



**PhD Position in Quantitative Sociology
(proposal based)**

Post specification

Post Title:	PhD Researcher in Sociology
Post Status:	48 months , Full-time
Starting Date:	September 2023
Department/Faculty:	Department of Sociology, School of Social Sciences and Philosophy
Reports to (supervisor):	Dr Jan Skopek (Associate Professor), Head of Department
Location:	Trinity College Dublin (Dublin, Ireland)
Salary:	PhD Researcher. Full fees (EU) plus Euro 20,000 stipend per annum (tax-free scholarship stipend) plus research allowance
Closing Date:	31st of March 2023 (23:00 GMT)

Post Summary

Doctoral Researcher in Quantitative Sociology (PhD programme)

The **Department of Sociology at Trinity College Dublin** is seeking to appoint a doctoral researcher to join the PhD degree programme for a period of 48 months (supervisor Professor Jan Skopek). Candidates are given the opportunity to design and carry out an innovative PhD project in quantitative sociology.

We are seeking applicants who are interested to do sociological research preferably (but not necessarily) in one of the following thematic fields:

- Intergenerational social inequality and social mobility (e.g., socio-demographic models of intergenerational social reproduction),
- Inequality of educational opportunity (e.g., the role of institutional, familial, and individual factors in generating unequal educational outcomes across social groups),
- social inequality across the life course (e.g., assortative dating and mating, family formation, family life, labour market careers).

Applicants are expected to have an excellent knowledge of quantitative-statistical methodology, to have experience in using cross-sectional and/or longitudinal data, and to be competent in using a statistical package (Stata or R). Applicants who aim to employ innovative computational social science approaches such as machine learning and/or big data designs to



study social inequality are especially welcome. Applicants are encouraged to pursue comparative research designs involving data from several countries.

Major research activities conducted by the candidate will involve (1) collaborating closely with your research supervisor; (2) becoming familiar with the main theoretical debates in your field by engaging in a systematic reading of the literature and writing a state-of-the-art literature review for your project; (3) becoming proficient in working with cross-sectional and longitudinal data; (4) conducting advanced statistical analyses to test alternative theory-derived hypotheses; (5) summarizing and interpreting your findings for a social science audience and developing policy implications; (6) presenting work at international academics conferences or networks in the field; (7) preparing research papers and submitting them to pertinent academic journals.

We are looking for enthusiastic PhD candidates who would like to acquire high-level training in sociology and in writing a cutting-edge PhD dissertation at TCD Sociology.

Research proposal

Applications will be considered based on a candidate's academic record and a **short research proposal** to be submitted alongside the usual application documents (motivation, CV, references, writing sample, see below). The aim of the research proposal is to delineate a prospective PhD project. An excellent research proposal has a telling project title, outlines the research questions and objectives clearly, addresses the why it is important to conduct this research, embeds the project in the current research literature, proposes some theoretical orientation and/or develops an empirical hypothesis, and briefly describes the data and methods it seeks to employ. The proposal should be **no longer than 2000 words** (excluding references).

The PhD Programme at TCD Sociology

The candidate will join the PhD programme at the Department of Sociology of Trinity College Dublin, Ireland's leading university which sits on a historic campus in the heart of Dublin. The Department will provide all logistic, academic and intellectual support and integrate the successful candidate into a vibrant doctoral programme at TCD, while offering additional economic supports to cover fees and basic expenses related to the PhD programme. PhD students at the department are embedded in the interdisciplinary context of the School of Social Sciences and Philosophy which also includes economics, political science, and philosophy.

PhD students in Sociology enjoy a wide range of training opportunities. For example, students participate in a research training programme in the department and have the opportunity to join masters level courses (including courses on research methods). Moreover, our PhD students are supported to attend high-quality international workshops and summer schools.

PhD students are expected to collaborate closely with their supervisors and will produce a PhD based on four papers of a publishable standard. PhD students also acquire teaching



experience by providing teaching support in our undergraduate programme (4 hours per week during term times).

Standard duties of the post

- Critical, systematic and analytical review of relevant literature for the project.
- Writing academic output (working papers, chapters, journal articles) in excellent English.
- Conducting empirical research using quantitative-statistical methods.
- Actively writing and submitting research papers for publication and contributing to joint projects or related submissions with the PhD supervisor.
- Attending meetings, workshops, and conferences.
- Disseminating academic work to specialised and general audiences.
- 4 hours of teaching a week during the statutory term (facilitating undergraduate tutorials).

Person Specification

Qualifications

- (nearly) finished MA, MSc or MPhil in Sociology, Social Research, Computational Social Science, Population Studies/Demography, Economics, Psychology, Social Policy, Education or in any cognate fields (thesis should be either defended or submitted).

Essential research skills

- excellent analytical skills;
- advanced knowledge of quantitative methods in the social sciences;
- familiarity with the literatures on social stratification, social inequality, and educational sociology;
- experience in the management and analysis of micro-level quantitative data (preferably longitudinal data);
- advanced technical skills in *Stata* or a comparable statistical package or willingness and competence to acquire such skills in a short amount of time;
- solid statistical training or knowledge of advanced multivariate statistical methods, and preferably, competence in longitudinal research designs.

Other essential knowledge and skills

- excellent written and verbal communication skills in English;
- ability to structure and pursue an independent research project;
- strong motivation to publish in academic journals;
- good organisational skills;
- ability to work effectively in a team;
- interpersonal and relational skills.

Desirable skills



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- interest in or basic knowledge of cross-country comparative research;
- an interdisciplinary approach;
- interest in pursuing an academic or teaching career

Application Procedure

Informal enquiries are very welcome and can be made directly to Dr Jan Skopek (skopekj@tcd.ie), Associate Professor, Department of Sociology.

To apply, candidates should submit:

1. a **motivation letter** clearly indicating how the applicant's profile and skills fit the requirements of the PhD position (max. 2 pages);
2. a **full curriculum vitae**
3. A concise **PhD project proposal** no longer than 2000 words excluding references (describing a research objective, research questions, some theoretical background, data and methodology, see above)
4. the names and contact details of **two referees** (with email addresses included);
5. at least **one example of your written work** (in English and including some data analysis) that shows your analytical and writing skills in a social science discipline.

via email to

- skopekj@tcd.ie (Dr Jan Skopek, Associate Professor)

before the **closing date of March 31st 2023 (23:00 GMT)**.

Applications must indicate exactly "*PhD Application – Quantitative Sociology*" in the subject line.

Institutional background information

The Department of Sociology

Sociology is a member of the School of Social Sciences and Philosophy, one of 24 Schools within Trinity College. The Department's principal research clusters are: Migration, Identities and Diversity; Comparative Inequalities, Education and Families; Power, Conflict and Resistance; Digitalisation and Social Networks.

Department staff are highly international and our research combines advanced quantitative methods applied to real-world data with the use of sophisticated and diverse qualitative methodologies. Our research links to several College priority research themes: 'International Integration' centred within Trinity Research in Social Science (TRISS), 'Identities in Transformation' and 'Inclusive Society' within the Trinity Long Room Hub (TLRH) and 'Ageing' within the Longitudinal Study of Ageing (TILDA). The Department has a long-standing collaboration with Ireland's premier research institute, the Economic and Social Research



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Institute (ESRI) and has strong links with other disciplines such as Medicine, Psychology, Immunology and Neuroscience.

The Department has an active postgraduate programme. It is home to an MSc in Comparative Social Change delivered jointly with University College Dublin, as well as an MPhil in Race, Ethnicity, Conflict. It has a structured PhD programme combining advanced methodological training with transferable skills workshops. There are around 15 PhD students and our doctoral graduates have positions in academic institutions, non-governmental organisations and the private sector.

Further information on the Department of Sociology is available at: www.tcd.ie/sociology

School of Social Sciences and Philosophy

The School of Social Sciences and Philosophy was formed in 2005 and comprises the Departments of Economics, Philosophy, Political Science and Sociology, together with the Policy Institute. With over 45 full-time academic staff, the School has an international reputation in research and is committed to the dissemination of its knowledge and expertise to the benefit of the wider community, with the Policy Institute providing an important channel for policy analysis and evaluation. The School is home to the unique undergraduate degree in PPES (Philosophy, Political Science, Economics and Sociology). It also contributes to undergraduate degrees in Business, Economic and Social Studies (this includes Political Science and Sociology), Philosophy, History and Political Science, Philosophy and Political Science, Law and Political Science, Geography and Political Science, Sociology and Social Policy, and European Studies. Over 100 graduate students are conducting research across the four disciplines.

Further information on the School is available at: www.tcd.ie/ssp

Trinity College Dublin

Founded in 1592, Trinity College is at the nexus of tradition and innovation, offering undergraduate and postgraduate programmes across 24 schools and three faculties: arts, humanities, and social sciences; engineering, maths and science; and health sciences. Spread across 47 acres in Dublin's city centre, Trinity's more than 20,000 strong student body comes from all 32 counties of Ireland, and 16% of students come from outside the country. Of those, 40% are from outside the European Union, making Trinity's campus cosmopolitan and bustling, with a focus on diversity.

As Ireland's leading university, the pursuit of academic excellence through research and scholarship is at the heart of the Trinity education. Trinity is known for intellectual rigour, excellence, interdisciplinary approach, and research-led teaching. Home to Nobel prize-winners such as scientist Ernest Walton and writer Samuel Beckett, Trinity draws visitors from across the world to its historic campus each year, including to the Book of Kells and Science Gallery which capture the university's connection to both old and new. Trinity accounts for



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one-fifth of all spin-out companies from Irish higher education institutions, helping to turn Ireland into an innovation-intensive, high-productivity economy. That culture of innovation and entrepreneurship is a defining characteristic of our campus as we help shape the next generation of job creators.

Equal Opportunities Policy

Trinity College Dublin, the University of Dublin is an equal opportunities employer and is committed to the employment policies, procedures and practices which do not discriminate on grounds such as gender, civil status, family status, age, disability, race, religious belief, sexual orientation or membership of the travelling community.