JOB CALL: PROJECT

‘WHAT DO THE PEOPLE WANT? ANALYSING ONLINE POPULISM IN EUROPE AND THE US’

The CEE (Center for Centre for European Studies and Comparative Politics) of Sciences Po is looking for a

Postdoctoral Fellow (f/m) (PhD or near completion) starting from January 2nd, 2019
(Salary gross 2950 euros; full time, 18 months, ticket restaurants, social security)

The position to be filled is part of the research project “What do the people want? Analysing Online Populism in Europe and the US” funded by a VolkswagenStiftung “Challenges for Europe” research fund in collaboration with the Oxford Internet Institute (Oxford University) and GESIS (Cologne). The project offers an exciting work environment for interdisciplinary research at the intersection between social sciences and data science.

Overview
Digital media are the most important way in which populism is promoted as they allow populist politicians, parties, and movements to bypass the mainstream media which they perceive as biased against them. It remains unclear, however, how widespread and impactful populist concerns are among online audiences and the general public. In this project, we will use several methods, including surveys, tracking peoples’ website visits, and what they post online, in order to:

(1) map what ‘the people’ want
(2) analyse if they want similar or different things across Europe and the United States, and if so why
(3) investigate the effects of exposure to online populist communication on (offline) political outcomes

In providing answers to these questions, the project aims to improve the understanding of the societal (macro) and the social-psychological (micro) processes behind the rise of populism. It is guided by the hypothesis that online populist communication may constitute both a challenge and a corrective for representative democracies and, therefore, should be examined in all their complexity.
Your tasks will be:
- Research on the political content of digital media in Europe and the US
- Collection, visualization, processing and quantitative analysis of social media data (Facebook and Twitter) and web browsing histories
- Writing academic articles, working papers, reports and attend international conferences

Your profile:
- University degree PhD (completed or in completion) in political science or a related social science, computer science or data science, preferably with a focus on quantitative text analysis
- Knowledge of computational science methods (e.g. text and data mining, topic modeling, analysis of social media, social network analysis)
- Competences in quantitative data analysis (preferably in R)
- Good command of English (spoken and written). Knowledge of French is welcome but it is not compulsory
- Knowledge in political science and political sociology or of the academic literature on populism is welcome but it is not compulsory

How to apply:
Submit the following to Caterina Froio via email:

- CV
- A motivation letter
- Your PhD thesis or writing samples

Deadline:
- November 23th

The position is available starting from January 2nd for a fixed-term of 18 months. The position is located in Sciences Po. The CEE is equal opportunity employer and adheres to the disability guidelines.

For further information on the tasks and application process please contact Dr. Caterina Froio via mail (caterina.froio@sciencespo.fr).