



Call for Applications

PhD position on Spatial Models in European Parliament Elections (Project “Lost in Space”; Funded by the Fritz-Thyssen Foundation)

The Institute for Advanced Studies in Vienna (IHS) invites applications for a PhD fellowship on spatial models of vote choice and party competition in elections to the European Parliament. Applicants should hold a master degree in political science, sociology, economics, or a related social science discipline. We are looking for young researchers with a keen interest in comparative electoral research who are not easily turned away by game theory and quantitative research methods. The position is announced for an initial period of 2 years with no teaching obligations; depending on the continuation of funding, an extension for an additional year is possible. The starting date is preferably **01 September 2017**.

The research project **Lost in Space** received generous funding from the Fritz-Thyssen Foundation and focusses on the logics of vote choice and party competition in elections to the European Parliament. While spatial models of electoral choice and party competition posit a convergence towards the position of the median voter, empirical elections, especially to the European Parliament, are often dominated by parties that assume rather extremist positions. The envisaged project accounts for centrifugal tendencies in European Parliament elections by a two-step model: (1) We begin with an evaluation of centrifugal tendencies in electoral behavior which stem from spatial (i.e. symbolic politics and directional voting; institutional stalemate and the discounting model) and non-spatial motives (i.e. party identification, retrospective voting, valence). (2) We link electoral behavior with dominant strategies adopted by vote-maximizing political parties.

The **Institute for Advanced Studies** (IHS) is an independent, non-profit research institute in Vienna (Austria). It brings together high-level expertise from various disciplines (economics, sociology, and political science, among others) to address fundamental economic and social problems and policy choices. There are 11 research groups established at the Institute; they provide the basis for interdisciplinary research on topics such as economics, politics, health, labor market and education. In total, the research groups cover a wide span of topics, methods, and disciplines. Currently the Institute counts approximately 100 employees. The PhD fellowships will be appointed to the research group “European Integration”. The working language in this research group is English. More information about the Institute is available at www.ihs.ac.at.

Key qualifications for the position

- ▶ Master’s degree in political science, sociology, economics, or a related social science discipline which includes at least two years of study at the MA level and an MA thesis;
- ▶ a strong academic record; ideally with documented skills in formal modeling and statistics and applied data analysis;
- ▶ advanced communication skills in English.

In more formal terms the position offers/ requires

- ▶ Salary according to the FWF regulations; i.e. currently **2.071 Euro** per month (14 times per year); there are 30 work hours per week;
- ▶ an academically stimulating working environment and a vibrant, integrated and international research community;
- ▶ Successful applicants are required to move to Vienna and to be present in the Institute.

Application procedure

Applications should be submitted by e-mail to Verena Karlsson (karlsson@ihs.ac.at). Any application needs to include the following documents: (1) a letter of motivation; (2) names of two potential references; (3) copies of MA degree diplomas and academic transcripts; (4) an academic CV with full summary of education, academic and non-academic work experience, language proficiency, and other qualifying/extra-curricular activities; (5) a writing sample, preferably the MA thesis.

Application deadline

31 May 2017

Applications in German or English should be submitted by e-mail to Ms. Verena Karlsson (karlsson@ihs.ac.at). Please organize the above documents in a single PDF file.

Contact

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