GENERAL PROFILE OF THE POSITION

Profile: Assistant professor (tenure track) in computational social science

Médialab at Sciences Po is recruiting an Assistant Professor in computational social science to reinforce its capacity for quantitative analysis of the social world’s digital data. The position is intended for a candidate who has, during his/her academic career, demonstrated a capacity for innovation to renew methods of data analysis in social sciences. Methods can apply to various types of data, including relational, textual or visual data. The position is also open to a variety of approaches: machine learning, statistical analysis, network analysis or time series analysis. Special attention will be paid to the candidate’s ability to articulate the methods that s/he develops with research questions in the humanities and social sciences (sociology, history, political science, literature, etc.). The candidate should therefore be comfortable in both cultures.

We expect the candidate to develop his/her own research program, but also to frame his/her activity in a collective setting and take full part in the interactions with other members of the laboratory. In particular, the selected candidate will benefit from the médialab experience in engineering and design, so that the methodological innovations that s/he develops are disseminated widely throughout the scientific community and beyond.

Médialab at Sciences Po

Created in 2009, médialab is a university research center (EA7033) whose research aims to explore the transformations of our societies from traces and new forms of digital media. Closely associating approaches from design and computer science, the médialab team seeks to design techniques for exploring digitized worlds and to set up mechanisms for public participation and involvement. The issues raised by the laboratory involve the circulation of information and the study of publics, the social, cultural and political aspects of digital environments, the new forms of representation resulting from data and digital techniques, the reorganization of power and assets in the digital economy.

In addition, médialab plays a strategic role at the heart of Sciences Po's research community by supporting projects that focus on the study of digital worlds. As a mixed group motivated by various approaches (computer development, sociology, data visualization, design, controversy mapping), the médialab team has produced original digital tools and methods that complement projects in social science.

FUNCTIONS

Research

The selected candidate will conduct his/her research program at the médialab. S/He should have a thorough knowledge of recent theoretical and methodological developments in the analysis of digital data, and a solid experience in empirical investigation. S/He will develop his/her research program through Sciences Po's own research networks, both national and international. The selected candidate is also expected to take an active part in the collective activities of the center: seminars, scientific events, collaborations, call for projects from French, European or international tenders, and the supervision of students.

Teaching

The annual teaching service is 128 hours, divided into 3 lectures (CM) of 24 hours each, and 56 hours (equivalent CM) of complementary pedagogical tasks (juries, supervision of dissertations, missions, etc.) at all levels of education offered by Sciences Po: undergraduate (in one of the seven campuses of Sciences Po), graduate, and PhD. Courses may be taught either in French or in English. Teaching service is limited to 88h/year during the first 3 years of the tenure track (2 courses of 24 hours each and 48 hours of complementary pedagogical tasks).
Administration
The selected candidate is welcome to assume a wide range of responsibilities at Sciences Po, but is not bound to any administrative obligation.

RECRUITMENT PROCESS

Application
The application file will consist of the following documents:
- An application letter with a presentation of the research projects that the candidate intends to pursue;
- A CV and a complete list of publications;
- 3 letters of recommendation;
- 3 significant publications;
- A syllabus and, if possible, evaluations of the lectures taught.

Applications must be sent (by email) by March 6th 2020 to Jean-Philippe Cointet, chairperson of the selection committee, Barbara Bender, General Secretary of médialab, as well as to the HR academic department of Sciences Po.

All applications will be reviewed by the Selection Committee, candidates who are shortlisted will be invited to present their research work during a job talk at Sciences Po in front of the academic community.

Job talks and interviews
Job talks and interviews will take place in Paris in June 2020. They will be divided into two parts. The first part, open to Sciences Po’s academic community, will include a presentation of the candidate’s work, followed by a discussion with members of the selection committee and members of the public. The second part will consist of an interview with the selection committee only.

Effective start date: September 1st, 2020

As part of its gender equality policy, Sciences Po encourages women candidates.

AFFILIATION
médialab: https://medialab.sciencespo.fr/fr/

CONTACTS
Academic Dept of Sciences Po: drh.poleacademique@sciencespo.fr
Jean-Philippe Cointet, professor – chair of the selection committee: jeanphilippe.cointet@sciencespo.fr
Barbara Bender, secretary general of médialab: barbara.bender@sciencespo.fr

Sciences Po is an institution of higher education and research in humanities and social sciences. Its permanent scientific community - 210 professors and researchers - is structured in 12 solid and internationally recognized entities (including 5 joint research units with the CNRS and 4 university research units) and divided into 5 disciplinary departments.