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Job offer!

Two research associate positions available at the Department for Political Science, University of Freiburg, Germany

Starting between October 1<sup>st</sup> and November 1<sup>st</sup> 2022, **two positions as research associates/ PhD candidates** are available in the research project “**Should I Stay or Should I Go? State Exits from Regional Organizations**” at the University of Freiburg, Germany.

Project summary:

The withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the European Union (EU) made headlines not long ago, attracting a lot of public and scholarly attention. BREXIT is not the only instance in which a member state exited a regional organization (RO). In fact, there are 49 withdrawals from ROs between the years 1945-2020. Studying these withdrawals is important as they can harm international cooperation and potentially trigger further disintegration in the longer run that could even endanger the multilateral world order as we know it. Not all states are equally inclined to leave ROs. In fact, the withdrawals from ROs are mainly driven by smaller states. Also, while some ROs were subject to several withdrawals (e.g. Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa), others experienced just one exit (e.g. the EU) and yet others never lost members (e.g. MERCOSUR). Whereas there is work on state exits from IOs, major findings, do not travel to ROs. As of yet, we do not know why states leave ROs and why some ROs are subject to more withdrawals than others, although understanding exits is of great importance for society and scholars alike. Thus, this project seeks to uncover the reasons behind the phenomenon of state exits from ROs and addresses the research questions: (1) Why are some states more inclined to exit ROs than others? (2) Why are some ROs more prone to state withdrawals than others?

More information on the team of and the research conducted at the Chair of Multilevel Governance are available under: <https://www.politik.uni-freiburg.de/professuren/governance>

Your responsibilities include:

- Support in the collaborative process of answering the project's research questions
- Data collection based on primary and secondary sources as well as interviews
- Coordination of and cooperation with student research assistants
- Conducting qualitative case studies
- Co-authorship of project publications

Requirements:

- Completed MA degree in political science (or equivalent social sciences degree) with very good grades (the degree needs to be completed by October 15<sup>th</sup> 2022 at the very latest)
- Interest in the Subdiscipline 'International Relations'
- Very good skills in qualitative methods
- Solid knowledge of theory and practice of international relations
- Fluency in English, additional language skills are of advantage
- Ability to work in a team and an interest in the research project
- Writing a PhD thesis during the three year-contract

Please email your application as one pdf file that includes a brief letter of motivation, CV, a list of degrees/grades obtained, copies of your degrees as well as a one page outline of your planned PhD project by August 16<sup>th</sup> 2022 to [diana.panke@politik.uni-freiburg.de](mailto:diana.panke@politik.uni-freiburg.de) (please make sure that the pdf file does not exceed 8 MB).