

## **Call for applications for postdoctoral fellowships at LIEPP**

*Position Definition:* Post-doctoral fellowship

*Location:* the postdoctoral researcher will be based at LIEPP, Sciences Po in Paris, France

*Type of contract:* Temporary contract

*Contract duration:* 12 months

*Expected start date:* between April 1st, 2023, and June 1st, 2023.

*Work time:* full-time

*Required degree level:* PhD in any relevant disciplines (Sociology, Political Science, Economics, Psychology, or related fields)

*Application deadline:* January 31st, 2023

The **Laboratory for Interdisciplinary Evaluation of Public Policies** (LIEPP), a research platform at Sciences Po (Paris, France), launches a call for applications for two postdoctoral fellowships of 1 year each. This call aims at supporting young researchers' careers and fostering excellence in policy evaluation.

Created in 2011 under the "Investissements d'avenir" programme of the French National Research Agency, this laboratory has been redeployed since 2020 in partnership with Université Paris Cité. LIEPP develops an innovative approach to evaluative research: articulating quantitative, qualitative and comparative methods; confronting disciplinary views on the evaluated policies; and promoting the cross-fertilization of methodological and theoretical inputs from different disciplines, with those from the international field of evaluation. LIEPP thus works on anchoring policy evaluation in academic research.

This call for applications aims to promote research projects that fit within one of the following collective research programmes (more details on each theme in the appendix):

- Mapping the social risks of environmental transitions (Environmental policies and Sociofiscal policies research groups, supervision by Bruno Palier)
- What drives firms' donations and (how) should existing tax schemes be reformed? Novel evidence from French corporate tax returns (Evaluation of democracy research group, supervision by Julia Cagé);
- Educational policies and early skills inequalities: the DEPP longitudinal study on 'petite section' (Educational policies research group, supervision by Carlo Barone)

In addition of these specific priority programmes, applications can be submitted on projects dealing with the organizational dimension of health policies (Health policies research group, supervision by Henri Bergeron).

Applications are welcome from all disciplines.

## **Functions**

Successful candidates are expected, for the duration of their contract:

- To conduct their research project as submitted in relation with one of the research programmes indicated above,
- To participate in the scientific activities of the laboratory (annual seminar, seminars of the corresponding research group).

The research activities are expected to lead to peer-reviewed publications (which may come out after the end of the contract). In this perspective, research teams are encouraged to submit a working paper for LIEPP's publication collection, as well as a policy brief to be submitted after the peer-reviewed publication has been accepted.

We expect the postdoctoral fellows to work 80% on the LIEPP-proposed project topic and 20% on their own research priorities.

## **Application requirements**

Doctoral degree should have been completed at the date of the Call deadline. Applicants who have successfully defended their doctoral thesis but who have not yet formally been awarded the doctoral degree will also be considered eligible to apply. Applications for postdoctoral fellowship can be made up to 3 years after the doctoral thesis.

Sciences Po's working languages are English and French. Mastering French is helpful, but not required for the positions. The publications expected to derive from the projects will be in English.

## **Employment conditions**

Selected candidates will be recruited on a one-year contract. The contracts will start as soon as possible after the selection, depending on the previous obligations and commitments of the candidates. Candidates must take up their positions between April 1st, 2023, and June 1st, 2023.

The remuneration is 3,400 €gross (*salaire brut*) per month. Employment in France guarantees full access to healthcare, other social security benefits and social acquis (such as luncheon vouchers, contribution to transport costs).

Successful candidates will benefit from LIEPP's working environment. Each candidate will receive a personal research fund of 2,000 euros for the duration of his/her contract.

## **Location**

Sciences Po – Laboratory for Interdisciplinary Evaluation of Public Policies (LIEPP), Paris, France. Our offices are located in the center of Paris. A workspace will be available for the postdoctoral fellow, as well as access to the Sciences Po Library.

## **Application procedure**

Candidates can contact the supervisors indicated for each research programme listed above, ahead of their application, to discuss their project.

The deadline for application is **Tuesday, January 31st, 2023**.

The results of the selection will be made available at the end of February.

The selection of applications will be made by the [laboratory council](#) (composed of the research groups directors and the director of LIEPP), on the basis of the scientific quality of the project and of the candidate's profile, and the project's fit with one of LIEPP's priority programmes mentioned above. Remote interviews may be organized in order to prepare the selection.

Applications should be sent to [liepp@sciencespo.fr](mailto:liepp@sciencespo.fr) [subject: Postdoctoral Fellowship]. They include:

- A curriculum vitae;
- A cover letter (notably stressing how the candidate's prior research experiences prepare them well for this project);
- A research proposal including project title, abstract (300 words maximum), project description specifying the theoretical framework of the project, the research question(s), the methods, the expected results, as well as planned publications and dissemination strategy (2500 words maximum);
- A single-authored piece of writing in English, whether a chapter of the PhD thesis, a conference paper or an article submitted to a journal.

## **Appendix:**

### **Mapping the social risks of environmental transitions**

(contact: Bruno Palier, [bruno.palier@sciencespo.fr](mailto:bruno.palier@sciencespo.fr))

The current literature on “sustainable welfare states”, which tries to connect the issues of climate change and welfare state is starting to develop, but is characterized by a lot of normativity on what the welfare state should look like to become environmental friendly, without really connecting to empirical data or facts (see work by Milena Buchs, Ian Gough, Max Koch, for instance). In order to better think the role that the welfare state can play in protecting and preparing people to confront climate change, one needs first to map the social risks at stake.

What are the social consequences of climate changes? How will decarbonation strategies impact jobs? What are the distributive effects of environmental adjustment policies such as carbon tax or housing renovation? The aim of this research is to map the social risks associated with environmental transitions, ranging from the perspectives of environmental risks, the changes in economic sectors due to climate change and decarbonation strategies, to the social impacts of climate change mitigation policies. Two main questions guide research: what are the risks? (for income, opportunities, health...) and who is most concerned by these risks? (socio-economic groups, professional sectors, gender disparities, generational differences, from a spatial point of view...).

This research is aimed at evaluating the distribution of the social impact of climate change, economic adaptation and adjustment policies. It will help to identify the risks and groups bearing them, hence allowing environmental policies to integrate a social dimension, and to elaborate a mapping of a third way of social risks (after the classic industrial social risks and “new social risks” of the 1990s), what could be called the “new environmental social risks”,

leading to define new format and role of social policies. It connects two axes: “axe socio-fiscal” and “axe politiques environnementales”.

The post-doc will be mobilized on elaborating a literature review on the existing reports that do not centrally focus on social risks but do allude to climate change (IPCC, UN, National reports and commissions), literature on economic transformation and transitions linked to global warming, decarbonation, ecological warfare, relocalisation strategies (job losses and creations, skills...), and literature on the social impact, social distribution of the cost, burden of environmental policies (“just transition”, weight of carbon tax, who is concerned with housing renovation, etc.). To complement this reading, some mapping (cartography) may be useful for the geographical distribution of some of these risks. The aim is to publish a series of papers on these new social environmental risks.

Literature:

Chancel, L. (2020). *Unsustainable Inequalities. Social justice and the environment*. Harvard University Press.

Compston, H. and Bailey, I. (2008). *Turning Down the Heat. The Politics of Climate Policy in Affluent Democracies*. Hampshire: Palgrave Macmillan.

Gough, Ian (2017). *Heat, Greed and Human Need. Climate change, Capitalism, and Sustainable Development*. Edward Elgar Publishing.

Gough I., Meadowcroft J., Dryzek J., Gerhards J., Lengfeld H., Markandya A., Ortiz R. (2008). “JESP Symposium : Climate change and social policy”, *Journal of European Social Policy*, 18(4), 325-344.

Laurent, E. (2020). *The New Environmental Economics: Sustainability and Justice*. Polity Press.

Tierney, K. (2014). *The social roots of risk*. In *The Social Roots of Risk*. Stanford University Press.

**What drives firms’ donations and (how) should existing tax schemes be reformed? Novel evidence from French corporate tax returns**  
(contact: Julia Cagé, [julia.cage@sciencespo.fr](mailto:julia.cage@sciencespo.fr))

There has been a rise in charitable giving in Western democracies in recent years, questioning the cause of this increase. Understanding the determinants of the giving behaviours matters for the optimal regulation of donations, and in particular for determining the relevance of different tax deductions. To answer these questions, one first need to determine precisely how firms react to such incentives. The objective of the post-doc is to use panels of tax returns data for French firms to quantify empirically the motivations for giving, depending on donors’ characteristics and tax incentives. This project comes as a natural follow-up of my previous research with Malka Guillot (Cagé and Guillot, 2022), where, exploiting administrative income and wealth tax data and the 2017 wealth tax reform, we estimate the substitutability between charitable and political donations from the point of view of individuals. The main objective of the research carried out as part of the post-doc will be to develop a comprehensive firm-level approach to the study of associations, information and influence, using new administrative datasets on the complete firms’ tax returns for France. This project is inspired by a long tradition of research analysing philanthropic giving, e.g. estimating the tax-price elasticity of giving (starting with Feldstein and Taylor, 1976; Bakija and Heim, 2011). Yet, it aims at filling an important gap in this literature: studying the giving behaviour of firms using firms tax data. The literature on firms is indeed very scarce due to data limitations. The main paper is Bertrand et al. (2020), which focuses on foundations

created by Fortune 500 and S&P 500 corporations in the US. Yet, while the literature on the tax incentives for charitable giving is well furnished at the individual level, there is to my knowledge no research on firms' behaviour. Firms are nonetheless important contributors of charities, and benefit in France from large tax deductions whose efficiency has never been estimated. The empirical analysis will rely on administrative tax data and use a reform of the firm tax credit for charitable giving to identify the tax responsiveness of firms. The idea is to use a panel of firms from the corporate tax returns, including the administrative returns for firm's gifts, and a reform of the tax credit for charitable giving creating a suitable natural experiment. Legal access to firms' tax returns – that are available since 2000 and contain the universe of firms liable to the corporate tax – has already been granted for these sensitive data to Cagé and Guillot. The post-doc will also obtain access to the data as part of the object.

## References

Bakija, J. and Heim, B. T. (2011), 'How Does Charitable Giving Respond to Incentives and Income? New Estimates From Panel Data', *National Tax Journal* 64(2), 615–650.

Bertrand, M., Bombardini, M., Fisman, R. and Trebbi, F. (2020), 'Tax-Exempt Lobbying: Corporate Philanthropy as a Tool for Political Influence', *American Economic Review* 110(7), 2065–2102.

Cagé, J. and Guillot, M. (2022), *Is Charitable Giving Political? Evidence from Wealth and Income Tax Returns*, CEPR Discussion Paper.

Feldstein, M. and Taylor, A. (1976), 'The Income Tax and Charitable Contributions', *Econometrica* 44(6), 1201–1222.

## **Educational policies and early skills inequalities: the DEPP longitudinal study on 'petite section'**

(contact: Carlo Barone, [carlo.barone@sciencespo.fr](mailto:carlo.barone@sciencespo.fr))

Research from sociology and economics has extensively documented the importance of social inequalities in child development for later inequalities in educational achievement and attainment. Socioeconomic and ethno-racial gaps in the development of cognitive and socio-emotional skills emerge in the preschool years and have long-lasting effects on school success. Hence, understanding the mechanisms behind these early inequalities is essential from a policy perspective. Indeed, it is widely agreed that these early inequalities emerge from the interplay between home environment, childcare and school institutions.

The LIEPP research cluster on educational policies has recently developed several research projects on early childhood inequalities, educational and childcare policies. The DEPP has launched a major initiative of data collection in this domain, the '*Panel des élèves de petite section*', the first French longitudinal study on educational careers starting in pre-primary education, when children are aged 3. This study collects extremely rich, high-quality data on the family environment, access to childcare (parental questionnaire), teacher practices (teacher questionnaire) and the school environment (school principal questionnaire) that can be linked to several standardised measures of child development relating to both cognitive and socio-emotional skills (student tests).

This longitudinal study thus represents a highly promising data source to analyze the interplay between family environment and educational environments in the generation of early inequalities. Three members of LIEPP (C. Barone, G. Borst, E. Huillery) are in the scientific board of this panel. The educational policies axis is thus looking to recruit a post-doctoral student with strong skills in data analysis to analyse the first wave of this study.