

Call for Applications – Postdoctoral Fellow

A Jean Monnet Network grant on “The Politics of the European Semester: EU Coordination and Domestic Political Institutions” (hereafter referred to as “EUROSEM”) headed by Dr. Amy Verdun at the University of Victoria invites applications for a one year postdoctoral fellow for the academic year 2020-2021.

About EUROSEM

Awarded in July 2018, this Jean Monnet Network brings together a transnational team of scholars studying the economic and political effects of the European Semester (ES). The ES is a process designed to ensure the coordination of fiscal and economic policies in the EU, which is backed by sanctions. As it has become increasingly clear, the introduction of the euro not only produced convergence, it has also produced divergence across member states’ economies. Economists have frequently identified these economic imbalances as the root cause of the Euro Area’s fragility. The European Semester sits at the heart of the many initiatives designed to prevent future crises.

This new process for coordinating policies across the EU has also raised concerns in that it could infringe on established democratic practices in member states. Against this backdrop, this research network project seeks to study two central questions: first, can the European Semester successfully reduce the economic imbalances identified as the euro’s underlying problem? And, second, does this new mode of coordination come at the cost of weakening national democracy? The key to both these questions lies in how the European Semester is implemented. While much has already been written on its design and principles, this project will add to this literature by tracing empirically how the Semester is enforced across four member states (Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, and Portugal), and what consequences these practices entail for EU democracy.

Led by the principal investigators at the University of Victoria (BC, Canada), the EUROSEM team includes researchers from the Hertie School of Governance (Berlin, Germany), Università di Pisa (Italy), Católica Lisbon School of Business and Economics (Portugal), and Leiden University (Netherlands).

The Position

The EUROSEM Postdoctoral Fellow’s responsibilities will include, but are not limited to:

- Database management and advertisement, along with website organization;
- Helping to organize the remaining EUROSEM conferences;
- The creation of modules for an undergraduate course incorporating EUROSEM initiatives;
- Research assistance with the editing of an intended special issue of a journal;
- Conducting focus groups and being the primary researcher involved in analyzing the results;
- Collaborating and liaising closely with EUROSEM team members, to include network partners, on research for both academic publications and policy-oriented audiences.
- Contributing to scholarly publications.

The position is foreseen to commence on or around 1 September 2020. Given the current COVID-19 pandemic, while residence in Victoria is preferred, other working arrangements are possible. A successful candidate will need to be present in Victoria for the first three weeks of the position. Competitive salary commensurate with experience: salary is negotiable but expected to be in the range of major federal Canadian funding agencies (CA\$45,000-50,000 per year, plus benefits). Should a successful candidate not reside in Victoria, the grant can also provide compensation for a return flight and cost of living in Victoria for the initial three weeks of residence.

Education / Experience

A PhD degree (completed within the last four years, or within six months of completion) in a field related to European integration and/or political economy (e.g. political science, economics, public administration, etc.) will be considered a strong asset. Pro-active and self-motivated, with a strong commitment to responsibilities and to obtaining results. Organized, good judgement, pragmatic, with proven ability to work independently and as part of a team. Strong ability to communicate in English, both spoken and written, is required. Knowledge of, and experience with, a range of relevant qualitative and/or quantitative methodology. Demonstrated knowledge of the European Union (EU), including policies, guidelines, and institutional interactions. Relevant qualitative fieldwork experience, publishing record or promise, working knowledge of other European languages (in particular Dutch, German, Italian or Portuguese), and the ability to write for lay audiences are additional assets.

Application process

We invite applicants to submit via email 1) a letter of interest, outlining how their research interests would complement EUROSEM, 2) a Curriculum Vitae (CV), and 3) contact information for two referees. ***We encourage candidates to submit applications as soon as possible***, as applications will be reviewed on an ongoing basis. The final date to submit applications is on **June 30, 2020**.

Application and inquiries should be directed to Dr. Amy Verdun. ***Please include “EUROSEM Postdoc” in the email subject heading.*** Email: averdun@uvic.ca. We thank all applicants for their interest; however, only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.