

Postdoc in Finance

Contact person: PhDr. Martin Gregor, Ph.D.

We are looking to hire a Postdoc in the field of Finance to carry on her-his research activities in finance and in particular on the following topics: Financial intermediation, Risk management, Financial institutions, Financial regulation, Asset pricing, Macro-finance modeling. We especially welcome applications from the researchers with solid theoretical and quantitative background in finance.

The Postdoc will be part of the Institute of Economic Studies, Faculty of Social Sciences, Charles University in Prague and will become an active member of the Institute, including attending seminars, and all around member of the economics and finance community at Charles University in Prague. In addition, the Postdoc will support teaching and research activities of the department.

Starting date: January 1, 2017

The candidate should hold a PhD in Economics, or at least have a scheduled graduation date. The funding is competitive, and in principle for 2 years. It is expected to lead to a full-time academic placement after the Postdoc period. The salary is in the range around 1,200 euro/month after-tax, which is rather high relative to the salaries and cost of living in Prague. There are also generous annual research bonuses based on the quality of publications.

Applications include CV, motivation letter, a job market paper and ideally 2 letters of references by August 31, 2016. Candidates should be available for a Skype interview.

You can apply for this job no later than August 31, 2016 via the online application tool at the Faculty of Social Sciences, Charles University in Prague. Charles University in Prague carries out an equal opportunity policy.

For more information please contact Head of Institute of Economic Studies, Dr. Martin Gregor by mail: martin.gregor@fsv.cuni.cz.

Europeanization of Czech research policy in the Central European context and its limits

Contact person: Mgr. Tomáš Weiss, M.A., Ph.D.

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European Union membership of Central European countries, including the Czech Republic, has impacted (Europeanized) all areas of public policies, be it through the channels of legislative obligation, financial motivation or ideational inspiration. Research policy is no exception in this respect. Czech Republic and other Central European countries participate in the creation of the European Research Area, which aims at higher mobility, exchange of ideas and support of excellence across the European Union. Research policies, research institutions and individual researchers need to reflect the European-wide definition of priorities, objectives and key concepts, such as excellence and interdisciplinarity. At the same time, the Central European countries have, so far, not been able to use the opportunities offered by the ERA to full extent and lag behind in many indicators.

The project should contribute to better understanding of the mechanisms and results of the Central European (and particularly Czech) participation in the European Research Area. It should identify the root causes of the current situation, the main obstacles and room for possible improvement in Central European context. It may focus on the level of structure or of individual researchers. It should answer specific questions, such as: Who decides about what gets researched? How and by what criteria is that decision made? How does that transform the research environment, economy and society? What are the examples of good practice in individual researchers' and institutions' involvement in ERA?

Repatriating Native North American Sacred Objects and Remains from European Museums: Recent Cases, Potential Collections, Best Practices.

Contact person: Ing. Mgr. Magdaléna Fiřtová, Ph.D.

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The long-lasting fascination of Europeans with Native Americans resulted in the existence of numerous collections of Native art, daily objects, spiritual objects, clothing, and in some cases human remains, housed in museums throughout Europe. Native American nations have been attempting to repatriate some of these objects, especially those with spiritual value and human remains. Some of these attempts were successful, for example, in 1999 the Kelvingrove Gallery in Glasgow returned a Lakota Ghost Dance Shirt to the Lakota nation. Other such attempts failed, as in the case of French auction houses that have repeatedly ignored pleas from the Hopi and sold their sacred Kachina masks and dolls to the highest bidder. The museum collections, auction sales, and Native American repatriation demands often spark controversies and discussions about collective memory, cultural ownership and identity, sensitivity, and the objects' value for science and education.

This call proposes to compile a general inventory of Native American collections in European museums, concentrating on the Czech Republic, Slovakia, and Germany (with possible control studies in other countries like the UK etc.), and to study the provenance of selected Native objects in them. Knowledge about these collections and the items they contain will allow for making a prediction about the likelihood of attempts to repatriate them; who may be interested in their repatriation and why, and whether they would have a strong case.

Utilizing scholarly literature on European Museums; The Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGRPA, its processes, effects and challenges; and on Native American memory and American Indian museums, this call would contribute to discussions about cultural appropriation and ownership, but also the representation of Native Americans in the European space, and collective memory and the legacies of colonialism. Formulating best practices for museums with Native collections can offer a practical implementation for institutions with ethnographic collections including Native American objects, such as the Náprstek Museum in Prague and the Chateau Opočno.

Democracy, collective action, mobilization, protest and repression

Contact person: doc. PhDr. Michel Perottino, Ph.D.

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Modern democracies have to face from time to time specific collective actions, often somewhere between classical political or social mobilization and various forms of protest more or less violent (strike, demonstration and so on, violent action should appear for instance on margins of officially allowed and eventually supported protests, as we have seen in France for instance during the Spring 2016). How do these phenomena appear and how can democracies cope with them? Where are the limits of legitimate action and when and how can the repression appear? The problem is not new indeed, but are the solution still the same? Can we learn from the past or are the new democratic societies too different face to face with the new possibilities of the social media and so on?

Common Security and Defence Policy of the European Union: Technology and Capacity

Contact person: doc. PhDr. Jan Karlas, Ph.D.,

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This research theme deals with the Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) of the European Union (EU), with the focus on its technological dimension and capacities. The CSDP as such becomes now even more crucial due to two concrete developments: a) the increasing threat of global terrorism and aggressive tendencies of some states, b) the negative result of the British referendum on EU membership, and the related at least potentially diminished prospects of a further European integration. Due to those two reasons, it is of utmost importance to analyse how the EU proceeded and is able to proceed further in the CSDP.

The technological dimension, and the related capacities, constitutes a key area of the CSDP. In this area, the established European institutions have tried to support the needed technological development. In spite of the considerable effort invested by those institutions into the building of common capacities, the results of their work remain modest and controversial. At the same time, the existing research has not devoted an adequate attention to the driving forces behind the CSDP development, as well as its limited effectiveness, in the respective field.

Given this state of affairs, a project carried out within this research theme could address, inter alia, the following research questions:

- What are the preferences of the main actors concerning the development of the technological dimension of the CSDP?
- What explains the particular outcomes that the CSDP reached with regard to technology and capacities?
- What are the key and most promising strategies for strengthening the technological basis of a common European defence?

Identities, rules and norms in crisis: contemporary international politics between Russia, the West and Central-Eastern Europe

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The research project will explore the dynamics of international politics in Russia, Western and Central-East Europe before and after the Ukraine and the Middle East crises. It will focus on the ongoing change in identities, rules and norms as both an outcome and key factor contributing to the existing ruptures in international order. A key component of the research project is examination of the Russian discourses and practices that construct new identities and regional geopolitical imaginaries in Europe and the so-called post-Soviet 'near abroad' and redefine Russia's relations with Europe as its constitutive Other. The project will also trace the links between Russia's international promotion of its "conservative Europe" vision with its emphasis on nationalism, sovereignty and "traditional values" and the rise of anti-liberal and anti-European integration forces in the European Union itself. It will look into how existing ruptures in the European project created by the migration crisis and Brexit are being filled in and instrumentalized by outside actors such as the Kremlin, and will try to assess the ramifications of these actions for national and regional identities, norms and understandings of order and security.

Dynamics of sports journalism in Central and Eastern Europe

Contact person: PhDr. Alice Němcová Tejkalová, Ph.D.

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Institute of Communication Studies and Journalism invites international post-docs to apply for a vacancy in the field of sports journalism research. The candidate must have PhD. in Media/Communication Studies (or equivalent field); the degree should be obtained in 2016 or earlier.

The successful post-doc candidate will be a part of quite newly formed team interested in sports journalism studies. The project would focus on dynamics of sports journalism within the Central and Eastern Europe (CEE). Sports myths and stereotypes (in relation to nationalism), celebrityization and commercialization of sports journalism, especially connections between sports journalism and sports business are going to be analysed. All those topics strongly resonate within sports journalism studies in broader European context, but have not been very much mapped within CEE region.