Job Advertisement

Job Advert: research assistants/PhD candidates in comparative political science & political anthropology/sociology, with a focus on Indonesia and/or Turkey

The research project “Secularity, Islam, and Democracy in Indonesia and Turkey” at Humboldt University of Berlin invites applications for three vacant positions for research assistants/PhD candidates, to be employed for 36 months.

The research project explores phases of democratization and authoritarianization of contemporary Indonesia and Turkey from a comparative perspective. Combining a focus on religious identity and authority with a focus on socio-economic developments in the education and health sector, and in urban development, the project seeks to contribute to the literature of comparative democracy and democratization. Please learn more about the project here: [www.sidit.berlin](http://www.sidit.berlin).

The candidate will be expected to carry out a study of the role of religious authority and authorities in one of the three sectors (health care, education, urban development) based on extensive literature study, media analysis, interviews, participant observation, and/or archival research, in Indonesia and/or Turkey. Highly proficient reading and speaking skills in Indonesian or Turkish are essential, as well as the ability to travel to the respective sites. The ideal candidates should possess good knowledge of political theory, comparative politics, and democratization, as well as of the respective literature on their country of focus.

The exact title and case studies of the project will be determined together by the research project leader and the candidate. The case studies can, but do not necessarily need to be comparative. Examples of questions the candidate might address:

- How has the relationship between religious organizations and the state shifted in the education or the health sector, and how has this affected democracy?
- How have political, religious, and economic elites collaborated in urban development and what are the effects of these collaborations?
- What different notions of democracy and of religious authority and authorities exist among various actors?

The project team comprises the group leader (Dr. Saskia Schäfer), three research assistants/PhD students, and two student research assistants. The project is affiliated with the Institute of Asian and African Studies at Humboldt University of Berlin and cooperates with other institutions in Berlin, such as the Berlin Graduate School of Muslim Cultures and Societies, the Leibniz-Zentrum Moderner Orient, the Einstein Fellows Research Group working on Turkey at Humboldt University, and the WZB Berlin Social Science Center. The candidates are expected to live in Berlin for the duration of the project, to work at the research group offices in the center of Berlin, and to be willing and able to undertake at least 10 (not necessarily consecutive) months of fieldwork to collect ethnographic, archival, and interview data.

Job Description:

Title: PhD Student/Research Assistant (*Wissenschaftliche/r Mitarbeiter/in*)
Duration: 36 months.
Salary: 65 % of German Salary Tarif TVöD 13, translates into between EUR 1400 and 1600 per month after tax, depending on personal circumstances (taxation differs).
Location: Hausvogteiplatz 5-7, 10117 Berlin

Key tasks:

- Extensive literature review, archival research and interviews.
- Present research results at conferences and workshops; write academic papers.
- Participate in regular team meetings to discuss theoretical concepts, methodological approaches and research findings.
- Carry out the organizational requirements of a research project, incl. organizing own travel, archival access etc.
- Complete a doctoral dissertation within 36 months.

Qualifications:

- Master’s degree in politics, sociology, or related social science.
- Excellent Indonesian or Turkish reading skills, mother tongue level or near.
- Excellent communication skills.
- Very good English (reading, writing, speaking).
- Ability to take initiative and work independently.
- Capacity to handle a heavy workload over the entire period.
- Willingness to work in a team.
- Research experience.
- Ability to travel to the respective field site.
- Good knowledge of political or sociological theory.
- Good knowledge/experience of qualitative and/or comparative research.

Application must include:

1. A motivational letter explaining how the candidate will fit into the research project.
2. A two to four pages project proposal, outlining a research question, a literature review, a methodology section, and a project timeline.
3. Certificates, transcript(s) and a full CV, including contact details of two or three referees. Please send copies only. Original documents cannot be returned.

Recruitment Procedure:

A minimum of six applicants will be shortlisted. The shortlisted applicants will be invited for interviews via skype or in Berlin. All applicants will be notified of their status in the recruitment process shortly after the application deadline. Once the recruitment process is completed, each applicant will be notified of the outcome of their application. This will take several months.

Women are especially encouraged to apply.

For the legally binding German version of this Job Ad, see here:


Please send any questions and your applications in a single pdf file to the project leader Dr Saskia Schaefer: sidit@sidit.berlin

Closing date: 29 August 2019