



GEM DIAMOND

# PhD POSITION IN COMPARATIVE POLITICS & AREA STUDIES (Europe/Asia)

Fellowship Call for Application

DEADLINE: July 3rd, 2022 – 17.00 CET

EARLY-STAGE RESEARCHER 14

Responding to competing authoritarian models:  
Japan and EU's respective neighbourhoods  
compared



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°14 (**ESR14**) is part of **GEM-DIAMOND's** 4<sup>th</sup> Work Package (WP4) entitled '*External competition and its impact on the EU*'. WP4 includes 3 individual doctoral projects that will offer detailed analysis of selected case studies elucidating the processes by which exogenous competition shapes the EU's capacity to act. Both individually and collectively, the 3 PhD fellows associated with WP4 will provide a detailed analysis of a range of case studies elucidating the processes by which exogenous competition shapes the EU's capacity to act. The three PhD fellows involved will adopt a *process-centric approach*, with each Researcher working on a specific constellation of competing authoritarian centres of gravity. Ultimately, WP4 will **process-trace the adaptation of EU instruments in response to geopolitical, institutional, and policy-bound external competition** in its neighbourhood.

## INDIVIDUAL RESEARCH PROJECT (IRP)

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Entitled '*Responding to competing authoritarian models: Japan and EU's respective neighbourhoods compared*' the individual research project of **ESR14** is in the fields of **Comparative Politics** and **Area Studies** (Europe/Asia).

**ESR14** will analyse the impact of institutional competition at the macro- regional level. This IRP will compare the strategic and institutional resources mobilised by two civilian powers - the EU and Japan – to mediate mounting intersectional crises and counter shifts towards authoritarianism within their respective regions. The IRP will compare how such crises and shifts have reshaped the EU and Japan's strategies of democratic support in their respective neighbourhoods, namely the area covered by the European Neighbourhood Policy for the EU and the South-East Asia for Japan.

The specific research objective(s) of the PhD is to analyse in a comparative perspective the reaction of the EU and Japan against rising autocratization in the neighbouring countries. Recently, authoritarian turns have been recorded on a global scale in different regions, bringing the processes of autocratization in the post-cold war period at the centre of the current academic debate. However, the strategies and policies to counter these processes of autocratization have been understudied and neglected so far by the mainstream literature.

The ESR project's central research question is: how have authoritarian turns in the neighbouring countries reshaped EU and Japan's strategy of democracy support and regional political dynamics?

This ESR project relates to the central research question of the GEM-Diamond Project in so far as it covers the political axe of the project focusing on the reaction to exogenous competing and alternative models to democracy. In line with the project overall, the methods deployed during the research are qualitative in nature, including content analysis and elite interviews.

**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, and a methodological strategy.**

## OBJECTIVES

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ESR14 will:

- Be hired for at least 36-months by ULB as a Doctoral Researcher
- Work under the direction of a Joint Supervisory Trio involving:
  - **Pr. Luca Tomini** (ULB) – Co-Supervisor
  - **Pr. Ken Miichi** (WUT) – Co-supervisor
  - **Dr. Alexander Mattelaer** (EGMONT) – Non-Academic Mentor

- A second EU-based institution within the consortium will be designated to contribute to the supervisory environment
- Individually work towards a double doctoral degree in 'Social Sciences' under the joint supervision of Pr. **L. Tomini** (ULB) and Pr. **K. Miichi** (WUT)
- Contribute a comparative to WP4 effort to describe the processes by which exogenous competition shapes the EU's capacity to act
- Participate in all collective research and training activities and submit to the program's regular joint evaluations

## EXPECTED RESULTS

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ESR14 will:

1. Complete the Scheduled Mobility Agenda:
  - a. Training & Research Stay @ ULB (Oct. 2022 - Jan. 2024)
  - b. Training @ WUT (Feb. 2023 - Dec. 2024)
  - c. Non-Academic Secondment @ EGMONT (Jan. 2025 – April 2025)
  - d. *Research Stay @ ULB (May 2025 - Sept. 2025)*
2. Successfully accomplish the doctoral training scheduled both at the local and GEM-DIAMOND levels.
3. Secure a doctoral training certificate from ULB & WUT
4. Contribute to a WP4 '**Joint framing paper on Competition**'
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 Integration (JEI)
7. Write an original PhD dissertation on '*Responding to competing authoritarian models: Japan and EU's respective neighbourhoods compared*'

## CO-SUPERVISORS

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**Pr. Luca Tomini**

E-mail: [Luca.Tomini@ulb.be](mailto:Luca.Tomini@ulb.be)

**Pr. Ken Miichi**

E-mail: [miichi@waseda.jp](mailto:miichi@waseda.jp)

## HOST INSTITUTIONS

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ULB (BE)

WUT (JP)

## TRAINING AND MOBILITY

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### MOBILITY PROGRAMME

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- Oct. 2022 - Jan. 2024 @ ULB (Brussels, Belgium)
- Feb. 2023 - Dec. 2024 @ WUT (Tokyo, Japan)
- Jan. 2025 - April 2025 @ EGMONT (Brussels, Belgium)
- May 2025 - 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 (Nov. 2024 - Feb. 2025)

Non-Academic Secondment at the **Egmont Institute** (Brussels, Belgium)

Non-Academic Mentor: **Alexander Mattelaer**

E-mail: [a.mattelaer@egmontinstitute.be](mailto:a.mattelaer@egmontinstitute.be)

## 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 Area Studies (Asia or Europe), 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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Previous knowledge and experience in at least one of the two regions covered by the call (i.e. EU neighbourhood and/or South-East Asia).

## 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:

- A personal profile form (incl. CV overview)
- A scientific profile form (incl. ESR's expression of interest, statement of motivation and personal interpretation of the research project)
- A full academic CV
- An academic record with scan of the degree qualifications
- A proof of language proficiency
- 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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