

Research Assistant 2018-19

Institutions and Political Economy Research Group (IPERG)

University of Barcelona - School of Economics

The Institutions and Political Economy Research Group (located in the School of Economics at the University of Barcelona) seeks to fill up to one research assistant position linked to a European Research Council-financed five-year research project on a cross-national historical comparison of electoral systems, electoral behaviour and party systems in advanced democracies. The Principal Investigator is Professor Carles Boix and includes scientific collaboration with major centres of research in Europe and the United States.

The Principal Investigator is looking for young political scientists, historians, sociologists or economists – preferably with strong quantitative skills. The position will have a duration of 1 year (with a possible one-year renewal for two consecutive years). The research assistant is expected to work about 30 hours per week. Salary comes with full social security benefits.

The research program is focused on the emergence of mass parties, the choice of electoral institutions, and the final crystallization of different party systems in Europe and North America during the transition to mass democracy (1850-1940). The project will combine innovative statistical, historical and geocoding techniques to explain the formation of diverse party systems as the outcome of political choices made at particular critical junctures that involved the creation of nonsocialist and socialist parties, the mobilization of their corresponding electorates, and the strategic response of political elites (often through the manipulation of electoral laws and sometimes through the creation of new electoral coalitions).

The candidates interested in the position should submit a CV and a motivation letter. All applications should be submitted before September 10, 2018 to: Ms. Anna Alsina, Institutions and Political Economy Research Group, University of Barcelona, aalsinak@ub.edu. For further enquiries, candidates can contact the project's academic coordinator, Prof. Jordi Muñoz by email: jordi.munoz@ub.edu