

**CEVIPOF (Centre for Political Research at Sciences Po) in Paris invites applications for a post-doctoral researcher to work with Dr Brenda Van Coppenolle (PI) on “Political Lotteries in European Democratisation” (ERC Starting Grant POLLOT).**

Applicants should hold a PhD degree in political science or in history, economics, quantitative sociology, social science research methods, or a related field with a demonstrable link to the project's themes.

The position is funded on a full-time basis for a period of 2 years with no teaching obligations, or on a part-time basis (negotiable). Daily involvement in the POLLOT research project's and in the research center's activities is expected. The starting date for the position is 2 May 2026.

### **Job description**

The tasks include:

- Conduct and co-author empirical historical research on lotteries with the project PI
- Involvement in collecting, handling, and analysing the quantitative data
- Supporting the organization of team meetings and workshops
- Assistance with project reports and publications

### **Project POLLOT - Political lotteries in Europe**

POLLOT will study past natural and present-day experiments with lotteries and runs until 2028. POLLOT studies past experiments with political lotteries within legislatures during 19th century democratisation in Europe. In addition, new experiments with lotteries in online assemblies today will be designed. Political lotteries randomly draw citizens or legislators to take a political decision. Such lotteries could safeguard political equality in democracies straining under increasing economic inequality and polarization. By their very nature, lotteries equalise opportunity of access to all. We can learn from past experiments with lotteries to understand their potential in sustaining inclusive societies.

The ideal candidate for the post-doctoral researcher position will have a keen interest in empirical historical research, in handling historical data and using causal inference, quantitative research methods, to answer questions in Comparative Politics and Historical Political Economy. Their research will benefit from drawing on newly digitised, historical data from various resources, libraries and archives, compiled as part of the POLLOT research project. The researcher will work with the PI to conduct novel empirical analysis under the theme of the POLLOT project. They will also benefit from interactions with the broader POLLOT project research team, from the support of the CEVIPOF at Sciences Po, and from insertion in a wider international research network. Candidates should be particularly interested in quantitative research methods to analyse historical natural experiments.

## Requirements

### Essential:

- A PhD degree in Political Science (or a closely related discipline in the social sciences, e.g. quantitative Sociology, Economics, History, Social science research methods) with a substantive and methodological focus relevant to the project, completed or close to completion.\*
- Excellent academic track record, ideally including academic publication(s)
- Advanced-level quantitative analysis skills: Demonstrable training and experience using quantitative research methods and techniques, including methods for causal inference.\*
- Advanced-level data processing skills: Proven ability of social science data entry, management and analysis skills with Stata or R; General digital literacy and experience with Python is desirable.\*
- A keen interest as well as some research experience in some of the relevant subjects: historical empirical research, historical political economy, (natural) experiments in political science, political representation, political inequality, political institutions, elections, lotteries, or political parties.\*
- Proficiency in English: Good oral and written communication skills (for academic research).\*
- Experience with writing up research findings.\*
- Ability to take initiative, self-manage and contribute intellectually to the project.
- Ability to work as part of a team, and independently.
- Attention to detail.\*

### Desirable, but not required:

- Some knowledge of French (the researcher will be based at Sciences Po in Paris).
- Reading proficiency in at least one more of the following languages would be an advantage: French, German, Danish, or Dutch.
- A good qualitative understanding of the historical cases under study in the project, or a willingness to learn.
- Some experience with Python; general digital literacy (including for example knowledge of LaTeX)
- Experience in writing reports for funders.

(\*Criteria to be used to shortlist candidates for interview)

## We offer

The successful candidate will work with the PI to develop and co-author research of the POLLOT research project on a full-time (or on a close-to-full, part-time) basis (which is negotiable).

In addition to the benefits of forming part of the POLLOT research team, Sciences Po offers:

- Internationally competitive salary for 24 months
- Funding for international conference attendance to present project results
- Optional teaching opportunities
- An academically stimulating working environment
- Workspace in Paris
- A vibrant, integrated and international research community

## Selection process

Please send (1) a cover letter outlining your experience and qualifications for the role, and

how you feel you meet the requirements for the position, (2) a CV and (3) a sample of single-authored written piece of work in English that includes quantitative empirical analysis

to:

[pollot@sciencespo.fr](mailto:pollot@sciencespo.fr)

Please indicate in the object "POLLOT Post-doctoral researcher application".

## Assessment

In assessing the candidates, particular emphasis will be placed on the individual's fit within the overall research project. Academic qualifications and any publication(s), writing skills, language proficiency and other qualifying experience will also be of key importance.

- **Application deadline: 9 March 2026**
- **Interviews: expected to take place between 18 March and 27 March 2026.**

**Final decision expected before end March 2026. Start date by 4 May 2026.**