



Universiteit Antwerpen

The research group Media, Movements, and Politics (M²P) at the University of Antwerp (Belgium) has vacancies for **1 postdoc and 2 predoc researchers** to conduct research within the framework of an international comparative project on **political agenda-setting**.

The project runs for four years (2008-2011). It implies a large-scale data-collection (automated content analysis), sophisticated statistical analyses (mainly time series) and it aims for a (large) number of scientific publications (PhDs, book, and papers).

The hired researchers will gather the Belgian part of the longitudinal, international data (1980-2007). They will be able to draw on the comparative dataset to make their PhDs or to draft other publications (pending an agreement with the other research teams). The postdoc researcher will be hired for three years, both predoc researchers for four years.

The main goal of the project is twofold. First, the project will assess to what extent **mass media** coverage affects the political agenda in different political systems. Second, the project will explore the precise role of **political parties** in the political agenda-setting process in different countries. The comparative design encompasses, at this stage, Belgium, the US, Switzerland, Spain, France, the Netherlands, and Denmark.

We search researchers with the following **capacities/qualities**:

- a social science education (sociology, political science, communications, economics, psychology...);
- a keen interest in political agenda-setting, that is: the mechanism determining the political agenda (the things political actors devote attention to);
- a more general interest in politics, mass media and social movements;
- social and communicative skills in order to be able to function in a group;
- statistical skills (preferably time series) to analyze large and complicated, longitudinal datasets;
- enough stamina to carry out a long-lasting project and to finalize a PhD;
- a good deal of ambition to take our knowledge on political agenda-setting further;
- excellent English reading and writing proficiency and the willingness to learn Dutch (and some French) within a couple of months.

We **offer** the potential researchers:

- a very exciting and innovative research topic;
- a young and dynamic local research environment;
- a stimulating international network with seniors and peers;
- ample existing knowledge on political agenda-setting;
- a large amount of research time with very few teaching assignments;
- a competitive wage.

Please contact the project leader: Stefaan Walgrave: stefaan.walgrave@ua.ac.be or +32 478 68 35 22