



Berlin, 16. Februar 2017

Job Offer

The **WZB Berlin Social Science Center**, Research Unit “**Migration, Integration, Transnationalization**” (Head: Prof. Dr. Ruud Koopmans) and Research Unit “**Democracy and Democratization**” (Head: Prof. Dr. Wolfgang Merkel), seeks to hire

2 Junior Researchers (PreDocs / PhD candidates)

The position is at 65% of the regular working hours (currently 25.35 hours per week), preferably starting on May 1, 2017, initially until December 31, 2019 with the possibility of extension until April 30, 2020, subject to the availability of the necessary resources. The two positions are located within the project “Against Elites, Against Outsiders: **Democracy Critique, Immigration Critique, and Right-Wing Populism**” (short: **DIR**). The DIR project is led by Dr. Heiko Giebler (political scientist) and Dr. Susanne Veit (social psychologist). It seeks to build a bridge between disciplines (i.e., political science, sociology, and social psychology) as well as the WZB research units “Migration, Integration, Transnationalization” and “Democracy and Democratization.” Successful applicants are expected to complete a PhD/doctorate within the project framework. If desired by the candidates, the WZB will support applications for admission into one of Berlin’s graduate schools.

Against the background of the current success of right-wing populist movements and parties in most Western democracies, the DIR project aims at exploring whether and why support for right-wing populism is associated with critical stances on democracy *and* with opposition against immigrants. The main goal of this project is to develop and test a process model of attitude formation and attitude change as well as to investigate whether democracy critique and immigration critique share common sources. For more details regarding the research agenda of the project, see www.wzb.eu/en/research/trans-sectoral-research/against-elites-against-outsiders.

Tasks

The two junior researchers will work independently within the research project. They will review relevant literature from different disciplines, collect and analyse data, write a Ph.D. thesis contributing to the project, and co-author publications on the conceptual framework and the results of the study. To build a bridge between disciplines and WZB units, the two PhD candidates are expected to closely cooperate within the project as well as with the two research units.

General requirements

Applicants are expected to have:

- completed their master studies with excellent results (M.A. or diploma),
- knowledge of and experience with quantitative research and quantitative methods,

- competence in handling of statistical data analyses (using syntax-based software),
- excellent writing and communication skills in English,
- good communication skills in German (or the willingness to improve them), and
- good organizational skills as well as willingness and capacity for teamwork.

Specific requirements

Position A (*social psychological background; research on migration and integration*):

This position is closely linked to the “Migration, Integration, Transnationalization” department and to questions concerning opposition against immigration. The respective doctoral candidate will be supervised by Dr. Susanne Veit. Ideally, applicants should hold a degree in (social) psychology and strive for a doctorate in psychology. Applicants should be willing to do interdisciplinary research and are expected to have substantive knowledge of social or political psychological research related to intergroup relations, ethnocentrism, political attitudes and ideologies, and system justification. Experience with experimental studies and/or large population surveys are of advantage.

Position B (*social science background; democracy research*):

The second position is closely linked to the “Democracy and Democratization” department and the respective doctoral candidate will be supervised by Dr. Heiko Giebler. Ideally, applicants should hold a degree in political science, communication, or sociology and strive for a doctorate in the social sciences – preferably political science. They should have acquired substantive project-related knowledge on political behaviour, political attitudes, political psychology and/or political communication from a micro-level perspective. Openness for interdisciplinary research, a strong research interest in right-wing populism and in the (legitimacy) crisis of representative democracy as well as experience with survey research are of advantage.

Remuneration

Salary level EG 13 TVöD (in accordance with German public service collective agreement)

Application

Candidates are kindly requested to send a valid application, including

- a letter of interest (with a reference indicating for which of the two positions you are applying),
- a CV *without photo* but with information about project relevant skills and experiences,
- copies of university diplomas and course transcripts, and
- a 2-3 page draft of a thesis exposé fitting into the overall framework of the project,

by e-mail **till March 17th, 2017** to: katarina.pollner@wzb.eu (up to two PDFs; subject: Application DIR).

Job interviews are supposed to take place in the first week of April 2017.

Equally well-qualified disabled persons will be given preference.

The WZB expressly invites women and people with an immigrant background to apply.