



Call for applications
Postdoctoral researcher in Political Science at UCLouvain for the project
“GLOBPOL – Citizens’ perception and attitudes towards globalization in a context
of multilevel governance”

The position

The Institute of Political Science Louvain-Europe (ISPOLE) at the UCLouvain (Belgium) is hiring a Postdoctoral researcher for the GLOBPOL project (F.R.S. – FNRS – Incentive Grant for Scientific Research, MIS). The recruited candidate will be offered a 2-year full time position starting on September 1st 2021, or soon thereafter.

The Postdoctoral researcher will be responsible for (co-)designing and analyzing the comparative survey of citizens in six European countries that is central to the project. The researcher is expected to develop their own research agenda in connection to the project. Hence, we are looking for someone with a strong expertise in survey research (e.g. designing and conducting surveys, and analyzing survey data), and an interest in citizens’ attitudes regarding globalization and/or multilevel governance. Experience in project management, or in coordinating and leading a research team is an asset.

The GLOBPOL project

The project investigates citizens’ perceptions and attitudes towards globalization (understood as the global integration of the economic, political, and cultural areas of society) and how these relate to citizens’ perceptions of legitimacy of the various governance levels they are subject to (subnational, national, European, and global).

When only scratching the surface, one may argue that globalization plays but a minor role in political debates, and represents an issue of relatively low salience for most citizens. Yet, when unpacking the concept, we see that economic, political and cultural globalization have moved to the centre of public attention during the Covid-19 pandemic, the global financial crisis, global climate strikes, and the Black Lives Matter protests that spread around the world. This research project assumes that the current context constitutes a rare opportunity to study citizens’ perceptions of globalization as the different dimensions (economic, political and cultural) of globalization arguably gained momentum in political debates.

The project proceeds in two steps. First, the project will analyze how citizens perceive globalization. In a second step, the project will assess how these different perceptions may influence citizens’ political attitudes and behavior. To analyze perceptions of globalization, the project relies on a mixed-methods approach. It builds on the

reanalysis of qualitative comparative (4 countries) and diachronic (1995-2019) data to develop a comprehensive understanding of how citizens perceive globalization, and what words they use to talk about the issue. Based on this preliminary work, it develops **an original cross-sectional comparative survey** to complement the secondary qualitative analysis with open and closed questions to analyze how these perceptions are systematically structured and how they translate into political attitudes and electoral choices within diverse national contexts. This representative survey will cover 6 European countries. Countries are selected so as to vary, on the one hand, in the extent to which multilevel governance is developed (ranging from unitary to federal states) and contested (ranging from countries with strong regionalist or Eurosceptic movements and parties, to countries where the devolution or Europeanisation of competences is hardly debated). On the other hand, selected countries cover variation in terms of economic globalization (ranging from countries with strong openness toward international trade and capital and less integrated countries).

Profile

- Holder of a PhD/Doctorate in Political Science or a related discipline (or to obtain this before 1 September 2021).
- Research expertise or interest in multilevel governance and/or globalization.
- Very good command of quantitative analysis and survey research.
- Good organizational and time management skills.
- Ability to work in a team and to take a leading position.
- A very good command of English. The willingness to improve one's command of French during the scholarship is welcomed.
- Experience in project management is an asset.

What we offer

A full-time research position for two years (preferred starting date 1 September 2021).

The Postdoctoral researcher will become an active member of the F.R.S. – FNRS MIS Project “GLOBPOL – Citizens’ perception and attitudes towards globalization in multi-level settings”. The project is coordinated by Professor Virginie Van Ingelgom (UCLouvain) and Professor Soetkin Verhaegen (Maastricht University). It offers a stimulating working environment in a dynamic research team and the opportunity to codesign a comparative survey in six countries.

The Postdoctoral researcher will be based at ISPOLE (UCLouvain), with an opportunity of a research stay at Maastricht University. They will have an office and relevant administrative support at UCLouvain as well as research funds for conferences. The position does not include teaching obligations, but teaching opportunities are available if wanted. The Postdoctoral researcher will be expected to contribute to collective work on the project, and to present and publish research outputs.

Depending on the experience of the candidate, the monthly net income will range around 2500 euros (standard wage scales apply). UCLouvain is an equal opportunity employer.

How to apply

The deadline for applications is June, 11th 2021.

Interviews and the selection of a suitable candidate will be concluded by the beginning of July.

Applications should include (in one single PDF document):

- a letter of motivation explaining the candidate's general interest and expertise regarding the project, and how the candidate sees their role in the project;
- a full CV (studies, academic experience, a list of publications, courses taken, and conference presentations);
- Name, affiliation, email and phone number of two referees who can be contacted if necessary.

Please send the above documents electronically to Professor Virginie Van Ingelgom (virginie.vanengelgom@uclouvain.be) **and** Professor Soetkin Verhaegen (S.Verhaegen@maastrichtuniversity.nl). They can also be contacted for questions regarding the position.

Visit the webpage of the project : <https://uclouvain.be/fr/instituts-recherche/ispole/cespol/globpol.html>