

Postdoc in Computational Social Sciences 20 months @ Paris (send applications by 4 Jan, 2024)

About the médialab

The [médialab](#) is an interdisciplinary research laboratory of Sciences Po in Paris. It brings together sociologists, political scientists, engineers, designers, and computer scientists, who carry out thematic and methodological research exploiting and questioning the place taken by the digital transformation in our societies. The médialab is highly committed to computational methods and to developing research in computational social sciences.

About the project (Social Media for Democracy, SoMe4Dem)

The médialab at Sciences Po is hiring a Postdoc in computational social sciences to work on the Social Media for Democracy ([SoMe4Dem](#)) project, funded by the European Commission Horizon “Reshaping Democracy” programme.

The SoMe4Dem project is a highly interdisciplinary initiative by Sciences Po and 8 partners, including University of Amsterdam, the Max Planck Institute in Leipzig and Berlin, University of Venice, and University of Bristol. In this project, we seek to analyze the impact of social media in different aspects of politics, including political polarization, collective mobilization, petitioning and fundraising.

This project involves social media data collection operations and data analysis across Europe. In this project, we work with social psychologists, economists, mathematicians, sociologists and political scientists, trying to model, observe and measure political behavior at massive scales. The main objective of the project is to understand and assess the impact of online media in offline politics, working from diverse epistemological perspectives.

About the position and the profile

We are looking for candidates that have a solid background in data analysis with a deep interest in the role of social media in politics. This mainly includes phd holders coming from political sciences, sociology, psychology with a strong data analysis background, or coming from physics, computer science and mathematics, but having worked extensively with behavioral trace data (e.g. social media data). Other profiles are welcome to send applications: if in doubt, let us consider your application.

The hired postdoc will work in the SoMe4Dem project, in which we are analyzing social media data across Europe to measure how online activity impacts offline politics, but the candidate is welcome to develop a parallel personal research agenda and contribute new topics and perspectives to our team using our data.

We are collecting a large structured set of online activities across EU countries and social platforms, and that have the potential to impact offline politics: online debates around issues that can permeate the offline sphere, such parliamentary debates (e.g., regarding carbon taxation, immigration, gender equality and rights of minorities), and in particular online petition signing, fundraising, and crowdfunding of political causes.

What we offer:

- A great and innovative environment to learn computational social science research. You will join an interdisciplinary team of researchers and engineers developing cutting edge social media research.
- We work in collaboration with numerous partners around Europe and the world. You'll be expected to meet with collaborators and to present in conferences.
- No mandatory teaching duties, but we offer the opportunity to teach for a complement in the salary.
- The opportunity to work with exciting data and on phenomena related to online political dynamics. We collect and curate unique data from several platforms across the world.
- **3300€ to 3700€ per month gross salary** depending on experience, for 20 months (possible renewal for 4 months), in addition to restaurant vouchers, partial commuting costs, **40 days paid leave per year** and competitive health insurance complementary to the national healthcare system.

Starting date: The hired person would ideally begin working on **1 March 2024** (please specify in your application letter if you need to start after this date).

Calendar:

- **Deadline:** applications sent by **3 January 2024** will receive full consideration.
- **Interviews:** selected candidates will be invited to an interview the week of the **8 January 2024**.
- **Announcement:** we will announce the results of selection the week of the **15 January 2024**.

Where to apply:

If you are interested in the position please send us

- your CV
- a (1-2 pages) application letter explaining how your interests, experiences and skills match the position, how the position matches your career, and any practical elements regarding your availability to start working with us in Paris by March 2024.

to recrutement.medialab@sciencespo.fr. If you have questions please use the same email address.