



Vacancy Doctoral Researcher (100%) in Political Science

Project “They are not like us. The perception of differentness, polarization amongst citizens and dissatisfaction with representatives” (NotLikeUs)

Information about the position

Faculty of Philosophy and social sciences, Department of political science
Centre d'étude de la vie politique (Cevipol)
Director : Frédéric Louault
Promotors : Caroline Close, Emilie van Haute, or Jean-Benoit Pilet

Title of the position: Doctoral researcher
Type of contract : CDD – 4-year contract
Length of contract : 12 months, renewable three times
Full time (100%)
Funding : FWO-FNRS EoS project Rep Resent
Salary: about 2,100 euros/month (net salary)

The Department of Political Science at the Université libre de Bruxelles (ULB) is hiring a doctoral researcher with a specialization in quantitative data analysis (surveys and experiments) for the project “The perception of differentness, polarization amongst citizens and dissatisfaction with representatives” (NotLikeUs) funded via an Excellence of Science (EoS) programme from the FRS-FNRS and the FWO.

Context of the project

The project examines an hitherto under-examined driver of two of the main problems representative democracies are wrestling with: horizontal affective polarization among citizens and vertical political dissatisfaction with politicians. The ‘new’ driver is the perception that other-minded citizens and other-minded politicians are not only politically different—they have other political preferences—but that they also are different human beings with different social, cultural and economic features. Ingroup-outgroup mechanisms make that such broad perceptions of differences lead to deepening intergroup animus. Although the theoretical logic of perceptual differences deepening dislike of others is not new, it has never been applied empirically to the study of horizontal polarization and vertical dissatisfaction. NOTLIKEUS engages in a broad and encompassing research program that (1) describes and conceptualizes citizens’ perception of differentness of other-minded citizens/politicians, (2) examines its causes, (3) analyses its effect on polarization and dissatisfaction, (4) investigates its ultimate effect on anti-democratic behaviour, and (5) explores possible solutions to the negative fall-out of high levels of perception of differentness. Drawing on both qualitative and quantitative methods, the project examines the Belgian case, a case that is suitable both theoretic ally and empirically.



Job description

This is a call for applications for a full-time doctoral position for four years.

The doctoral researcher will become an active member of the research project “The perception of differentness, polarization amongst citizens and dissatisfaction with representatives” (NotLikeUs). The project offers a stimulating working environment in a dynamic and international research team. The project involves 5 research teams from the Universiteit Antwerpen (UA), Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB), KULeuven, Université Catholique de Louvain (UCL), and Université libre de Bruxelles (ULB).

The researcher will be based at the Cevipol (ULB). She or he will have an office and relevant administrative support at ULB. She or he will have no teaching obligations but will be allowed to engage in a limited amount of teaching if this is judged appropriate for their academic development. She or he will be expected to contribute to collective work on the project, and to present and publish individual or collective research outputs.

Within the project, the selected candidate will work on Work Package 4 that focuses on non-democratic behaviours. The candidate’s dissertation will focus on polarization amongst citizens and dissatisfaction with representatives as potential drivers of non-democratic behaviours, including: absence of loser’s consent, challenging the rule of law, political violence, and authoritarian attitudes. The candidate’s dissertation will make use of experiment and survey data collected in the framework of the project.

Profile

The candidate will hold a Master’s degree in political science or humanities.

Skills

- Research interest and/or expertise in democracy, citizenship, political participation, and/or political parties
- Good command of dataset management and statistical software
- Good organizational and time management skills
- Ability to work in a team
- A good command of English, and French and/or Dutch (or willingness to improve one’s command of the other language during the scholarship)



Application

INTERESTED?

Questions regarding the position can be addressed to Professor Emilie van Haute (evhaute@ulb.ac.be)

APPLICATIONS should include (in one single PDF document):

- a letter of motivation explaining the candidate's general interest for the project
- a full CV (including detailed grades)
- a short statement on how the candidate envisions to frame the PhD dissertation (maximum 2 pages)
- a recommendation letter

Please send the above documents electronically to Professor Emilie van Haute (evhaute@ulb.ac.be)

The deadline for applications is 31/08/2022.

A telephone or face-to-face interview may be organized in September.

STARTING DATE is 01/10/2022.

Equal opportunity

The Université libre de Bruxelles (ULB) is an equal opportunity employer.

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La politique de gestion du personnel en matière de diversité et égalité des chances prévoit sur chaque offre d'emploi publiée par l'ULB une mention indiquant que :

« Nous recrutons les candidats.es en fonction de leurs compétences, indépendamment de leur âge, leur genre, leur orientation sexuelle, leur origine, leur nationalité, leurs convictions, leur handicap, etc. »

Les candidats porteurs d'une maladie, d'un trouble ou d'un handicap qui souhaitent bénéficier d'aménagements raisonnables dans le cadre de la procédure de sélection ont la possibilité, lorsqu'ils postulent en ligne, de cocher une case qui attire l'attention de l'équipe Recrutement et lui permet d'adapter les processus de sélection.

Si une personne porteuse d'une maladie, d'un trouble ou d'un handicap devait être présélectionnée par l'équipe SSRM pour l'offre que vous avez demandé de publier, la personne chargée des projets Diversité au sein de l'équipe (sophie.veys@ulb.be) reprendra contact avec vous pour vous donner de plus amples informations sur le profil du candidat en question.