

Research Internships Fall 2024

Supervisor	ECTS	Project description	Responsibilities and tasks
<p>Wiebke Marie Junk</p> <p>wiebke.junk@ifs.ku.dk</p>	15/30	<p>Civil Society Organisations - e.g., NGOs, unions and business associations - play a key role in democracies. By engaging in political activities, e.g., advocacy and lobbying, they offer a voice to economic, professional, and societal interests, as well as broader public causes, e.g., protecting the environment and human rights. In doing so, they function as a link between society and government. This essential function can be strained significantly during crises, which can inhibit CSOs' political activities, disrupting their ability to mobilise members, engage in advocacy and lobbying, and attract funding. The challenge of bringing these activities back up to 'full capacity' may last well beyond the crisis, potentially producing bias in the participatory democratic process, in which the strongest organisations are best-equipped to compete. Therefore, CSOs' resilience amid crisis circumstances, viewed as their ability to survive crises and restore their representative capacity, is an essential element of a healthy participatory democracy.</p> <p>The Resilient Civil Society Project (ReCiv) seeks to examine CSO resilience in times of crisis. With a survey-based analysis of CSOs' activities in nine European countries and the EU, as well as a series of elite interviews and focus groups with CSO representatives in four countries, this project aims to answer the following research question: How does the European community of CSOs survive and adapt to different types of crises?</p>	<p>The Resilient Civil Society Project (ReCiv) is a collaborative project between Queen's University Belfast and University of Copenhagen. In fall 2024, the project will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - implement a cross-country survey of 6,000 CSOs active in nine European countries and the EU - prepare/conduct the interviews and focus group interviews with selected participants in Denmark, Ireland, Italy and the UK. <p>The research internship entails the following tasks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - assisting in this data collection, especially survey follow-up and interviews - aiding in the preparation of a survey respondent report and potential respondent webinars - attending project meetings and research group meetings <p>Depending on the intern's interests and the scope of the internship, it may also be arranged for the intern to work independently on subsets of the data (e.g. the Danish case).</p> <p>The overall aim of the internship will be to give the student insights into the everyday life of a researcher and the workings of an international research project.</p>

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Karina Kosiara-Pedersen kp@ifs.ku.dk	15/30	<p>We are living in angry times. Our social, political and civic arenas are characterised by unprecedented levels of anger, which is amplified through political protest, direct action, cyber-mobbing, social media rage, and outright insurrection. Right-wing anger, in the gendered arena of democratic politics, has been exemplified in the recent public outrage against Trump's trial on sexual abuse. We see gendered anger against state failures being continually displayed in left-aligned social movements such as pro-abortion activism and #MeToo, as well as in political protests tearing through Tehran, Shanghai and Paris. The environment of political volatility has vast emotional costs for politicians, activists and political actors. In this project, we want to understand how 'doing politics' in the times of anger impacts the mental health of people engaged in contemporary political life, and in particular address two questions: 1. What is the nature of mental load on elected representatives/candidates for public elections caused by experiences of harassment, intimidation and violence? How do they protect their mental health? 2. What causes perpetrators among the public to harass, intimidate and display anger towards candidates standing for election and elected representatives?</p>	<p>Tasks and responsibilities include data collection such as interviewing perpetrators of harassment, intimidation and violence within politics, survey among voters, other types of data collection, qualitative and quantitative coding and analysis, and reference management. In addition, the intern will take part in recurring workshops, assistance with the completion of articles, co-author articles (if relevant) and discuss research results.</p> <p>The project is a cross-departmental project with Atreyee Sen (ANT) and Karina Kosiara-Pedersen (POL)</p>

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Michele Merill Betsill m.betsill@ifs.ku.dk	15/30	“Transnational Governance and the Politics of Transformative Change at the Climate-Biodiversity Frontier” studies how non-state and sub-national actors are addressing the linked challenges of climate change, biodiversity loss, and social justice. This is a collaborative research project with Dr. Harriet Bulkeley (Durham University and Utrecht University) and Dr. Stacy VanDeveer (University of Massachusetts Boston) that seeks to understand the diverse forms of transnational governance that are emerging as well as the ways that the interconnections between climate, biodiversity, and justice are framed and contested through these initiatives.	Tasks could include: 1) Collecting and coding data on transnational climate-biodiversity governance initiatives; 2) case studies of a sub-set of transnational climate-biodiversity governance initiatives; 3) systematic review of academic literature on the politics of transformation for sustainability; and 4) preparing for a workshop with scholars and practitioners working on these issues. The intern will be encouraged to develop and explore their own interests in relation to the larger project and within the scope of the internship. They will also participate in research team meetings.

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Lene Holm Pedersen lh@ifs.ku.dk	15/30	<p>The purpose of Power Inquiry 2.0 (Magtudredningen 2.0) is to establish a science-based foundation for the political discourse among citizens and decision-makers on how to ensure the viability and legitimacy of Danish democracy in a world marked by new challenges. The intern will in particular be involved in the research themes on democratic representation, the interaction between the national institutions of democracy, the conditions for local and regional democracy and the shift in balance between the international actors and the Danish institutions. More info about the project and the four themes can be found here: https://ps.au.dk/forskning/forskningsprojekter/magtudredningen2</p>	<p>Preliminary description of tasks and responsibilities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Organizing and participating in research seminars and events - Collaboration with external partners linked to the Power Inquiry - Systematic literature searching - Datacollection and dataanalysis - Dissemination of research results <p>In the autumn, the Danish Power Inquiry will in cooperation with “Mandag Morgen” be hosting four citizen assemblies – Two digital and two face-to face. The intern will be involved in research and dissemination in relation to the citizen assemblies. Tasks in relation to the citizen assemblies could include: 1) observation and analysis of the debates, 2) interviews with participants, 3) survey of participants, 4) literature review of on innovative forms of democracy, and 4) preparation of smaller texts.</p> <p>The intern will also participate in a scientific conference, research meetings and other activities aimed at the broad purpose of the internship, which is to provide insight into the everyday life of research.</p>

<p>Marlene Wind</p> <p>mwi@ifs.ku.dk</p>	<p>A preference for 30 ECTS, but 15 ECTS can be considered</p>	<p>Populist constitutionalism in Scandinavia?</p> <p>The Nordic countries have often been portrayed as vanguards of human rights and international law. Few are, however, aware that human rights played no role in the post-Second World War debates in Scandinavia where there was deep skepticism towards natural law arguments and a strong emphasis on legal positivism and majoritarian democracy. So, while the desire to put judicial constraints on majorities after the Second World War came to dominate constitutionalist discourse as a tandem of judicial review and rights, the Nordics cultivated a form of 'populist constitutionalism' long before it became popular elsewhere. This project seeks to understand how and why the Nordics became the beacon of procedural democracy and majoritarianism where courts' deference to parliament made it difficult to fully embrace European constitutionalism.</p>	<p>Preliminary description of tasks and responsibilities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collecting historical data and information on i) the political and legal debate around the 1953 revision of the Danish constitution and similar debates in Norway, Sweden, Finland. ii) debates on democracy and courts in the 1950s and 1960s iii) collection of data on the institutional set-up in the 4 Nordic countries (what competences do judicial bodies have to overrule the majority in parliament, if any. EX-post vs ex-ante judicial review v) political records on debates up until today; such as parliamentary debates on constitution revisions and the role of courts and judges, in Denmark, Norway, Sweden (the scope of data collection will depend on how long the internship is) Reading and coding documents (Depending on scope of internship:) Assisting in the analysis of the collected and coded material <p>The intern must be able to read Danish, Norwegian, Swedish and to write in English</p> <p>The intern will assist in collecting historical archival data, statistical data and policy documents, and will gain a clear understanding of research design, data collection and data analysis. The scope of the task and the experience gained will depend on whether the internship is 15 or 30 ECTS. The intern's</p>
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			<p>contributions will be acknowledged in the publication.</p> <p>Depending on the intern's interests and the scope of the internship, it may be arranged for the intern to explore their own interests within the scope of the research and the activities of the supervisor. For instance, as a focused case study.</p> <p>The intern will be invited to participate in research meetings and other activities aimed at the broad purpose of the internship, which will provide insight into the everyday life of research.</p> <p>The project lead has experience of supervising researchers at different levels of experience.</p>

<p>Jonathan Luke Austin</p> <p>jl@ifs.ku.dk</p>	<p>A preference for 30 ECTS, but 15 ECTS can be considered</p>	<p>The Future of Humanitarian Design (HUD)</p> <p>Gaza. Kyiv. Khartoum. Bogota. Kinshasa. Baghdad. Sana'a. These are just a few of the global spaces where humanitarian crisis is intensifying. The Future of Humanitarian Design (HUD) focuses on the challenges spaces like these pose: war, refugee flows, forced displacement, etc. Such humanitarian challenges are rapidly worsening: contemporary conflicts are more frequent and protracted, refugee flows are rapidly destabilizing geopolitical structures, and humanitarian actors are under growing threat. In light of these dilemmas, HUD explores how emerging technologies, processes of aesthetic design, and engineering insights can be combined with knowledge from international relations to tackle the crisis facing humanitarianism. To do so, the project is constructed around a form of experimental action research in which international relations scholars will collaboratively work alongside architects, engineers, and others to lead the co-design of three technological innovations designed to improve humanitarian practice and conditions. In this, the goal is to 1) explore how we might better integrate 'high theoretical' and 'critical' social scientific concepts and theories into the world of practice (humanitarian and beyond), 2) to see how social science can be more closely 'bridged' with engineering, architectural, and design practice and knowledge, and 3) therein, take up the urgent task – especially in the light of recent geopolitical events – of working collaboratively across the sciences to improve the conditions of some of the most vulnerable populations in the world.</p> <p>To achieve this, HUD is a collaboration between the University of Copenhagen, the Geneva Graduate Institute, the Art and Design School in Geneva, and the EssentialTech Lab at EPFL Lausanne. It also integrates high-level policy practitioners as project partners based at organizations including Médecins sans frontières (doctors without borders), Terre des hommes, and the International</p>	<p>Preliminary description of tasks and responsibilities</p> <p>The exact contribution of the research intern to HUD will be collaboratively discussed with them, based on their interests and expertise. But tasks may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Semi-structured interviews with core humanitarian actors and beneficiaries; ▪ Visual analysis of <i>inter alia</i> photographic material, satellite imagery, video material, and other data from humanitarian crisis settings; ▪ Assistance with core HUD fieldwork (in Colombia and the DRC); ▪ Focused interdisciplinary literature reviews; ▪ Qualitative coding of primary data; ▪ Focused historical/contemporary case studies in humanitarian action; ▪ Theoretical/conceptual work on the dynamics of humanitarian design, technology, and crisis. <p>Within the scope of the project, interns will also be free to develop their own small-scale research project to contribute to HUD. This can relate to the themes identified above or go beyond into, for example, decolonial approaches to humanitarianism, the question of indigenous knowledge in humanitarian settings, gendered concerns in humanitarian action, alternative political structures for managing crisis, and so forth.</p>
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		Committee of the Red Cross, alongside partnerships with research institutions in Colombia and the Democratic Republic of the Congo.	<p>We will adjust the scope of the internship and tasks depending on whether it is a 15 or 30 ECTS internship.</p> <p>The intern's contributions will be acknowledged in publications, if appropriate they may also have the opportunity to co-author publications with the project team, and they will gain direct experience of a complex and large-scale research project with around a dozen core members. Interns will be integrated into the project team, participate in its core meetings, and other activities (seminars, workshops, etc.).</p>