Department of Political Science

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Postdoc Position in the Research Group of Lucas Leemann

(Part of the EU Horizon CATALYSE Project funded by the Swiss State Secretariat for Education, Research, and Innovation)

The Department of Political Science at the University of Zurich invites applications for a Postdoc position in the research group of Lucas Leemann (https://lucasleemann.ch/research/). We offer excellent research support in a vibrant research community and are committed to advancing young scholars' careers. The department aims to increase the diversity of its members and thus explicitly invites applications from women and other traditionally underrepresented groups.

We are seeking a post-doctoral researcher with research experience in survey statistics. The future post holder will work on various challenges that arise from analyzing non-representative survey data and survey data which exhibits strong self-selection into the sample. Successful applicants will have experience with more simple correction approaches such as raking and post-stratification but also with more advanced techniques such as multilevel regression with post-stratification (MrP).

The Project

The post-doctoral researcher will work within the CATALYSE Horizon project (https://catalysehorizon.eu/). CATALYSE seeks to provide new knowledge, data, and tools to close the knowledge-to-action gap to accelerate climate change action and protect public health in Europe. The project provides a fascinating interdisciplinary environment consisting of physicians, meteorologists, data scientists, engineers, and political scientists. The future post holder will work mostly on the development of the core prediction model and collaborate frequently with researchers from other institutions that work within the same work package: Slava Jankin (Data Science), Bernardo Sousa-Pinto (Public Health), and Joan Bousquet (Medicine).

Your profile

- A PhD in a social science discipline (e.g., political science, economics, sociology) or a related field with a clear connection to social sciences.
- A strong interest in academic research, ideally proven through internationally visible publications, third-party funding, or related research activities.
- Dedication, ability to work in a team, and ability to work independently.
- Strong command of English.
- Essential skills:
    - Experience with small-area estimation or non-representative data (e.g., using MRP models).
    - Strong methodological skills and willingness to keep learning how to use new tools.
    - Experience with machine learning and/or data engineering.
- Desired skills:
    - Experience with geo-spatial data.
    - Experience in dealing with missing data and strategies to overcome this problem.

What we offer

-   Integration in a leading department of political science with highly motivated and engaged members.
-   Possibility to co-author within the project and beyond.
-   Possibility to independently develop a research agenda.
-   Financial and academic support from the research group and department.
-   The appointment is for three years.
-   Salary is according to cantonal guidelines and approximately 81'500 CHF per year (gross salary).

Place of work: Zurich

Start of employment: October 1, 2024 (or by arrangement)

Closing date for applications: August 12, 2024

Further information

Further inquiries can be directed to Lucas Leemann (leemann@ipz.uzh.ch).

Please apply through our application page (https://www.ipz.uzh.ch/de/ueber-uns/offene-stellen/2024-Postdoc-Leemann.html) where you can upload your letter of interest, a current CV, a writing sample (i.e., job market paper), and the contact details of two people willing to serve as a reference.