

Postdoctoral Fellowship in Sociology (18 months)

Computational Social Science team, Centre Marc Bloch, Berlin, CNRS



ERC Consolidator “Socsemics”

General aim

We are opening **one postdoctoral fellowship** (18 months, possibly extendable) **in sociology** to analyze the roles and positions of actors in selected digital public spaces (including micro-blogs or discussion forums), especially in contexts featuring antagonistic stances (e.g., polarized topics). While the main methodological framework of this position is qualitative (including textual analysis and interviews), fieldwork will to some extent rely on the exploitation of pre-processed data and of quantitative results (actor maps, text corpuses, etc.) made available by other team members. Some prior experience with mixed methods is thus desired.

Context

The position is based at 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 / [presentation video](#)) 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.

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.

Expectations

A firm background in sociology is expected, as well as prior expertise in areas directly relevant to the above-mentioned aims, including sociology of online practices, sociology of public space, or social network analysis. Candidates should be interested in interdisciplinary collaboration and willing to proactively contribute to the activities of the team as a whole, while enjoying the freedom of proposing and developing independent research projects of their own, beyond the essential aims and requirements of the position. The resume should demonstrate a strong track record in publishing academic papers and an ability to innovate autonomously.

Working conditions

The postdoctoral contract is initially for **18 months**, with a possibility of extension. The gross monthly base salary would range between €2,800–4,100, depending on experience. It would be complemented by a premium such that the final net monthly salary should be expected to be relatively close to the above-mentioned figure for the base gross amount. Work will be carried out in Berlin. Working language is indifferently English, French or German. A good command of English is however necessary as well as fluency in either German or French, ideally both.

Application process

Candidates should apply by **October 30th, 2022** by sending a cover letter, a brief research statement and a resume to socsemics@cmb.hu-berlin.de. The research statement / proposal (typically one page, excluding references) would demonstrate how the applicant would imagine articulating the above-mentioned general aim and expectations in the framework of Socsemics. 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). Interviews shall be held shortly after this deadline. Work may start soon after successful selection, depending on candidate availability.