

Call for Applications

Graduate Research Assistant

Political Voice and Economic Inequality across Nations and Time

Principle Investigator: dr. hab. Joshua K. Dubrow, Professor of Sociology, Institute of Philosophy and Sociology, Polish Academy of Sciences

Funding Organization: Poland's National Science Centre

Research field: Sociology, political science, or economics

Type of Contract: Temporary (up to 30 months)

Description of the Project

The project, "Political Voice and Economic Inequality across Nations and Time" is seeking two graduate research assistants for 30 months within 2017 – 2020.

The purpose of the project is to advance the theory, methods, and empirical base for studying the relationship between political inequality and economic inequality. Two fundamental research questions are: (1) *How and to what extent are the main components of political voice inequality – political participation and party representation – related to each other once main features of political and economic institutions are accounted for?* and (2) *At the macro-level, how and to what extent do political voice inequality and economic inequality influence each other?* This project builds on empirical research on how economic resources and political voice connects, accounting for how political institutions mediate this connection. Whereas a basic assumption of modern democracy is that the voice of all citizens can be heard in government, economic resources (and their skewed distribution) influence political voice. Political voice refers to how citizens can express their interests to government. Political voice inequality is the extent of structured differences in influence – directly via political participation and indirectly through parties elected to parliament – over government decisions. The main hypothesis for multi-level models is that political representation and economic inequality as macro-level characteristics will impact political participation at the micro-level, above and beyond the

characteristics of political institutions. The main hypothesis for country-level models is that political voice inequality and economic inequality are dynamic, interactive, and mutually influencing.

The social sciences do not have appropriate cross-national and over-time measures of political voice inequality and thus has never adequately addressed our research questions or sufficiently tested our hypotheses. To solve the scientific puzzles posed above, we will create the Political Inequality Database (POLINQ) which is a multi-country multi-year dataset with cross-national measures of political voice inequality from harmonized survey and non-survey data for over 65 democratic countries from 1990 to 2015.

For more information about the grant, visit the project website, PoliticalInequality.org

Application Requirements

Those interested in participating in the competition are invited to submit the following documents in English:

- a. cover letter (500-700 words);
- b. Curriculum Vitae (CV) with the following points:
 - work history,
 - participation in scientific conferences,
 - participation in research in foreign centers and international scientific cooperation,
 - participation in research projects (grants);
 - awards for scientific activity,
 - scientific publications (if applicable);
 - the dissertation status;
- c. paper, essay, published or unpublished article - minimum 1000 words;
- d. Recommendation letter for the candidate;
- e. confirmation of English proficiency;
- f. confirmation of participation in doctoral studies.

Tasks of the Graduate Research Assistants

- assist in preparation of the theoretical schema and research tools;
- assist in preparation of the harmonized data;
- assist PI in realizing seminar, workshops, and conference;
- produce reports and articles to send to Web of Science listed publications;
- assist in organizing book publication on the project;
- assist in preparation and archiving of data;
- assist in popular dissemination of research results.

Eligibility

Required education level: Master's Degree in sociology or political science or economics from an internationally accredited academic institution

Required languages: English

Skills/qualifications: Fluency in reading, writing, and speaking English;

Specific requirements: Training in basic statistics and in social science methods; experience with statistical software; experience in international scientific cooperation

Required Research Experience: The successful candidate has written, as a single author, research papers in University or other comparable institution/organization and has a clear interest in studying the linkages between political and economic inequalities.

Application Deadline and Selection Process

The complete application must be received via email to secretar@ifispan.waw.pl by **October 13, 2017**.

The competition will run in two stages. In the first stage, the Contest Commission will pre-evaluate the candidates on the basis of the submitted documents. The highest rated candidates will be invited to an interview, which is the second stage of the competition.