

We are recruiting a Junior Researcher to work with Dr Brenda Van Coppenolle (PI), from April 2026, or as soon as possible thereafter, on the Horizon Europe ERC Starting Grant POLLOT “Political Lotteries in European Democratisation”.

This project is based at the CEVIPOF (Centre for Political Research) at Sciences Po in Paris. We offer a full-time position on a 12-month contract (or on a close-to-full, part-time) basis (which is negotiable). The successful candidate will be an excellent student with a (soon-to-be) completed Master degree, who is enrolled in or committed to applying to a PhD programme. The junior researcher will work with the PI and benefit from the research interactions with an international team based at several international research universities in Europe.

ERC POLLOT Project

POLLOT studies past natural and present-day experiments with lotteries. The junior researcher will help digitize and collate historical data from various resources, libraries and archives, and contribute to the empirical analysis. They may also be asked to contribute to designing and managing online experiments. In return, the junior researcher will gain (further) experience in managing large datasets, conducting and presenting quantitative and empirical historical research, writing up research findings and research reports, supporting teamwork, and interacting with a broad, international research network.

Tasks

The position will involve the pre-doctoral researcher to undertake a number of tasks:

- Supporting data collection and analysis of historical information from online and library or archival resources.
- Analyzing and combining large datasets of legislators and parliamentary tasks.
- Supporting international research collaborations within the international research team.
- Being responsible for the maintenance and version control of any data used for the project. This may include contributing to the preparation of Data Management Plans or other requirements established by Sciences Po, the POLLOT PI, or the European Commission. This will also include the input of data and its safe storage using the agreed protocols, as defined by the research team and Sciences Po’s research data protection policy.
- Supporting the PI in all administrative and project management tasks as required.
- Preparing and conducting data analysis using quantitative techniques in cooperation with the PI and the research team.
- Attending the relevant meetings, and research workshops related to POLLOT, as well as being involved in their organisation.
- Contributing to the preparation and delivery of all dissemination, communication and exploitation activities of the project.
- Preparing replication data for submission for journals, as required.
- Identifying and prioritising tasks and responsibilities within a timeframe agreed with the PI.
- Effective time management to deliver on the priorities of the project. This may include scheduling meetings, preparing intermediate reports on data and findings, and contributing to the preparation of the project final report.

Skills/Qualifications

Essential:

- A Master's degree in Political Science (or a closely related discipline in the social sciences, e.g. Economics) with a substantive and methodological focus relevant to the project, completed or close to completion.*
- Advanced-level quantitative analysis skills: Demonstrable training and experience using quantitative research methods and techniques.*
- 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 is desirable: historical political economy, historical empirical research, (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.
- Attention to detail.*

Desirable, but not essential:

- Some knowledge of French (the junior 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.
- Some experience with (designing and conducting) experiments or moderating focus groups would be an advantage.
- 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.
- Experience in writing reports for funders.

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

Assessment

In assessing the candidates, particular emphasis will be placed on the fit of the candidate's profile, interests and experiences to the POLLOT research team.

- Application deadline: 9 March 2026
- You will hear back by 13/03/26 if you are shortlisted. If shortlisted, you will be contacted to attend an (online or in-person) interview, to take place between 18 March and 27 March 2026. The final decision and job offer to the successful candidate is expected by end-March.
- Expected start date: 4 May 2026 (or as soon as possible thereafter).

Application procedure

Additional Information

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) one example of your (single-authored) written piece of work in English that includes quantitative empirical analysis to pollot@sciencespo.fr. Please indicate in the subject "Junior researcher".