile:
  - Attended courses/training in 1) political psychology (esp. role of emotions and trust), 2) political theory, 3) quantitative text analysis, 4) machine-learning techniques, 5) survey experiments, 6) qualitative in-depth/focus group interviews
  - Experience with survey design, survey experiments, or qualitative interviewing
  - Experience with the (quantitative) analysis of political texts from legislatures or social media
  - Advanced command of R, STATA, Python, Stan or other statistical/programming languages

- Knowledge about politics and the political system in Denmark, France, Hungary, Italy, Poland or the United States
- Language skills in Danish, French, Hungarian, Italian or Polish

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Postdoctoral position

Job description:
- Conduct and publish research on political representation within the conceptual and theoretical framework developed by MULTIREP, aiming for manuscript placements in leading political science outlets
- Develop MULTIREP together with the principal investigator and co-investigators, contributing key impulses and own ideas as well as co-leading work packages
- Share responsibility for data collection, data documentation and data management as well as the ethical implementation of research activities
- Lead, oversee and supervise research assistants as well as collaborate with PhD researchers
- Co-organize and co-lead networking and dissemination activities (e.g. workshops) as well as contribute to administrative tasks
- Present research outputs at international academic conferences and workshops as well as vis-à-vis partners in other sectors (e.g. politicians, think tanks)
- Starting date: Between September 2023 and April 2024 (please indicate preferred date in your cover letter)
- Contract: contracts will be 2-4 years (100%, 40 hours/week) depending on the candidate's profile and its fit with MULTIREP's work packages (see "desirable skills and experiences" below)
- Salary: approx. €60,000 p.a. gross, may be higher with previous postdoc experience (Austrian take-home pay calculator)
- Benefits: paid annual leave, social insurance (incl. healthcare, pension), flexible working hours, home office arrangements, funds to attend further methods trainings and collect large amounts of research data in the framework of the project

Your profile:
- Doctorate/PhD in political science or a related discipline (completed or close to completion)
- Emerging research agenda on political representation or a closely related topic/field with connections to the themes of MULTIREP
- Excellent publication record (e.g. articles in leading political science journals) or demonstrated potential thereof (e.g. manuscripts under revise and resubmit, prizes)
- Interest in and knowledge of the political theory of representation
- Strong communication skills, ability to organize and contribute to team work, high reliability, attention to detail, pro-active and responsible attitude, intellectual independence and originality
- Excellent command of English (knowledge of German is not necessary)
- MULTIREP will hire team members with varying sets of skills and experiences. Candidates should highlight in their cover letter a selection of the following desirable skills and experiences that relate to their profile:

- o Expertise in 1) political psychology (esp. role of emotions and trust), 2) quantitative text analysis, 3) machine-learning techniques, 4) survey experiments, 5) qualitative in-depth/focus group interviews
- o Experience with survey design, survey experiments, or qualitative interviewing
- o Experience in developing new methods in political science
- o Experience with the quantitative analysis of political texts from legislatures or social media
- o Excellent command of R, STATA, Python, Stan or other statistical/programming languages
- o Experience with developing software packages in R
- o Knowledge about politics and the political system in Denmark, France, Hungary, Italy, Poland or the United States
- o Language skills in Danish, French, Hungarian, Italian or Polish

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Application

Applications should consist of:
- **Cover letter** (incl. discussion of "desirable skills and experiences")
- For PhD position: **One-page "*Outline of PhD proposal*"** presenting a concise overview of a potential PhD project (e.g. research question, relevance, theoretical expectations, first ideas for data collection and empirical analysis)
- For postdoctoral position: **One-page "*Research statement*"** explaining how the candidate's research agenda (e.g. PhD) connects with or speaks to the aims of the MULTIREP project and how MULTIREP could help them to develop their own research profile
- **Curriculum vitae** (incl. list of publications where applicable)
- **Transcripts of record** from undergraduate and postgraduate study
- **Contact details** of two potential referees

These documents should be compiled in a single PDF file and sent via e-mail to multirep.staatswissenschaft@univie.ac.at by 23:59 CET on **24 April 2023**. Please use the **e-mail title "Application MULTIREP"**. Interviews with short-listed candidates will be held in May 2023.

For informal inquiries, please do not hesitate to contact the principal investigator, Christopher Wratil, via e-mail: christopher.wratil@univie.ac.at