



GEM DIAMOND

PhD POSITION IN POLITICAL SCIENCE & EUROPEAN STUDIES

Fellowship Call for Application

DEADLINE: July 3rd, 2022 – 17.00 CET

EARLY-STAGE RESEARCHER 7

The politics of the untidy right:
illiberal democracy as a contagious concept



G | M | F The German Marshall Fund
of the United States
STRENGTHENING TRANSATLANTIC COOPERATION



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

RESEARCH PROJECT

ENVIRONMENT

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.

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°7 (**ESR7**) is part of **GEM-DIAMOND's** 2nd Work Package (WP2) entitled '*Unpacking actors of dissensus*'. WP2 includes 4 individual doctoral projects that will help map the network of actors of dissensus as each one will work on a specific type of actor.

Both individually and collectively, the 4 PhD fellows associated with WP2 will help with the *mapping of the main actor networks* that play a role in contemporary dissensus regarding liberal democracy in Europe. Centred on the multi-level European polity, WP2 will identify the challengers seeking to transform democratic and rule of law practice, be it either to undermine existing liberal democratic regimes in an anti-liberal perspective or to recast them through new forms of participation and deliberation. The four PhD fellows involved will adopt an actor-centric approach, with each Researcher focusing on a specific type of actor. Ultimately, WP2 will **map and analyse the legal, political, societal, and technocratic actor networks active within the EU institutions and its MS** driving dissensus in the EU.

INDIVIDUAL RESEARCH PROJECT (IRP)

Entitled *'The politics of the untidy right: illiberal democracy as a contagious concept'* the individual research project of **ESR7** is in the fields of **Political Science** and **European Studies**

ESR7 will focus on political actors. This IRP will examine how populist radical right parties across Europe are challenging liberal democratic institutions. It aims to uncover how the model of 'illiberal' democracy is being spread amongst these parties in Europe, with a specific focus on the role of cooperation between these parties. Empirically, the focus will be on the European Parliament and (online and offline) transnational networks.

Candidates should:

- Have a strong research background (research master's degree or equivalent training)
- Have experience with executing research with the following methods of data collection and analysis: content analysis (qualitative and/or quantitative) and in-depth elite interviews
- Be proficient in at least two European languages, including English, in order to successfully employ these methods of data collection and analysis
- Be familiar with the literature on populist radical right parties

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

ESR7 will:

- Be hired for at least 36-months by UvA as a Doctoral Researcher
- Work under the direction of a Joint Supervisory Trio involving:
 - **Pr. Sarah De Lange** (UvA) – Co-Supervisor
 - **Pr. Nathalie Brack** (ULB) – Co-supervisor
 - **Dr. D. Hegedus** (GMF) – Non-Academic Mentor
- Individually work towards a double doctoral degree in 'Political Science' under the joint supervision of Pr. **S. de Lange** (UvA) and Pr. **N. Brack** (ULB)
- Provide a Political Science perspective to the collective work in WP2 seeking to map of 'actors of dissensus' in Europe
- Participate in all collective research and training activities and submit to the program's regular joint evaluations

EXPECTED RESULTS

ESR7 will:

1. Complete the Scheduled Mobility Agenda:
 - a. Training & Research Stay @ UvA (Oct. 2022 - Aug. 2023)
 - b. Training & Research Stay @ ULB (Sept. 2023 – Dec. 2023)
 - c. Non-Academic Secondment @ GMF (Jan. 2024 - April. 2024)
 - d. Research Stay @ ULB (May. 2024 - Aug. 2024)
 - e. Research Stay @ UvA (Sept. 2024 – Sept 2025)
2. Successfully accomplish the doctoral training scheduled both at the local and GEM-DIAMOND levels.
3. Secure a doctoral training certificate from UvA and ULB
4. Contribute to a WP2 '**Joint Mapping of Actors of 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 Integration (JEI)
7. Write an original PhD dissertation on '*The politics of the untidy right: illiberal democracy as a contagious concept*'

CO-SUPERVISORS

Pr. Sarah De Lange
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Pr. Nathalie Brack
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HOST INSTITUTIONS

UvA (NL)

ULB (BE)

PhD PROGRAMME

PhD in Political Sciences

PhD in Political and Social Sciences

TRAINING AND MOBILITY

MOBILITY PROGRAMME

- Oct. 2022 - Aug. 2023 @ UvA (Amsterdam, Netherlands)
- Sept. 2023 – Dec. 2023 @ ULB (Brussels, Belgium)
- Jan. 2024 - April. 2024 @ GMF (Brussels, Belgium)
- May. 2024 - Aug. 2024 @ ULB (Brussels, Belgium)
- Sept. 2024 – Sept 2025 @ UvA (Amsterdam, Netherlands)

TRAINING PROGRAMME

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

NON-ACADEMIC SECONDMENT

Year 2 (Jan. 2024 - April. 2024)

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

Non-Academic Mentor: Dr. **Daniel Hegedus**

E-mail: DHegedus@gmfus.org

POST DESCRIPTION

TITLE

Marie Curie Doctoral Fellow

HIRING INSTITUTION

UvA (Amsterdam, Netherlands)

DURATION

36 Months (1 October 2022 – 30 September 2025)

INCOME

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

Full Social Coverage

Travel & Research Funds

Family Allowance per month - *When applicable*

REQUIREMENTS

DEGREE

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

MINIMAL CREDITS

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

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

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

Applicants should be able to demonstrate that they have the following skills:

- Knowledge of, and experience with, content analysis (qualitative and/or quantitative) and in-depth elite interviews
- Proficiency in at least two European languages, including English
- Knowledge of the state-of-the-art in the literature on European populist radical right parties
- Knowledge of the basic functioning of the European Parliament

Preference will be given to applicants that have:

- Completed, or are about to complete, a 2-year research master programme or equivalent
- Proficiency in a third European language

MOBILITY

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., Netherlands) for more than 12 months cumulatively in the 3 years prior to October 2022.

NON-DISCRIMINATION

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

APPLICATION

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

HOW TO APPLY

MAY 20th, 2022 TILL JULY 3rd, 2022

Online application system open and accessible through the GEM-DIAMOND website (www.gem-diamond.eu)

BY JULY 3rd, 2022 17.00 CET

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

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

BY JULY 21st 2022

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

BY OCTOBER 31st 2022

Selected candidate to arrive at the UvA (Amsterdam, Netherlands) to start his/her training and research.

Project Management Office (PMO)

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