



European Research Council  
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The Faculty of Social Sciences (Department of Government) of the University of Vienna is advertising

## Postdoc (2.5 years, 40 hours/week) OR PhD (3.5 years, 30 hours/week) in Qualitative Interviewing of Citizens

### Overview:

The position is offered within the MULTIREP project funded by a Starting Grant from the European Research Council (September 2023 – August 2028) and led by Assoz.-Prof. Christopher Wratil ([personal website](#)). As part of the project and in collaboration with the principal investigator, the postdoc or PhD will co-lead an in-depth interviewing study on citizens' preferences towards political representation to be conducted in several Western democracies. The study aims to conduct more than one hundred in-depth one-to-one and focus group interviews to find out how citizens across countries conceive and think of political representation. In particular, it will identify aspects or dimensions of the relationship between citizens and politicians that are important to citizens and may have been overlooked by extant survey research. The study will be supported by other team members working on the MULTIREP project. A description of the whole MULTIREP project as well as the interview study (see "WP 1. DIMENSIONS") can be found [here](#). The position comes without any teaching obligation (if desired, there will be opportunities to deliver some teaching).

The project is hosted by the [Department of Government](#) at the University of Vienna, a vibrant research environment with currently four European Research Council projects and several further third-party funded projects, providing for an international community of PhDs, postdocs and faculty. Key research areas of the Department include political representation, party competition, political institutions and political behavior. For many years, Vienna has consistently been ranked as the most livable city in the world in several [international rankings](#).

### Job description:

- Design, manage and conduct a multi-country qualitative interviewing study with citizens about their preferences regarding political representation (incl. the coordination and training of student interviewers)
- Analyze in-depth one-to-one interviews and focus groups with qualitative (and quantitative) methods
- Publish research on citizens' preferences regarding political representation (together with other team members), aiming for manuscript placements in leading political science outlets

- Participate in or share responsibility for data collection, data documentation and data management as well as the ethical implementation of research activities
- Collaborate with other project members (student interviewers, research assistants, PhDs, postdocs, principal and co-investigators)
- Where desired, contribute to other project activities beyond the interview study
- ONLY PhD: Be enrolled in the Vienna Doctoral School of Social Sciences (ViDSS) and complete a PhD thesis on citizens' preferences regarding political representation
- Starting date: Between 1 September and 1 December 2023
- Contract: Postdoc (2.5 years, 40 hours/week), PhD (3.5 years, 30 hours/week)
- Salary: Postdoc = approx. €60,000 p.a. gross, may be higher with previous postdoc experience; PhD = approx. €34,000 p.a. gross, with some increase after three years of service ([Austrian take-home pay calculator](#))
- Benefits: paid annual leave, social insurance (incl. healthcare, pension), flexible working hours, home office arrangements, funds to attend methods trainings and collect large amounts of research data in the framework of the project

Your profile:

- PhD or masters/postgraduate degree in political science, sociology, communication science or related discipline
- Excellent marks in undergraduate and postgraduate study, especially on research-related assessments (e.g. master/bachelor dissertation)
- ONLY Postdoc: Emerging publication record or demonstrated potential thereof (e.g. manuscripts under revise and resubmit, prizes)
- Experience and/or training in qualitative interviewing or focus group research, especially interviewing of citizens (i.e., not elites)
- Research interest in political representation and the political theory of representation
- Strong communication skills, ability to integrate in and contribute to team work, high reliability, attention to detail, eagerness to learn, pro-active and responsible attitude, intellectual independence
- Excellent command of English (knowledge of German is not necessary)
- Desirable but *not* essential: 1) Demonstrated interest in the role of emotions in politics, 2) Attended courses/training in political psychology, 3) Attended courses/training in survey methods or survey experiments, 4) Language skills in Danish, French, Hungarian, Italian or Polish

## **Application**

Applications should consist of:

- **Cover letter** (incl. discussion of experience with and training in qualitative interviewing)
- **Curriculum vitae** (incl. list of publications where applicable)
- **Transcripts of record** from undergraduate and postgraduate study
- **Contact details** of two potential referees

To receive full consideration, the application documents should be compiled in a single PDF file and sent via e-mail to [multirep.staatswissenschaft@univie.ac.at](mailto:multirep.staatswissenschaft@univie.ac.at) by **26 June 2023**. Please use the **e-mail title "Application Interviews MULTIREP"**. Late applications may be considered.

For informal inquiries, please do not hesitate to contact the principal investigator, Christopher Wratil, via e-mail: [christopher.wratil@univie.ac.at](mailto:christopher.wratil@univie.ac.at)



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