



Zurich, 10 September 2018

Postdoctoral Research Position at the Digital Democracy Lab

Description of UZH unit:

The Department of Political Science at the University of Zurich invites applications for a Postdoctoral Research Position in the newly created [Digital Democracy Lab](#), led by Professors [Fabrizio Gilardi](#), [Anita Gohdes](#), and [Lucas Leemann](#). The Digital Democracy Lab supports research on the implications of digital technology for democracy. It has two components. First, the Computational Social Science Hub is an infrastructure to collect, store, process, and analyze text and social media data, and survey response data via an online panel. Second, the d-Dem platform will track political debates and opinions online and offline, and presents analyses in a format accessible to the general public.

Responsibilities:

The postdoctoral researcher will work closely with the project leaders and a developer to design and conduct data collection and analysis in the context of the Swiss national elections 2019, with a focus on the role of social media and other digital platforms.

What we offer:

We offer the opportunity to work on an important topic using cutting-edge data and methods in a dynamic and supportive research environment, as well as to acquire new skills, develop a profile in computational social science / data science, and access unique, high-quality data that (in agreement with the project leaders) can be used for independent research.

Qualifications:

Applicants should hold a PhD (or have at least submitted their thesis) in political science, sociology, communication, economics, or another social science and demonstrate excellent quantitative skills, including proficiency with either R or Python. A background in computational social science or data science is not required, but applicants should be strongly interested in developing a profile in these areas, as they will be a core component of the position. Experience with survey research, text-as-data approaches, and data visualization are a plus. Working knowledge of German is required.



Language requirements:

Working knowledge of German is required.

Further information:

The position is initially limited to fifteen months but may be extended depending on funding. The annual gross salary is approximately CHF 80,000 (about USD 83,000 / EUR 72,000). The Department of Political Science is committed to increasing diversity among staff and faculty. We thus want to especially encourage applicants who identify with groups currently underrepresented in academic positions to apply.

Workload in %:

80% (0.8 FTE).

How to apply:

To apply, please send a letter of interest, curriculum vitae, writing sample, and the contact details of two references to DigDemLab@ipz.uzh.ch by September 30, 2018. For informal inquiries, please contact Fabrizio Gilardi (gilardi@ipz.uzh.ch), Anita Gohdes (gohdes@ipz.uzh.ch), or Lucas Leemann (leemann@ipz.uzh.ch).

Start date:

December 2018 or January 2019.

Closing date for applications:

September 30, 2018.