

2 PhD Researcher Vacancies in the Department of Social Sciences, *Universidad Carlos III de Madrid*

The Department of Social Sciences seeks applications from PhD candidates with a strong interest in social science research. We offer two PhD positions:

- a) A 4-year predoctoral fellowship to develop a doctoral dissertation at *Universidad Carlos III de Madrid* as part of the research project that explores **the relationship between crisis, polarization and federalism (FEDCRISIS)**. The project is headed by Amúitz Garmendia and Sandra León (Department of Social Sciences and Carlos III-Juan March Institute, IC3JM). The research team includes Pablo Beramendi (Duke University), Berta Barbet (Institut d'Estudis de l'Autogovern), Elias Dinas (European University Institute) and Manuel Sola (European University Institute). The project is funded by the Spanish State Research Agency (AEI, Reference: PID2021-128287NB-I00).
- b) A 4-year predoctoral fellowship to develop a doctoral dissertation at *Universidad Carlos III de Madrid* as part of the research project concerning the **causes of pro-European orientation among Spain's Youth (YOEDER)**. The project is headed by Juan J. Fernández (Department of Social Sciences and Carlos III-Juan March Institute, IC3JM). The research team includes Juan Díez Medrano (Universidad Carlos III de Madrid), Verónica Benet-Martínez (Universitat Popeu Fabra), Marta Paradés (Universidad de Comillas) and Céline Teney (Freie Universität). The project is funded by the Spanish State Research Agency (AEI, Reference: PID2021-127561OB-I00).

Research Environment

The successful applicants shall join the PhD Program in Social Sciences of *Universidad Carlos III de Madrid* and they will be supervised by the principal researcher(s) of the corresponding project. The researcher will get the opportunity to participate in the Department's training program for PhD students and will benefit from its interdisciplinary environment. In addition, the researchers will also benefit from engaging with the academic activities organized by the Carlos III-Juan March Institute (IC3JM), which is widely recognized as one of the most important European social-science research centers. PhD researchers will, thus, have the opportunity to participate in weekly seminars, international academic meetings and specialized methodological courses or mentoring sessions by leading international scholars. Participating in this thrilling academic community will allow PhD researchers to develop versatile research skills and begin a promising academic career.

Qualifications of candidates

We are looking for candidates with:

- ✓ A Master degree in sociology, political science, economics, psychology or another relevant social or cognitive science, to be completed before September 2023
- ✓ A good academic record
- ✓ Advanced statistical training, analytical skills and experience with data analysis
- ✓ Ambition to produce high-quality and high-impact research, both independently and in a team
- ✓ Strong motivation to undertake a doctoral dissertation related to the themes of the project
- ✓ Good writing skills and fluency in written and spoken English

Application Process

a) Direct applications to UC3M should contain:

- a motivation letter
- a detailed CV, including academic record
- a written sample of your work, e.g. the master thesis
- names and contact details of two referees

Applicants for the FEDCRISIS project should send their documents sent to: Amuitz Garmendia (agarmend@clio.uc3m.es) and Sandra León (Sandra.leon@u3m.es) by **November 1th, 2022**. Shortlisted candidates may be asked to attend an interview (by Zoom).

Applicants for the YOEDER project should send their documents sent to: Juan J. Fernández (jjfgonza@clio.uc3m.es) by **November 1th, 2022**. Shortlisted candidates may be asked to attend an interview (by Zoom).

b) Official application to AEI:

Moreover, an official application has to be sent to the forthcoming call for PhD scholarships of the Spanish State Research Agency (Agencia Estatal de Investigación, AEI) to be eligible for the position. Candidates should pay close heed to the formal requirements of this call.

FEDCRISIS Project Description

The objective of this project is to study how a crisis of efficiency, an external shock or a scenario of political polarization condition the functioning of territorial and decentralized models. Traditionally, the federal or decentralizing reforms that have been launched throughout the world have been based on the promise of better democratic governance, increased economic efficiency, and greater political stability. However, as has been abundantly demonstrated in the literature, the performance of decentralized and federal countries in these areas has been mixed: in some cases, decentralization has helped to strengthen democratic transitions and reduce ethnic conflicts, while in other cases, federal arrangements have resulted in worse economic management, increased secessionist tensions, and weakened accountability. If decentralized and federal models stand on the promise of economic efficiency and political stability, **how do these models respond to the challenge presented by a crisis of efficiency or polarization?** Do the preferences of citizens about the territorial model change in the context of a crisis? If so, do such changes in public opinion last over time? How does the emergence of radical parties at the regional level change the political (electoral) articulation of the center-periphery divisions? Is political polarization (between parties) related to polarization between territories?

The research that will answer these research questions is structured around three areas of analysis:

- 1) The effect of crises on the centralization of power in federal and non-federal systems;
- 2) The impact of territorial polarization in the control of regional governments;
- 3) The nature of electoral competition of radical parties in decentralized contexts.

Duration of the fellowship: Four years

Starting date: Summer 2023

YOEDER Project Description

In response to common and highly-consequential challenges (climate change, economic globalization, immigration pressures, population aging and security threats), European societies have transferred many decision-making capacities to European Union institutions (vertical integration) over the years. In parallel to that, the national cultures, economies and political orders of these societies have become increasingly interconnected (horizontal integration). These processes have, however, produced consequential divisions within national public opinion. One of largest division arguably occurs between highly-educated citizens, who tend to be particularly pro-European, and non-highly educated citizens, who are disproportionately likely to be Eurosceptics. Similarly, individual income has been proven to affect pro-European orientations. YOEDER will advance our understanding of the main processes explaining these two (and other) attitudinal cleavages. The project focuses on Spain's youth because this is the period in a person's life cycle when core attitudes and identifications form and congeal. Within this framework, YOEDER has two main objectives:

- (1) To determine if shifts in attitudes and identities of young people display clear trends or are trendless
- (2) To establish the mechanisms that connect changes in structural locations and pro-European orientations among young adults

The empirical backbone of YOEDER will be an online panel survey among young individuals living in Spain. The survey will include 4 yearly waves and large sample sizes. This data infrastructure will allow the YOEDER team to utilize state of the art statistical techniques and reach conclusions with the maximum possible internal validity. The PhD researcher will write a dissertation based on a set of research articles publishable in international refereed journals.

Duration of the fellowship: Four years

Starting date: Summer 2023