



## CALL FOR FIELDWORK RESEARCHERS in BELGIUM

### *Nativism, Islamophobia and Islamism in the Age of Populism: Culturalisation and Religionisation of what is Social, Economic and Political in Europe (Project ID: 785934)*

European Research Council (ERC) Advance Grant project carried out by Istanbul Bilgi University's European Institute

### **European Institute of Istanbul Bilgi University has a Vacancy for a Fieldwork Researcher in Belgium**

**Department:** European Institute of Istanbul Bilgi University

**Length and Duration of Contract:**

- The researcher will be under contract between 1 January 2020 and 31 December 2021.
- The researcher will dedicate 24 months to the project on a half time basis.

**Salary:**

- Total amount to be paid for the research is 48.000 EUR (Gross amount.).
- An additional 4.000 EUR will be available for domestic field research expenditures, covering transportation, and other relevant spending. Valid proof of expenses need to be submitted to Istanbul Bilgi University.
- Liability for the domestic taxation matters belong to the researcher, thus the researcher is responsible for complying with the national legislations on taxation.

**Director of Project:** Prof. Dr. Ayhan Kaya

**Title of Project:** *Nativism, Islamophobia and Islamism in the Age of Populism: Culturalization and Religionization of What is Social, Economic and Political in Europe*

**Job Description:** The research aims to analyse the current political, social, and economic context of the European Union, which is hit by two fundamental crises, namely the global financial crisis and the refugee crisis, which have together led to the escalation of fear and prejudice among some segments of the European public *vis-à-vis* others who are ethno-culturally and religiously different. The main research question posed in this study is as follows: How, and why, do some European citizens generate a populist and Islamophobic discourse to express their discontent regarding the current social, economic and political state of their national and European context, while some members of migrant origin communities with a Muslim background generate an essentialist and radical form of an Islamist discourse in the same societies? In such a manner, the research is ground-breaking as it attempts to analyse for the first time two sides of the same coin to better understand the sources of discontent of populist native groups on the one hand, and radical young Muslims with migration background on the other hand. So far, social scientists have studied these groups separately from more culturalist, civilizational and religious perspectives. The main strength and novelty of this ground-breaking study is to understand and explain the malaise of both 'native' and 'immigrant origin' youth

simultaneously through a scientific method by de-culturalizing and de-religionizing what is socio-economic, political and psychological in origin. So far, existing studies have focused on one or the other of these two phenomena, while this study will study them together for the first time. *The study shall understand and explain the relationship between Islamophobic extremism and Islamic extremism in Germany, France, Belgium and the Netherlands among the native youth populations, and Turkish and Moroccan-origin youngsters.*

This ERC Advanced Research will employ 1 PhD candidate as a fieldwork researcher (ie. Sociology, Political Science, Anthropology, Social Psychology, International Relations, European Studies) who will conduct research in Belgium (mainly Ghent and Antwerp) (please note that the selected cities are subject to revision before the start of the fieldwork). Throughout the fieldwork, the PI and the post-doctoral researchers based at İstanbul Bilgi University, will work together with the fieldwork researchers. The researcher is required to have a working knowledge of the social, cultural, and political contexts of migration, integration, extremism and radicalisation in the country. The fieldwork researcher will conduct interviews in the native language of the country with 50 Muslim-origin youngsters (of Turkish and Moroccan-origin, and 50 native German youngsters (18-30 of age). Fieldwork researchers will also transcribe the interviews in English (note that interviews will not be recorded, researchers will take notes, original fieldwork notes including observations will be sent to the Principal Investigator). The researchers will frame some parts of the interview questions to correspond to the political, social and cultural context in Germany before the initiation of the fieldwork. The researcher will also help the PI and post-doc researchers in arranging workshops in collaboration with the advisory board members.

#### **Place of Work:**

- The researcher will be based in Belgium.
- In January 2020, there will be a **mandatory** 2-day orientation workshop in Istanbul, Turkey, which will prepare the researchers for the fieldwork. The expenses will be covered by Istanbul Bilgi University.
- In January 2022, there will be a mandatory 1-day workshop in Istanbul, Turkey, which will prepare the researchers for the fieldwork. The expenses will be covered by Istanbul Bilgi University.

#### **Qualifications:**

##### **I. Essential**

- PhD candidates in social sciences who can work part-time on the project (the applicant is responsible for negotiating the time allocation with his/her Institution)
- interest and experience on youth extremism and/or radicalization
- EU citizenship
- strong communication skills
- knowledge on the ethical considerations that need to be taken into account during the fieldwork

##### **II. Desirable**

- familiarity with Muslim-origin and native communities and the local environment that the research will be conducted in

- experience in youth studies, migration, integration, and working in international teams
- previous fieldwork experience
- basic knowledge of Turkish and Arabic are favourable

**Languages:**

- The fieldwork researcher is required to be a Flemish and French speaker
- Proficiency in English is required

**How to Apply:** Via electronic mail to Dr. Ayse Tecmen ([ayse.tecmen@bilgi.edu.tr](mailto:ayse.tecmen@bilgi.edu.tr))

To be included:

- a letter of intent, including an overview of the applicants fieldwork experience,
- a detailed CV,
- contact details of two references.

**Deadline:** Closing date for applications is 1 September 2019.

**Selection:** those who are shortlisted will be invited for an interview (online or in person). The final decision will be made until 1 October 2019.

For more information please contact Dr. Ayse Tecmen ([ayse.tecmen@bilgi.edu.tr](mailto:ayse.tecmen@bilgi.edu.tr))

**Project website:** [bpy.bilgi.edu.tr](http://bpy.bilgi.edu.tr)