

Freie Universität Berlin - Fachbereich Politik- und Sozialwissenschaften - Otto-Suhr-Institut für Politikwissenschaft Exzellenzcluster SCRIPTS



The Cluster of Excellence “Contestations of the Liberal Script (SCRIPTS)” examines why liberal democracies around the world face growing pressure and what strengthens their resilience. Funded by the German Research Foundation (DFG) under the German Excellence Strategy since 2019, SCRIPTS is hosted by Freie Universität Berlin partners with Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, the Hertie School, the WZB Berlin Social Science Center, Centre for East European and International Studies (ZOiS), and the Kiel Institute for the World Economy (IfW Kiel). The project ID 4 explores the consequences of liberal script contestations within UNESCO and the OECD, focusing on the field of science ethics (Bioethics and AI ethics). UNESCO and the OECD are the two key international organizations (IOs) that are actively involved in global science governance and institutionalization of science ethics, a domain that is increasingly subject to contestations by state and societal actors. These contestations target not only the authority of UNESCO and OECD in global science governance, but also the epistemic foundations underpinning such governance: its reliance on universalism, human rights, transparency, evidence-based rationality, and the privileged role of scientific experts. Drawing on political science and macro sociological perspectives, the project investigates under what conditions these contestations affect the respective institutional designs (polity), legitimacy claims and practices (politics), and policy outputs (standards in bioethics and AI ethics) in UNESCO and OECD. By systematically distinguishing between internal and external forms of contestation, as well as power differentials and polarization of contestants, we explore when and how contestation leads to progressive re-articulations of liberal norms to regressive re-scripting, resistance, or outright de-scripting. In doing so, the project contributes to broader debates on the consequences of contestation for the liberal script and its resilience under conditions of increasing political and epistemic challenge.

Research assistant (postdoc) (f/m/d)

full-time job limited to 3 years salary grade (Entgeltgruppe) 13 TV-L FU reference code: SCRIPTS_ID 4_2026_WiMi (Postdoc)

City: Berlin; Starting date (earliest): At the earliest possible; Duration: befristet auf 3 Jahre; Remuneration: Entgeltgruppe 13 TV-L FU; Reference number: SCRIPTS_ID 4_2026_WiMi (Postdoc); Closing date: 27/07/26

Tasks

Job description:

- Active participation in a research project on UNESCO and the OECD
- Lead in data collection and cooperation in data analysis (quantitative and qualitative)
- Conducting comparative case studies
- Mentoring of students involved in the project
- Contribution to joint project publications as well as working on independent publications

Requirements

Requirements:

- completed academic university studies and a PhD in a field related to the job tasks (Political Science, Sociology or International Relations)

(Professional) Experience:

- working in (international and interdisciplinary) research teams

Desirable:

- very good command of quantitative and qualitative research methods, especially experiences with computational large text data collection and analysis as well as with qualitative comparative case studies
- a track record of highly-ranked peer-reviewed publications in political science, international relations and sociology
- strong command of English
- Substantial knowledge about international organization in general and possibly also UNESCO and OECD in addition
- Supervise student research assistants
- Collaborate closely within the project team and contribute to joint publications

Application

Applications should be sent by e-mail, together with significant documents, indicating the reference code, no later than July 27th, 2026 in PDF format (preferably as one document) to Diana Panke: aib@polsoz.fu-berlin.de or postal to

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With an electronic application, you acknowledge that FU Berlin saves and processes your data. FU Berlin cannot guarantee the security of your personal data if you send your application over an unencrypted connection.

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More information at <https://stellenticket.de/205734/UP/>
Offer visible until 27/07/26

