



# EARLY-CAREER RESEARCHERS INTERNATIONAL MOBILITY SCHEME PROJECT ABSTRACT BOOKLET

## PROJECT ABSTRACT BOOKLET

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## PROF. TOBIAS BACH, UNIVERSITY OF OSLO

- <https://www.sv.uio.no/isv/english/people/aca/tobibac/index.html>

I am a political scientist, specializing in Public Policy and Public Administration. My research focuses on the politics of bureaucracy and executive politics in international comparison. In my Circle U. project, I concentrate on education and research in public governance involving public sector organizations and other potentially relevant cooperation partners (non-profit organizations, private service delivery organizations etc). In particular, I am interested in research-driven cooperation with stakeholders. Moreover, within Circle U. I am in charge of building the Open School of Public Governance which includes an MA program, PhD courses, and microcredentials for professionals.

For the international mobility scheme, I am particularly interested in applications from ECRs focusing on interaction with stakeholders in research, with a special focus on public administration. I am happy to accommodate interdisciplinary work, taking into consideration that public administration is studied in multiple disciplines. A possible focus for a research stay could be the interaction between public administration and citizens/users/target groups which is prominent in established literatures (such as street level bureaucracy) but also in several more recent strands of scholarship (behavioural public policy/administration, administrative burdens, use of AI in public administration). I will be able to facilitate contacts with the Norwegian public sector. Finally, I would be interested comparative work across countries.

## PROF. EVELINE KILIAN, HUMBOLDT-UNIVERSITÄT ZU BERLIN

- <https://www.angl.hu-berlin.de/departement/staff-faculty/professors/kilian>
- <https://www.angl.hu-berlin.de/departement/staff-faculty/professors/kilian/circle-u-academic-chair-in-the-democracy-hub>

I am a Professor of English and Circle U. Academic Chair in the Knowledge Hub on Democracy. My research areas include the literature and culture of modernism and the interwar years, life writing, gender and queer theory and metropolitan studies.

I approach democracy from a cultural studies perspective that focuses on the entanglements of politics and culture, on the link between social differentiations political structures, and on the ways cultural representations and political discourses impact on and shape these relations. While this feeds into the interdisciplinary structure of the Democracy Hub, one of the aims of my work is to reach out to and provide a platform and a channel for the Humanities in this project.

One of the core activities in this context will be an international and interdisciplinary Autumn School (The Social and Cultural Dimensions of Democracy: From the Interwar Years to the Present, 29 August – 2 September 2022), which will centre on the social and cultural underpinnings of democratic systems. It takes its inspiration from feminist political and legal theories that have consistently addressed the importance of social power relations and culturally rooted marginalisations for political participation and agency. It investigates processes of social differentiation based on gender, class, race or sexuality to identify the potentially ‘undemocratic’ (ideological) undercurrents of democratic societies that may foster various forms of political disaffection but also political activism. Moreover, it considers the role of culture itself and cultural representations as relevant means to gauge the chances and limits of democracy from the perspectives of often-marginalised subjects.

I welcome applicants from the Humanities who want to pursue a project in the broad field of the project outlined and who would also contribute to the Autumn School both with their own project and with setting up the event.

## **DR. CLAUDIA MATTHES, HUMBOLDT-UNIVERSITÄT ZU BERLIN**

- <https://www.sowi.hu-berlin.de/de/lehrbereiche/osteuropa/team/matthes>

As CircleU Chair I am developing several joint courses on EU studies with focus on democracy, security and migration. The ECR could participate in curriculum development, interactive teaching that we are preparing across CircleU universities, including bloc seminars at other universities, and of course make progress with own related research in the field of comparative democracy studies during the stay at HU. I myself concentrate on Central and Eastern Europe, but am open to receive an ECR with any other regional or topical specialisation in this realm.

## **DR. JAN SPURK, UNIVERSITÉ PARIS CITÉ**

- <https://shs.u-paris.fr/>

Social scientists and philosophers have debated the uncertain futures of democracy since a long time. Bringing together sociology, political sciences and political philosophy within a critical perspective, we are interested in analyzing current trends and possible futures in the mid- and long-term. The focus is on the contrast between the instrumental logic of governance that dominates most “official” democratic politics on the one hand, and the expressive and subjective logic of public criticisms and protest on the other.

## DR. ALEXANDRE GELABERT, UNIVERSITÉ PARIS CITÉ

- <https://www.circle-u.eu/initiatives/chair-programme/chairs/alexandre-gelabert.html>

In 2022, an interdisciplinary course on "Ecological Transition and Societal Challenges", has been constructed at University Paris Cité. It reflects the urgent need to offer students a solid training program on ecological and societal challenges related to Anthropocene. Its objective is to present to all students entering the graduate cycle, regardless of the major discipline chosen, an overview of the planet according to the physical, biological, biogeochemical, economic, sociological, political, and health axes. All of these themes encompass the different dimensions of sustainability problems our society has to face. The complex nature of sustainability issues requires an interdisciplinary dialogue, and it is absolutely necessary to give our students the key elements of these interactions.

This course is divided in two parts. The first part is a 12 hours class, aiming to provide elements of understanding of the Anthropocene, planetary limits and issues of growth and ecological transition. These notions are presented through the prism of multiple disciplines. The second part is a group project (5 students), whose topic is defined by the students and the teaching team. Objectives of such projects are multiple, such as an analysis of common products life cycle, a survey on ecoanxiety among students, or exploring innovative tools to communicate efficiently on Anthropocene.

Exporting and developing this course to CircleU partners constitutes an important step to train our students to these fundamental questions, but also to build a solid European network around Climate-related challenges. The goal of this proposal is thus to identify existing education programs among the different CircleU partners that could incorporate this type of course. Once these programs identified, the ECR will help develop and adapt a common course in the different CircleU institutions, in particular to allow students from the different CircleU partners to collaborate on common European projects.

## PROF. MARNIK VANCLOOSTER, UCLouvain

- <https://www.circle-u.eu/initiatives/chair-programme/chairs/marnik-vanclooster.html>

Effective soil hydraulic parameterization of lowland rice production systems in Western Africa.

In Western Africa, the lowland valley systems have a high agricultural production potential. Yet, this production potential is often constrained by poor water management and failing hydraulic infrastructure. One of the major reasons for water management failure is the poor understanding of the basic hydrology of lowland valleys and lack of knowledge of the hydrologic functions of lowland valley soils. It has been shown in controlled experimental conditions that rice production can increase by more than 35 % if water management in lowland rice production systems is better controlled.

For designing appropriate water management strategies in the lowland rice production systems, the soil hydrological parameters need to be assessed effectively and efficiently at the appropriate scale. In this project, we propose to determine the highly spatially resolved hydraulic properties of the soils of 2 lowland valley systems in Benin. Remote sensed soil moisture time series data will be used in combination with soil hydrodynamic models to obtain effective spatially resolved hydraulic functions. In order to reduce the equifinality during the inversion, global inversion algorithms will be used, constrained to appropriate a-priori estimates inferred from novel pedotransfer functions. The obtained highly resolved soil hydraulic functions will be validated using in-situ soil measurements.

For this ECR, the following expertise is required: in-depth knowledge of soil hydrologic and hydrodynamic processes, remote sensing, and inverse modelling. The selected candidate should master standard remote sensing data handling techniques (ORFEO toolbox, ERDAS, Google Earth Engine), standard geo-data management techniques (QGIS, standard programming in either R or Python, ...), inverse modelling techniques, and soil hydrodynamic modelling.



## **PROF. ALEKSANDRA BUHA DJORDJEVIC, UNIVERSITY OF BELGRADE**

- <http://www.pharmacy.bg.ac.rs/en/science-and-international-cooperation/190/national-projects/>
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As an academic chair for global health at the University of Belgrade, my main goal is to raise awareness of the importance of the environment's role in our health and facilitate the involvement of young researchers in the CIRCLE U alliance. My research focuses on endocrine disruptors and the role of the exposome in endocrine health. The potential candidate can be involved in the analyses of samples collected during a subchronic toxicity study in rats designed to assess the endocrine toxicity of a real-life mixture of toxic metals. The prospective candidate would be involved in laboratory work, including but not limited to oxidative stress status analyses, hormone analyses, toxic metal determination, and mathematical modelling of collected data using the Benchmark dose approach. These analyses will be done within the national project DecodExpo financed by the Serbian Science Fund.

Furthermore, my research group is also involved in investigating the knowledge and attitudes of reproductive-age women and men toward environmental chemicals. The aim is to collect the facts on the current state of knowledge on this topic and initiate more profound education in this vital field both at the European universities and among the general European population. This research is financed through the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Serbia project. It is done in collaboration with the Institute for Anthropological Research, Republic of Croatia. This topic can also be included in potential candidate assignments and further extended to investigate the population of the candidates' country. These investigations can be partly done online.

I believe that these collaborative investigations could produce joint publications and initiatives for some future joint research projects.

The candidate should have a strong medicine, pharmacy, or biology background.

## PROF. EIVIND ENGBRETSSEN, UNIVERSITY OF OSLO

- <https://www.med.uio.no/she/english/research/groups/circle-u-global-health-chair.html>
- <https://www.med.uio.no/english/people/adm/fac/management/eivinden/index.html>

The ECR will be involved in designing and trialling a corpus-assisted datathon model. The aim is to engage students from the partner institutions in empirically informed, critical interrogation of key concepts of the sustainability agenda in order to confront its paradoxes and ambivalences and to debate ways in which these paradoxes might be addressed. The Oslo Medical Corpus used for this purpose is a unique, large suite of freely accessible electronic corpora running into tens of millions of words, accompanied by a novel, open-source corpus analysis, and visualization interface to support a wide range of empirical studies into various discourses on global health, both mainstream and non-mainstream.

My adaptation of the concept of ‘hackathon’ will involve organising a range of highly interactive, interdisciplinary fora (conceived as ‘datathons’) in which students, who will have already received training in corpus analysis, will participate in live, hands on brainstorming sessions that involve looking closely at corpus evidence for claims and counter claims about sustainability and related concepts. External partners with disparate but potentially synergistic and complementary knowledge and skills will be invited to attend parts of these datathons and to discuss some of the paradoxes and conflicts relating to sustainability and global health identified by students during the datathons.

Read more about my project here: Circle U. Chair Programme:

<https://www.med.uio.no/she/english/research/groups/circle-u-global-health-chair.html>

The call is open to student from any discipline with an interest in the political aspects of sustainable development or conceptual analysis more generally.

## DR. MATTHEW PRINA, KING'S COLLEGE LONDON

- <https://www.kcl.ac.uk/people/matthew-prina>
- <https://scholar.google.co.uk/citations?user=cAghYEUAAAAJ&hl=en>
- [https://twitter.com/am\\_prina](https://twitter.com/am_prina)

Two potential projects:

1- We have recently finished writing a report for the WHO on the impact of climate change on older people's health. One of the limitations identified during this project was the conflicting evidence around older people's perceptions of climate change. In this project the selected candidate will carry out a systematic review on the perceptions on climate change among older people, trying to identify geographical differences and with a focus on health. Experience of systematic reviews would be ideal. We expect that this project may require more than 4 weeks to complete, but it could be continued remotely afterwards.

2- As part of my work as a Circle-U Chair, we have been developing a student driven podcast on global health topics. This should be launched in the summer. This project could include an evaluation of the existing podcast series and also planning a future series.

## PROF. SANDY TUBEUF, UCLOUVAIN

- <https://sandytubeuf.wixsite.com/sandytubeuf>
- <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1002/hec.4450>

I am a health economist, teaching in the Faculty of Public Health and sharing my research time between an Institute of Health and Society and an Institute of Research in Economic and Social Research. As an economist working mainly on health-related questions and based within the School of Medicine and Health, I already have a great experience of interdisciplinary research and an ability to communicate within a multi-disciplinary context. I see Circle U as being an opportunity to equip post-graduate students with the best training to analyse global health issues, engage with policy-makers and co-design sustainable solutions. I reckon how small are the opportunities for PhD students to get trained thoroughly with advanced and transferable methods. Doctoral training is always purpose-driven and very specialised; some do empirical analyses, others do theoretical analyses, some collect data, other use existing data. Overall, most postgraduate training programmes prepare specialists with matching expertise to their supervisors but do not take into account that most PhD graduate will not end up as academic scientists and they are not trained researchers who can work in diverse settings. Typically, their future career relies on their ability to transcend the silos of their training to respond to real-life problems whether they work for government, industry, or non-profit, and they are unlikely to be ready for this. Yet, disciplinary communities often see attempts to bridge disciplines at the time of postgraduate studies as a risk to dilute an academic outstanding profile.

Project - Assessing health care technologies globally

Climate change is the major threat of the 21th century. Citizens have also an important role to play in this crisis; they must change their lifestyles to accompany the change (food diet, public transport, renewable energy use). The link between environment and health is already well known. Environmental factors are seen as responsible for increased incidence of cancer, diabetes, cardiovascular diseases, pulmonary chronic diseases as well as for a deterioration of well-being, mental health and premature deaths. While the healthcare sector cares for patients including those, whose poorer health is due to environment causes, this sector is also responsible for substantial environmental pollution. There are four main sources of pollution: greenhouse gas emissions, fine particles, plastic waste pollution and pharmaceutical or chemical pollution. However, despite the morbidity and mortality consequences of pollution from the healthcare sector, the environmental dimension is not at the forefront when evaluating healthcare treatments. Most health care systems worldwide evaluate whether innovative healthcare technologies are good value for money evaluating the costs and effectiveness of competing treatments, however, the environmental impact is neither included from a cost nor a health perspective.

Using participatory methods, this project aims to reveal the trade-offs that patients would be willing to accept to account for human impacts on the environment and climate change in the healthcare sector. We will design a discrete choice experiment to elicit the preferences of diabetic patients because disease burden related to diabetes is high and rising and patients may not be aware that their treatment can be harmful for the environment. The experiment we will design will ask patients to choose their preferred alternative from a set of repeated alternatives scenarios in order to reveal the importance they give to the environment in the health sector.

Profile of PhD student: experience with focus group, discrete choice experiments, online survey, interest for sustainability and environment, healthcare decisions

## PROF. CHRISTIAN WEJSE, UNIVERSITY OF AARHUS

- <https://ph.au.dk/en/research/research-units/global-health>
- <https://matchpoints.au.dk>

I am a research clinician and lead a new migrant health clinic at Dept of Infectious Diseases, Aarhus university hospital. I also lead the GloHAU research team, GLObal Health at Aarhus University and serve as the AU academic chair for the Global Health Knowledge Hub.

I could use an ECR for the following two projects:

1. Establishment of a clinical database with the migrants referred to our specialized clinic for complex and cross-cultural medicine, and writing a systematic review on the treatment methods used, such as course-based coordination.
2. Planning and coordinating Matchpoints 2023, an AU conference on Global Health Challenges and Solutions 11-13/5 2023. This will also be a Circle U. seminar involving other Global Health academic chairs and will aim to put Global Health on the agenda through a focus on four tracks: Pandemics, Non-Communicable Diseases, Inequity and Climate change. This project will also involve teaching Global Health for medical students where PhD students lead team-based learning on pandemics and global health disease burden as well as a supervision of a group assignment literature review on a global health theme.

## PROF. FEDERICO TARRAGONI, UNIVERSITÉ PARIS CITÉ

- <https://www.circle-u.eu/initiatives/chair-programme/chairs/federico-tarragoni.html>
- <http://lcsp.univ-paris-diderot.fr/Tarragoni-Federico>
- [https://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Federico\\_Tarragoni](https://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Federico_Tarragoni)

My principal project for Circle U is to create an interdisciplinary research network on "democriticing". It will be focused on the social dynamics of contestation of democracy, which do not claim to suppress democratic systems, but to improve or radicalize them. The idea of this network is based on a double contemporary observation: the high-speed change of democratic citizenships, which is often analysed as a multiform crisis (crises of representation, social and cultural integration, etc.) ; the need to promote new political solutions allowing to adapt democratic governance to these new contesting citizenships, so that they do not undermine the stability of democracies in the future, but in order to feed their change.

It is becoming urgent to acquire new tools to characterise these contentious citizenships. It is becoming crucial to combine knowledge in different disciplines (sociology, anthropology, economics, history, law, climate studies, medical humanities) in order to understand the singularity of the protesting citizenships of our present, particularly in relation to populist ideology and its evolution over time. It is equally crucial to understand what representations of democracy structure these contentious citizenships. This also leads to an investigation of the "essentially controversial concept" of democracy. The aim of such an archaeology is to try to understand the normative frames of reference that irrigate the contemporary social uses of the word "democracy". To what representations of freedom, equality, fraternity, justice, the polity and the republic can the word 'democracy' be grafted? What does the semantic map of the word "democracy" tell us about contemporary controversies that rely on it, whether in the political sphere or in extra-political spheres (the environment, education, culture, health and bioethical debates, discussions on the benefits of technical progress, etc.)? More specifically, the aim is to familiarise students with the methodological and epistemological issues involved in an investigation of the word "democracy", borrowing from social sciences, discourse analysis and corpus linguistics. In the medium and long term, this project is intended to structure research networks between the Université Paris Cité (F. Tarragoni) and the University of Oslo (Eivind Engebretsen and Mona Baker), making it possible to imagine new partnerships, open to other Circle U partner universities.