



1 PhD position on F.R.S.-FNRS funded project “Evolv’EP”

University of Namur (UNamur) & University of Louvain (UCLouvain)

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The *Research Institute Transitions* & the *Institut de sciences politiques Louvain-Europe* (CESPOL-ISPOLE) are pleased to announce a vacancy for one PhD researcher (f/m) in Political Science/European politics. The project is funded for four years by an excellency grant F.R.S-FNRS (35292892). The inter-university team offers an ambitious, vibrant and research-intensive environment with an extensive international network. It carries out both fundamental and applied scientific research and is conveniently located in the centre of Wallonia, close to Brussels. The inter-university research team has extensive expertise in the study of political representatives, comparative politics, and research methods.

Websites: <https://uclouvain.be/instituts-recherche/ispole/cespol/evolep-meps.html>
& <https://www.unamur.be/recherche/projets/fnrs/evolep>

Evolv' EP – MEPs' Career & Behaviour project (F.R.S.-FNRS funding grant 35292892)

About the project

The European Parliament (EP)'s formal authority has considerably expanded since 1979. Yet, considering that the EP evolves and achieves its formal policy-making capacity along with the types of Members of the EP (MEPs) attracted to serve into it, it is crucial to examine the relationship between MEPs' career patterns and their legislative behaviour. Indeed, the EP is not only populated by European careerists, but also 'rookies' without legislative experience or MEPs fuelled by 'domestic' political goals. Therefore, the research question is: How do MEPs' career patterns affect their legislative behaviour over time? Career patterns are conceptualized as institutions in their own right, socializing and framing how MEPs consider their past, current and future positions in European multilevel settings. The project assesses the effects of MEPs' career patterns on their parliamentary activities (attendance and content analysis of questions) and voting behaviour (votes and amendments).

The project aims, first, at empirically describing the career patterns of all 2,441 individual MEPs (1994-2019), covering the variety of their local, regional, national and European offices. Second, the project examines the 'quantity' of MEPs' activities as well as the 'qualitative' policy and territorial scopes of their legislative behaviour. Third, we explain how MEPs' career patterns shape their voting behaviour and parliamentary activities within and across EP's legislative terms. This is achieved through a mixed methods research design using specific statistical, configurational and qualitative analytical tools (QCA) for the analysis of longitudinal career data and of parliamentary behaviour. Overall, this research project also contributes to the ongoing debates on the role of the EP in EU policy-making.



Doctoral fellowship in political science/European politics with a focus on MEPs' political career and parliamentary behaviour in the European parliament.

Research environment and working conditions:

The successful candidate will be offered a fully funded position and the opportunity to pursue innovative doctoral research with close supervision in an experienced and dynamic project team. The inter-university team offers a stimulating working environment in a dynamic and internationally oriented research team. We strongly invest in research training for PhD students, including summer schools, international conferences and research stays abroad (with allocated funding in the project). There are also opportunities to take up teaching responsibilities (though this is not required).

The doctoral fellow will be employed full-time for a duration of 24 months by the University of Namur (residency in Belgium), starting September or October 2020 (flexible start date). Based on the doctoral fellow's evaluation, the project team will secure funding through F.R.S-FNRS grants (or other means) to renew the contract for another period of 24 months. By the end of this period of 48 months, s/he will have to submit a PhD dissertation.

S/He will be affiliated to the University of Namur (Research Institute Transitions) and the University of Louvain (CESPOL-ISPOLE). **Her/his monthly salary will be approximately 1,950 euros (net income) while travel costs are covered for commuters. Social insurance as well as access to employment benefits are included.**

Requirements:

The candidate must hold a master degree in political science or European politics. Demonstrating an interest in parliamentary and European studies will be an asset. Methodologically, the applicants must demonstrate experience in fieldwork-based research and have a training background in qualitative and/or quantitative methods. The candidates must have a strong command of English and of at least another official language of the European union.

Selection process:

The application deadline is **May 29, 2020**.

Any inquiries about the project and the position may be sent to :

jeremy.dodeigne@unamur.be:

Candidates apply by submitting their application to carine.remy@unamur.be which must include:

- a cover letter
- a detailed CV
- one writing sample (chapter of master thesis, article, paper, book chapter...)
- one letter of recommendation

Interviews will be scheduled on **June 26, 2020** in Namur, Belgium. Travel funding will be provided. The invited candidates will receive further information on the project and will be asked to submit a PhD project / research proposal (max. 1,000 words).