



GEM DIAMOND

# PhD POSITION IN POLITICAL SCIENCE & EUROPEAN STUDIES

Fellowship Call for Application

DEADLINE: July 3rd, 2022 – 17.00 CET

EARLY-STAGE RESEARCHER 1

**Dissensus over the Rule of Law in Transnational  
Parliamentary Arenas: The case of the European  
Parliament**



Doctoral Fellowships are funded as part of a European Joint Doctorate supported by the European Commission's Marie Skłodowska-Curie Action.

## RESEARCH PROJECT

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### ENVIRONMENT

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This 3-Year-long doctoral fellowship is offered as part of a specific collective project within a multiannual international research effort on **Globalisation, Europe, and Multilateralism (GEM)**. This project (2022-2026), coordinated by the Institut d'études européennes (IEE) at the Université libre de Bruxelles (ULB), will assess the EU's capacity to act given the challenges facing **Democratic Institutions**, the rise of **Alternative MOdels** and mounting **Normative Dissensus (DIAMOND)**.

**GEM-DIAMOND** is a Marie Skłodowska Curie Action - Doctoral Network (MSCA-DN) involving 7 European and 4 international degree-awarding Higher Education Institutes (HEIs) alongside 6 well-established non-academic institutions. The project will hire and train 16 doctoral fellows to help address knowledge gaps associated with the growing normative tensions undermining multilateral and democratic practice - for further information see [www.gem-diamond.eu](http://www.gem-diamond.eu).

GEM-DIAMOND's overall research program will collectively tackle three shared knowledge gaps regarding contemporary strains on liberal democracy:

- **Objective 1:** Conceptualising the seemingly mounting dissensus surrounding liberal democracy.
- **Objective 2:** Unpacking the ambiguous role different actors can play as both champions and challengers of liberal democratic norms, values and practices.
- **Objective 3:** Assessing the impact of increased dissensus regarding liberal democracy on the policy instruments of the EU and its capacity to act in its internal and external policies.

Early-Stage Researcher n°1 (**ESR1**) is part of **GEM-DIAMOND's** 1st Work Package (WP1) entitled 'Conceptualising Growing Dissensus over Liberal Democracy'.

WP1 includes 4 individual doctoral projects that will each unpack a key strand of dissensus facing liberal democratic norms, principles, and values from a distinct disciplinary point of view. Both individually and collectively, the 4 PhD fellows associated with WP1 will provide the conceptual clarification of dissensus needed to understand how it affects EU policy instruments.

WP1 will neither review the normative underpinnings of the theory of democracy nor revisit existing work on deliberative democracy in Europe, it will rather seek to characterise what makes present-day dissensus erode institutional trust and thus uniquely challenging to existing democratic practices, including deliberative ones. Each of the four individual research projects will lead up to a Double Doctoral Manuscript which will contribute to this effort from a specific discipline. Ultimately, WP1 will **combine four disciplinary theory-building efforts to sketch an**

**interdisciplinary understanding of contemporary dissensus** surrounding liberal democracy in Europe.

### INDIVIDUAL RESEARCH PROJECT (IRP)

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Entitled '*Dissensus over the rule of law in transnational parliamentary arenas: the case of the European Parliament*' the individual research project of **ESR1** is in the fields of **Political Science** and **European Studies**.

**ESR1** will tackle the concept of dissensus from a political science perspective by analysing the recent shift from consensus to dissensus regarding liberal democracy. This individual doctoral project will focus on debates in the European Parliament (EP) when unpacking the conflicting conceptions of democracy and the rule of law promoted since the early 1990s. It will shed new light on power and lines of conflict, be they ideological, partisan, strategic or gendered, and map the actors and their political and social resources involved in these controversies along the different lines of conflict. With a focus on power and ideas, ESR1 will explore conflicting conceptions of democracy and the rule of law promoted by different political groups in the EP since the early 1990s.

The European Parliament is an ideal case to shed light on the divide over the rule of law. As a collective body competing for the embodiment of European democracy, over the past decades, the EP has made the rule of law a central cause. The EP constitutes an excellent empirical field to observe the shift from consensus to dissensus and its effect on the European policy processes.

**ESR 1** is expected to contribute to the establishment of a typology of dissensus and to use both qualitative and quantitative research methods, including content analysis of parliamentary debates in the EP as well as network analysis that will map the actors of consensus and dissensus over the rule of law.

**As part of their application, candidates will be asked to submit a personal interpretation of the research project in the form a specific project proposal of 2-3 pages, including a research question, a theoretical framework, a methodological strategy, and a justification for the suggested empirical choices.**

### OBJECTIVES

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ESR1 will:

- Be hired for at least 36-months by the ULB as a Doctoral Researcher
- Work under the direction of a Joint Supervisory Trio involving:
  - **Pr. Ramona Coman** (ULB) – Co-Supervisor
  - **Pr. Didier Georgakakis** (Paris1) – Co-supervisor
  - **Dr. Daniel Hegedus** (GMF) –Non-Academic Mentor
- Individually work towards a double doctoral degree in 'Political and Social Sciences' under the joint supervision of **R. Coman** (ULB) and **D. Georgakakis**

(Paris1)

- Provide a political science perspective to the collective work in WP1 geared towards clarifying the concept of 'Dissensus' over the rule of law, notably through a shared typology of forms of dissensus
- Participate in all collective research and training activities and submit to the program's regular joint evaluations

## EXPECTED RESULTS

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ESR1 will:

1. Complete the Scheduled Mobility Agenda:
  - a. Training & Research Stay @ ULB (Oct. 2022-Aug. 2023)
  - b. Training & Research Stay @ Paris1 (Sept. 2023-Aug. 2024)
  - c. Research Stay @ ULB (Oct. 2024-Dec. 2024)
  - d. Non-Academic Secondment @ GMF (Jan. 2025-April 2025)
  - e. Research Stay @ ULB (Mai. 2022 – Sept. 2025)
2. Successfully accomplish the doctoral training scheduled both at the local and GEM-DIAMOND levels.
3. Secure a doctoral training certificate from the ULB and Paris1
4. Contribute to a joint WP1 'Framing paper on Dissensus'
5. Contribute to two-project wide manuscripts:
  - a. A Handbook on 'Rethinking Impact in Political & Social Sciences'
  - b. An Edited Volume reflecting the shared conclusions of the project
6. Submit an article to the Journal of European Public Policy (JEPP).
7. Write an original PhD dissertation on *Dissensus over the rule of law in transnational parliamentary arenas: the case of the European Parliament*.

## CO-SUPERVISORS

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**Pr. Ramona Coman**  
[Ramona.Coman@ulb.be](mailto:Ramona.Coman@ulb.be)

**Pr. Didier Georgakakis**  
[didier.georgakakis@univ-paris1.fr](mailto:didier.georgakakis@univ-paris1.fr)

## HOST INSTITUTIONS

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ULB (BE)

Paris1 (FR)

## PhD PROGRAMME

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PhD in Political and Social Sciences

PhD in Political and Social Sciences

## TRAINING AND MOBILITY

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### MOBILITY PROGRAMME

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- Oct. 2022 - Aug. 2023 @ ULB (Brussels, Belgium)
- Sept. 2023 - Aug. 2024 @ Paris1 (Paris, France)

- Oct. 2024 - Dec. 2024 @ ULB (Brussels, Belgium)
- Jan. 2025 - April 2025 @ GMF (Brussels, Belgium)
- May 2022 - Sept. 2025 @ ULB (Brussels, Belgium)

#### TRAINING PROGRAMME

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- 2022-2023 (Y1): Methodological training @ ULB + GEM-DIAMOND Joint activities
- 2023-2024 (Y2): GEM-DIAMOND Joint activities
- 2024-2025 (Y3): GEM-DIAMOND Joint activities

#### NON-ACADEMIC SECONDMENT

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Year 3 (January 20125 – April 2025)

Non-Academic Secondment at the German Marshall Fund of the United States in Europe (Brussels, Belgium)

Non-Academic Mentor:

**Daniel Hegedus**

[DHegedus@gmfus.org](mailto:DHegedus@gmfus.org)

#### POST DESCRIPTION

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##### TITLE

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Marie Curie Doctoral Fellow

##### HIRING INSTITUTION

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ULB (Brussels, Belgium)

##### DURATION

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36 Months (1 October 2022 – 30 September 2025)

##### INCOME

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4000€ Gross per month (48.000€ / year).

*NB: this is a gross EU contribution to the salary cost of the researcher. The net salary will result from deducting all compulsory (employer/employee) social security contributions as well as direct taxes.*

##### ADDITIONAL BENEFITS

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Full Social Coverage

Travel & Research Funds

Family Allowance per month - When applicable

## REQUIREMENTS

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### DEGREE

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Top level graduate degree (Master or equivalent providing access to PhD programs in Political or Social Sciences).

### MINIMAL CREDITS

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Applicants must submit at least one diploma meeting one of the following requirements: (1) a two-year master program (120 ECTS) or equivalent; (2) a one-year graduate program following a prior undergraduate degree if both diplomas total at least 300 ECTS or equivalent; (3) a single four-year higher education program offering 300 ECTS or more.

### LANGUAGE

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English proficiency must be attested either through a previous English language diploma, or an internationally recognised proficiency test (i.e. IELTS, IBT, TOEFL or Cambridge).

### CAREER

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The researcher should be in the first four years of their research careers at the time of recruitment and have not been awarded a doctoral degree so far.

### SPECIFIC SKILLS

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Are considered a strong added value but not a necessity:

- Good knowledge of EU Official languages other than English
- Training in qualitative and quantitative methods
- Good knowledge of EU politics and Comparative politics

### MOBILITY

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At the time of recruitment, the researcher must not have resided, or carried out his/her activity in the country of the first host institution (i.e., Belgium) for more than 12 months cumulatively in the 3 years prior to October 2022

### NON-DISCRIMINATION

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No discrimination will be made on the base of nationality, gender, race, religion or disability.

### APPLICATION

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Complete and timely submission via the on-line application system.

## HOW TO APPLY

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MAY 20th, 2022 TILL JULY 3rd, 2022

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Online application system open and accessible through the GEM-DIAMOND website ([www.gem-diamond.eu](http://www.gem-diamond.eu))

BY JULY 3rd, 2022 17.00 CET

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Candidates must apply through the GEM-DIAMOND online application system, which will request the following information:

1. A personal profile form (incl. CV overview)
2. A scientific profile form (incl. ESR's expression of interest, statement of motivation and personal interpretation of the research project)
3. A full academic CV
4. An academic record with scan of the degree qualifications
5. A proof of language proficiency
6. Two academic recommendation letters

BETWEEN JULY 11th & JULY 20th 2022

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Shortlisted candidates will be invited to an online interview with their supervisory trio (two academic supervisors + internship mentor).

BY JULY 21st 2022

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Shortlisted candidates will be informed about final decision.  
This offer is conditional to the signature of the Grant Agreement.

BY OCTOBER 31st 2022

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Selected candidate to arrive at the ULB (Brussels, Belgium) to start his/her training and research.

**Project Management Office (PMO)**

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