

Postdoctoral researcher (ERC project EUDAIMONIA) with experience in Actor- Network Theory

See also: <https://euraxess.ec.europa.eu/jobs/622413>

Offer description

The University of Liège (Belgium, founded in 1817) has a long-standing tradition in cutting-edge research in the field of European Union (EU) law. Within the “Cité” Research Unit embedded within the Faculty of Law, Political Science and Criminology, the European Union law research group presently constitutes an interdisciplinary team comprising about 15 researchers working on the intersections between EU law and related disciplines (economics, information technology sciences, social sciences).

From September 2021, the group will host the ERC StG project EUDAIMONIA (GA: 948473, <https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/948473>). That project seeks to map the **impact of European Union law obligations on national administrative organisation designs** across a wide variety of sectors. In order to grasp this impact, it will rely Actor-Network Theory (ANT). Although well-known across a variety of social sciences (science and technology studies [STS], sociology, anthropology), this method is new in the field of (EU) legal scholarship. In addition to classical legal research methods, semi-structured interviews and questionnaires will be sent to national authorities and administrations seeking to uncover the role and impact of EU law (as one object among many others) on their design and operations.

The EUDAIMONIA project will be divided in three work packages: the first work package will analyse the legal rules in place, the second will uncover the context in which those rules produce effects and the third will draw conclusions from the findings of the previous packages. The ANT research takes place within the framework of the second work package.

We are currently looking to recruit a postdoctoral scholar with experience in ANT research to coordinate, develop, implement and execute the second work package. The appointed researcher will have to opportunity to manage an important part of the project in an independent way, working closely with the PI and to publish research results in peer-reviewed journals. She/he is expected to become one of the faces of the ERC project.

The University of Liège offers a three-year, full-time postdoctoral position and remuneration in accordance with Belgian senior researcher salary scales.

Researchers in STS, sociology (of law) and anthropology (of law) are particularly welcome to apply. We are also open to receive applications from PhDs in other fields with demonstrable experience in ANT research. Doctoral researchers obtaining their PhD by September 2021 are also welcome to apply.



Qualifications

We are looking to recruit a PhD holder or a doctoral scholar graduating by September 2021:

- with proven experience in ANT research– although we are particularly interested in PhDs in political science, STS, sociology and anthropology (of law), other PhDs with relevant research skills are encouraged to apply too;
- with a strong interest in the European Union and the ways in which its institutions and rules work;
- who is team player willing to work closely in a team composed of a PI, junior researchers and academic correspondents in different EU Member States;
- who has proven experience in successfully publishing academic papers or research in top-rated journals or collections in her/his field of expertise;
- who is willing and able to conduct interviews in different Member States and complete research stays there.

Specific requirements

The appointed researcher will be expected to take part in research stays (between two weeks and three months) and interviews in other Member States of the European Union. Travel and residence costs will be covered by the project.

English academic writing skills are a must. As we are a French-speaking University, some basic knowledge of French would be an asset, although not a requirement.

Qualified candidates will have a successful record of empirical social science or humanities research in an area relevant to the project, experience with ANT research is highly desirable.

Experience balancing intellectual and organizational responsibilities relevant to the management of large grant-funded projects would be an asset.

Openness towards interdisciplinary research and a sincere interest in law and its role in organizing society would be assets as well.

Benefits

We offer a temporary contract of up to 3 years as a postdoctoral researcher and a competitive salary in accordance with the University's salary scales. In addition, meal vouchers and reimbursement of public transportation costs when commuting to the office (within Belgium) are offered as well.



The appointed researcher will have the opportunity to work on an important European research project, of which you will become one of the faces. She/he will have access to all facilities offered by the University. Participation in international conferences and networks is encouraged and funding is available to make this happen. There may be additional opportunities to collaborate more closely with STS scholars at the University of Liège as well.

More generally, the research team values a good work-life balance, flexible working conditions and on-the-job training. The PI undertakes to actively support the appointed candidate in gaining the necessary experience towards becoming a Principal Investigator or senior academic.

Application process

Please send

- a full academic CV (including a list of publications and conference presentations)
- a motivation letter (max. 2 pages) highlighting your experience with ANT research
- a brief (less than 10,000 words) writing sample;
- 2-3 letters of recommendation (sent directly by referees to the email address mentioned below);

by email to the following address: pieter.vancleynenbreugel@uliege.be.

The deadline is 31 May at 11:59 PM (CET).

Selection process

- we will shortlist the applicants who appear to be the best fit with the project team and invite them for (online) interviews.
- review of applications will begin as of 1 June 2021. A decision will be taken in the first half of June and the candidate is expected to start on 1 September 2021.

Additional information

For more information, please reach out to the project's PI, prof. dr. Pieter Van Cleynenbreugel, via pieter.vancleynenbreugel@uliege.be

