The Johan Skytte Institute of Political Studies at the University of Tartu invites applications for a fully-funded PhD position in the academic year 2020/2021

Application deadline: 1 June/ 15 June 2020 for international/ local applicants (see details here)
Duration (nominal study period): September 2020 – August 2024
Funding: A monthly stipend of 1,060€ (conditions stipulated here)

You are invited to submit your application along with a research proposal on the following topic:

**Applications of quantitative text analysis in comparative politics**

The general aim of the PhD project is to analyse either classical or contemporary political science concepts or phenomena through modern quantitative text analysis tools. Applicants should define a more specific focus in the framework of this general theme. In contemporary societies much of public political discourse is in one way or another digitally available, but due to its sheer volume, qualitatively unanalysable. This is where quantitative text analysis models applied to political science problems can expand the scope of the latter.

For example, text analysis models can be applied to the analysis of populist discourse, the political positions of candidates or parties, ideological or emotional polarization, and the dynamics and content of media or parliamentary discourse. In this way it is possible to provide a fresh perspective on the analysis of topics that have previously relied on expert or mass opinion or qualitative (content) analysis.

The PhD candidate undertaking such a project is expected to have good statistical skills and be familiar with widely used data analysis methods as well as the basics of collecting and processing textual data in R (or Python). As part of the project, the candidate is expected to develop joint publications with the supervisors.

Interested candidates are invited to prepare a research proposal outlining the specific research project they would pursue under this general topic. Admission requirements, including guidelines for the research proposal, can be found here.

Main supervisor: to be determined according to the substantive focus of the proposed project.

Co-supervisor: Dr Martin Mölder, Researcher at the Johan Skytte Institute of Political Studies, martin.molder@ut.ee

Please contact Dr Martin Mölder for an approval of your proposal ahead of the application deadline!

However, please note that the prospective supervisor is not in a position to provide extensive comments or help develop project descriptions at the application stage, given the large number of applicants.