

GENERAL JOB DESCRIPTION

Status: Assistant professor, tenure track - Private law contract

Profile: Politics of the ocean: markets, ecology and conflicts

Discipline : Political Science

Job starting date : September 2025

We are looking for a candidate working on the political and ecological issues of the oceans, seas and coasts, in an innovative way. The environmental issues specific to these areas are at the heart of many situations of violence and conflict, linked to the predation of resources and their entry into trade circuits, which raises both economic and political issues. Possible research topics include, but are not limited to, practices conceptualised as ‘blue grabbing’ to indicate the dispossession of local communities of resources linked to the sea, the struggles and conflicts between protection, conservation, exploitation and grabbing of maritime and coastal spaces, the politicisation and judicialisation of pollution and contamination issues, as well as the claims and practices of ‘blue justice’, involving a variety of actors: local communities, multinationals, NGOs, national and international public actors and institutions, as well as groups involved in piracy practices.

In methodological terms, the research programme is expected to be based on an expertise in one or more fields (particularly in the global South) as a starting point for comparative reflection.

In terms of discipline, the profile is open-ended: in addition to the sub-disciplines of political science (particularly comparative politics and international relations), other social science disciplines inclined to dialogue with political science are welcome, such as anthropology, geography, sociology and history. An interest in interdisciplinary openness towards maritime environmental science disciplines will be considered an asset.

TEACHING AND RESEARCH

The candidate will be asked to meet the growing need to teach and supervise students on issues of ecology and environmental change, from perspectives of political sociology, public policy or international relations; in particular, he or she will teach in Sciences Po's undergraduate and graduate programmes (in Paris and on other campuses in the regions). At undergraduate level, these courses could form part of the ‘Seas and Oceans’ certificate and the Ecological literacies courses. At master's level, they could be taught as part of the Master in Environmental Policy, the Master in Human Rights and Humanitarian Action or the Master in International Development (PSIA), as well as in the Research Master in Political Science/Comparative Politics or International Relations.

At least one course will be taught at one of Sciences Po's regional campuses at undergraduate level (in Reims, Le Havre, Dijon, Nancy, Poitiers or Menton), the others in Paris (either at the Undergraduate College or at Master's level, in one or more of Sciences Po's schools).

The specific workload will be decided in agreement with the director of the political science department, in consultation with Sciences Po's training and teaching department.

The annual teaching duties will be distributed as follows:

- 2025 to 2028 (88 hours lecture equivalent /year) :

- Two classes of 24 hours lecture equivalent
- 40 hours lecture equivalent of other academic obligations (juries, theses supervision etc.)

- From 2028 (128 hours lecture equivalent /year) :

- Three classes of 24 hours lecture equivalent
- 56 hours lecture equivalent of other academic obligations

The candidate will be expected to participate actively in the development of the comparative politics research programme in harmony and by creating synergies with the research programmes at CERI which have a more regional focus.

This position will help to strengthen environmental research and teaching at Sciences Po as part of the TIERED project (Transforming Interdisciplinary Education and Research for Evolving Democracies) in conjunction with the Institute for Environmental Transformations and in close partnership with IFREMER.

Working in close partnership with the TIERED project partners (CNRS, INSERM, INRIA, IFREMER, INED, Université Paris Cité, INALCO, and IDDRI), Sciences Po aims at mobilizing and strengthening its expertise in SSH to address environmental challenges and to establish lasting interdisciplinary dialogue with researchers from the natural and exact sciences.

RECRUITMENT PROCEDURE

Evaluation criteria

The committee will base its assessment on the following criteria:

- A PhD in a social science discipline.
- Applicants will be assessed primarily on the basis of the quality of their publications. They will need to demonstrate their ability to situate research work within the wider field of social sciences. Solid knowledge of one or more areas (particularly in the global South) in terms of its history, language and culture, as a starting point for comparative reflection, will be considered an asset.
- An interest in interdisciplinary openness towards maritime environmental science disciplines will be considered an asset.
- Particular attention will be paid to experience in the context of international university networks.

- Relevant teaching experience at all levels is expected.
- Fluency in English is required. Fluency in French is an additional asset.

Application

The application must include the following documents:

- A cover letter specifying how the application meets the selection criteria (max. 3 pages);
- A CV and a full list of publications;
- A photocopy of the doctoral diploma;
- 4 outstanding publications;
- A syllabus of two courses, including one related to comparative politics for a core course at the undergraduate college ;
- If possible, student evaluations of courses already taught;
- A description of the proposed research programme (approximately 3,000 words).

Applications must be submitted (in electronic format) by the 15th of February 2025, to recrutement.ceri@sciencespo.fr with the following subject line : AP Ocean- NAME OF THE CANDIDATE.

All applications will be examined by the Selection Committee to shortlist 3-4 people who will be invited to present their research work at a 'Job talk' at Sciences Po in front of the academic community.

RESEARCH UNIT

The successful candidate will be affiliated to the Centre de Recherches Internationales (CERI), <http://www.sciencespo.fr/ceri/fr>, where environmental issues are already at the heart of the research of several researchers, and are set to develop further.

The CERI (UMR CNRS 7050) is dedicated to the study of world politics through a dual approach: international/transnational relations and comparative politics based on a precise knowledge of regional areas. It brings together about sixty social science researchers. CERI plays a full part in the training of doctoral students and in the various undergraduate and postgraduate courses at Sciences Po.

CONTACT

President of the selection committee

Eric Verdeil, University professor, CERI Sciences Po
eric.verdeil@sciencespo.fr