

## Internship in the European Polarisation Observatory (EPO)

(4-6 months in Paris, competitive salary, several possible profiles, apply before 14 Dec 2024)

The médialab at Sciences Po is hiring interns to work at the European Polarisation Observatory, for a period going from 4 to 6 months, between January and August 2025.

The médialab at Sciences Po is an interdisciplinary laboratory gathering researchers in social sciences, computer science, design, and engineering. The European Polarisation Observatory (EPO) is a joint initiative led by the médialab at Sciences Po, with Bocconi University in Milan, the London School of Economics, the Central European University in Vienna, and with French partners CNRS, INRIA and Sorbonne Université. The goal of EPO is to bridge the tools and methods to observe social media platforms at a large scale, involving digital spheres in Europe countries and beyond. To achieve this, we rely on political survey data, unique social media data collection, and innovative computational methods. We work at the frontier between computer science, modelization, and social sciences.

**We are hiring interns for one (or several) of the following missions:**

### **Mission 1: Explorative data collection and analysis for new social platforms**

EPO infrastructure collects and processes data from several social platforms, but as Mastodon and Blue Sky gain traction, we want to launch exploratory collection and analysis on these new platforms. One mission available for the internship involves helping setting up collection pipelines and conducting the first exploratory analysis.

**Prerequisites:** autonomy in writing and debugging Python code, minimal experience working with API requests, and willingness to participate in human annotation protocols. If you apply for this mission, please describe your coding experience as precisely as possible (modules used, past projects, sizes of datasets handled, experience with APIs).

### **Mission 2: Scientific data visualization and web design**

EPO produces large amounts of data on political debates on social media, such as interaction networks, public opinion data, agenda setting signals, or text content. We seek to test different ways to render data accessible to large audiences with web visualizations.

**Prerequisites:** experience developing web visualization for scientific data, including class projects. If you apply, please describe your experience, the frameworks you are familiar with, the front- and back-end tools you are skilled in, and include links showcasing web visualization work that you have done.

## Mission 3: Managing annotation of social media data and political party survey data

EPO relies on human annotation of social media data to cross reference with political survey data sources. In this mission, the intern is expected to develop an in-depth understanding of the ontologies and standards of different political survey data sources, and to manually inspect data, discussing with our team in resolving issues related to the identification of political parties across data sources.

**Prerequisites:** no software coding experience required, some familiarity with political party datasets is a great plus (e.g., CHES, V-Party, Global Party Survey), interest in comparative politics, and capacity to work with great attention to detail, consistency, and sense of project ownership.

## Mission 4: Managing machine (LLM, NLP) annotation of social media data

Some ongoing projects within EPO require processing and annotation of large textual datasets, using tools such as topic modeling (in different flavors) and machine annotation (prompting different LLMs). We seek interns that are skilled in wrangling large data sets and build robust pipelines for these processes.

**Prerequisites:** autonomy in using open LLMs and setting up processing pipelines for treating large numbers of documents. Our textual corpora range from tens of thousands to tens of millions of short social media documents/posts depending on the case study.

## Transversal missions

The hired person will participate in the organization of the activities of EPO, including the European Conference on Polarization, the EPO Symposium, and in general frequent team meetings and exchanges with scholars and collaborators.

## What we offer

- A great and innovative environment to learn computational social science research, participating in both research and developing tools for computational social sciences.
- The opportunity to work with exciting data and on phenomena related to social and polarization, learning from a multidisciplinary team, and working with unique data.
- The opportunity to work with the research community from all over Europe interested in international ideological dynamics within the EPO project but also in conjunction with other European projects the médialab is involved.
- 800€ / month for up to 6 months, including restaurant vouchers and partial commuting costs.

## Starting date

The hired person will begin working ideally in January or February 2023, but possibly as late as March 2023.

## Duration

From 4 to 6 months, to be negotiated.

## Deadline for applying

December 14, 2024.

## Instructions for applying

Please strictly follow the instructions to ensure that your application will receive full consideration.

To apply, please send a single PDF document to [pedro.ramaciottimorales@sciencespo.fr](mailto:pedro.ramaciottimorales@sciencespo.fr) including two parts/section:

- The mission(s) you are interested in, and a description of how your profile matches the requirements. You may also briefly explain your motivation. **Important: please indicate the earliest date at which you could start. We cannot process your application without this information.**
- A CV with your diplomas, experiences in projects, relevant courses, relevant skill set, and links to relevant productions that we could check (e.g., code, web pages, datasets).

Please name your file as cv\_<first\_name>\_<last\_name>.pdf before sending.

## Hiring process

Selected candidates will be invited to an interview. Interviews may be proposed as applications arrive (even before Dec 14). Applications received after December 14 may receive consideration depending on the amount of applications received. After conducting interviews for selected candidates, propositions of contract will be made until positions are filled.