

Vacancy: PhD (pre-doc) position

The Department of Social Sciences at the University Carlos III Madrid (UC3M) invites applications for a four-year, fully funded PhD position on a project entitled “POLARCHATS”, focused on misinformation and its consequences in the Global South. The deadline is April 29, 2022. The project is funded by a European Research Council (ERC) consolidator grant and led by Dr. [Simon Chauchard](#), Distinguished Investigator at UC3M.

If you qualify for the position, you will be part of an exciting, young, and dynamic [department](#) connected to the [IC3JM institute](#), in [one of the best cities in the world](#), in addition to the ability to complete a fully funded Ph.D. program (Pre-tax stipends ranges from 21,000 euros in the first year to 25,200 in the fourth year),

As a member of the POLARCHATS team, you will be associated with several cutting-edge research projects on misinformation. You will also be able to receive additional skills training (summer schools etc...), to travel to India and Brazil, and to develop an independent research agenda.

What are the requirements for the position?

Applicants must have earned a recent Masters' degree in political science, data science, computational social science, psychology, sociology, economics, or a cognate subject (feel free to consult with the PI at simon.chauchard@uc3m.es if you are not sure whether you are eligible).

Proven knowledge of quantitative research methods/data science and the ability to develop a research agenda compatible with the focus of the POLARCHATS project are the two most important criteria according to which candidates will be evaluated.

Experience in field research, survey methodology, experimental methods, data collection will also be valued, as will fluency in Portuguese or any Indian language, and programming skills. While applicants are NOT expected to come in with each of these skills, they ideally have some of them, and are inclined to acquire other technical skills that the project may need over the course of the doctoral program.

Successful applicants must be willing to commit to a four-year PhD research project based in Madrid that may also include a few periods of fieldwork in Brazil or India. Applicants must have excellent English language skills (i.e., both oral and written fluency). Fluency in Spanish is a plus, though the operating language of the project is English.

Successful candidates must be enrolled in the UC3M PhD program in Political and Social Sciences before signing the contract. **The start date will be September 2022.**

What is the role of the pre-doctoral researchers?

The successful applicant will be a core member of the POLARCHATS team, and they will contribute to and in some cases (based on a roadmap determined at the beginning of their employment) coauthor some of the analyses at the core of the project. PhD research on the POLARCHATS project will focus on quantitative studies in India and Brazil and will involve the coordination of data collection in one or both of these countries, as well as their analyses.

The selected researcher shall also develop an independent research agenda on themes related to the focus of the grant and/or to the research interests of the PI or other UC3M faculty, including (but not limited to) social media and politics, polarization, intergroup relations, social and political psychology, network analysis or other themes broadly related to political behavior. This is meant to allow candidates to build a profile beyond that of the grant and to encourage excellent candidates whose current work does not exactly focus on the cases or the topic of the grant (but is compatible with its focus) to apply.

What is the POLARCHATS project about?

The POLARCHATS project researches the causes, consequences, and believability of misinformation in the Global South, with a geographical focus on India and Brazil. In line with the geographical focus of the grant, the project compares the production, the circulation, and the effects of misinformation on diverse social media platforms - including discussion apps - in these countries; it also is interested in the role that ethnic, partisan, and religious social identities play in the aforementioned phenomena. Most (though not all) of the research to be carried as part of the project is quantitative in nature and involves the collection/analysis of large social media datasets as well as the development/analysis of surveys, survey-experiments, and field-experiments.

How to apply

Applications must be submitted via email to Dr Simon Chauchard (simon.chauchard@uc3m.es). Applications should be in English and include:

1. A motivation letter (1 page max).
2. A CV.
3. Transcripts from undergraduate and graduate school.
4. A research proposal (2500 words *max*), explaining a. the applicant's current research interests, b. the research they hope to carry as part of their dissertation/doctoral training and c. what role they believe they could play as part of the POLARCHATS project.
5. A writing sample (e.g., a research paper or a graduate thesis).

DEADLINE: April 29.