

Postdoctoral Fellowship
Data Visualization for Computational Social Science
ERC Consolidator “SOCSEMICs”



General context

We are opening **one postdoctoral fellowship (2 years)** in data visualization for computational social science to join CNRS, and Centre Marc Bloch, its interdisciplinary research lab based in **Berlin, Germany**, in the context of the ERC Consolidator project “SOCSEMICs” (“Socio-Semantic Bubbles of Internet Communities”, see socsemics.huma-num.fr), led by Camille Roth. The appointee will join his **computational social science team** (cmb.huma-num.fr) which gathers scholars at the interdisciplinary interface between computer science / applied mathematics and sociology / political science. Team members typically have a background in either of these two groups of disciplines. A quick presentation of the team may be found at: youtube.com/watch?v=idmreTQzeg0

The appointee will further be associated with the UCLAB, a **visualization research group** at the University of Applied Sciences Potsdam (uclab.fh-potsdam.de). Co-directed by research professor Marian Dörk, the interdisciplinary team has backgrounds in interface design, computer science, and digital humanities. The appointee will have the opportunity to benefit from the group’s experience in a range of data visualization projects in the context of the digital humanities.

Project

SOCSEMICs aims at studying and modeling fragmentation and polarization in online communities, by adopting a dual socio-semantic framework — i.e., appraising jointly both the interactional and informational confinement of users. It aims at combining advances in (1) the dual and joint modeling of social and semantic dynamics, (2) the automatic appraisal of text corpuses beyond topic modeling, by focusing on claims and stances, and (3) the hybrid exploration and visualization of socio-semantic systems.

Disciplinary fields

The appointee will be responsible for the design, implementation, and evaluation of data visualizations for scholarly use. The focus lies on the creation of new kinds of instruments to study socio-semantic dynamics in online communities.

A firm background in computer science and research experience in data visualization and/or human-computer interaction are expected, since research activities will likely mobilize competencies in, or understanding of, co-designing, prototyping, and evaluating visualizations and interfaces. Experience with interactive computing environments such as Jupyter Notebook and data visualization libraries such as D3.js will be beneficial. Candidates should be interested in interdisciplinary collaboration and willing to proactively contribute to the activities in the two involved research groups. The resume should demonstrate a strong track record in publishing academic papers and an ability to innovate autonomously.

Working conditions

The postdoctoral contract is for **24 months** and a gross monthly salary between **€2,600–3,600** (depending on experience), to be further complemented by a significant expatriation bonus. Work will be carried out at the Centre Marc Bloch CNRS lab in Berlin, Germany, with a strong collaborative link to the UCLAB at the University of Applied Sciences Potsdam. The working language is indifferently English or German. A good command of English is however necessary, while fluency in either German or French would be appreciable.

Application process

To apply, candidates should first send a cover letter and a resume to socsemics@cmb.hu-berlin.de. The cover letter must contain a brief research statement / proposal in the framework of SOCSEMICs (up to three pages).

To check and discuss the adequacy between their profile and these topics, candidates may also feel free to contact beforehand Camille Roth (roth@cmb.hu-berlin.de) and Marian Dörk (marian.doerk@fh-potsdam.de).

Applications received by **November 30, 2021** will receive full consideration. Interviews shall be held shortly after this deadline. Work may start soon after successful selection, depending on candidate availability.