

Open position: Post-doctoral research fellow (60%)
NCCR project "Democracy Barometer"

The NCCR Democracy is an interdisciplinary research program on the challenges to democracy in the 21st century funded by the Swiss National Science Foundation and the University of Zurich. In the framework of the NCCR project "Democracy Barometer" we are seeking a post-doctoral researcher. The appointment will begin between March and May 2012.

Project description:

The Democracy Barometer is a new instrument that aims at measuring and understanding the quality of democracy. Looking at the fundamental principles of democracy, we study the causes and consequences of democratic qualities, paths of successful democratisation, and problems of democracy / democratisation in a comparative perspective. The project relies on a novel dataset, which allows for benchmarking between established democracies and, as democracy is seen as an ongoing process, for a critical observation of their democratic development over time. The dataset is currently expanded to all countries in Central and Eastern Europe and Latin America. See www.democracybarometer.org for more information.

The project team consists of two directors (Prof. Daniel Bochsler, NCCR Democracy, Prof. Wolfgang Merkel, Wissenschaftszentrum Berlin), two research assistants at the Zentrum für Demokratie Aarau (ZDA), and collaborators in Berlin and Bern.

Position:

- The post-doctoral fellow is expected to pursue a research and publication agenda linked to the Democracy Barometer.
- The post-doctoral fellow fulfils tasks in the coordination and further development of the project, in close cooperation with the two directors.

Profile:

- PhD degree in a relevant subject which is related to democracy (political science or social sciences) (completed or very close to completion).
- Interest in cross-country studies with aggregated data.
- Skills in advanced quantitative methods, and experience with data management.
- Fluency in English.

Terms of employment:

The ZDA, where work is located, is part of the Center for Comparative and International Studies at the University / ETH Zurich (www.cis.ethz.ch). Aarau is a 25-minute train ride from Zurich. The salary is determined according to the pay scale of the University of Zurich, and based on the relevant previous work experience (starting from 55.000 CHF/year, gross). The position is limited to August 2013. Extension possible, if funding for a 3rd phase of the NCCR (2013-2017) is approved.

For further information please contact Daniel Bochsler (daniel.bochsler@uzh.ch) or Wolfgang Merkel (wolfgang.merkel@wzb.eu).

Deadline for applications (extended): 5 February 2012. Applications should be in English and include 1) a letter of motivation, 2) a brief outline of a research agenda (500-1000 words), 3) a detailed curriculum vitae (comprising a list of publications), 4) copies of all academic degrees, 5) two relevant publications or papers, and 6) the name and contact details of at least one person who can provide a letter of reference. Please send your application in PDF to eliane.widmer@zda.uzh.ch.