Reactions of the European public after the rise of terrorist attacks perpetrated by Islamists since 2015. Assessing the role of the digital media

Location: Marburg, in Germany
Programme: MSCA-H2020-ITN 813547-MIDA
University of enrolment: Philipps University of Marburg
Work package: Mobility and Mobilisation beyond Borders

Over the past several years, in the weeks following deadly attacks such as those in Paris, Nice, London, Brussels, Berlin, Manchester and Oslo, reportedly perpetrated by Muslim individuals, public and private/semi-private statements on Islam and Islamism proliferate in the digital spheres. These heavy social media reactions were also fuelled by the proclamation of the Islamic State in Syria and Iraq in 2014. We take the attack on Charlie Hebdo in 2015 as a starting point as there was a huge rise in social media activities in its aftermath. We also witnessed a large response of European leaders gathering in Paris and denouncing fanatics and urging the public not to take actions against Muslims. In addition, the Charlie Hebdo massacre was perceived as a central attack on European values such as the freedom of the press, and the discussion soon took a turn towards cultural issues, with claims that these horrific acts showed that Muslims in general had problems integrating into European societies. This negative stereotyping by large sections of social media activists was further continued as Islamist attacks went on to spread across Europe.

The ESR will be under the supervision of Prof. Albrecht Fuess (Philipps University of Marburg) and co-supervision of Dr. Araceli González Vázquez (CSIC-IMF) and of Thijl Sunier (VUA-NISIS). External tutor: Philipp Rückriem (PS Media).

The applicant is expected to develop his/her own research project within the framework of the position description. The applicant will interact on a regular basis with the other project partners and cooperate with the other Early Stage Researchers where required. Additionally, travel abroad will be necessary.

The applicant may apply up to 3 Early Stage Researchers positions.

Requirements >

Essential criteria:
- Postgraduate or Master level degree (or equivalent) in Middle Eastern Languages and Studies, Media Studies or other similar domains
- Fluency in spoken and written English. A proof of the language proficiency (C1 level Cambridge Proficiency; IELTS 7.0-8.0 or equivalent) has to be enclosed if English is not the native tongue
- Commitment to collaborate in the general development of the project
- Knowledge of further European languages (German, Italian or Spanish) is an asset

Desirable criteria:
- Experience in working in an interdisciplinary team
- Social media skills are expected

Benefits >

Successful candidates will receive an attractive salary, based on the Marie Curie Program regulations.

For further information about the project and the position, please contact: info@itn-mida.org

Application form on: www.itn-mida.org

Eligibility criteria:
- no residence in Germany for more than 12 months in the 3 years immediately preceding the engagement date
- no PhD degree
- less than 4 years of research, Master excluded
- not restricted to EU citizens

Application file:
- copies of degree certificates (Master degree or equivalent)
- curriculum vitae
- list of publications (if applicable)
- reference letter
- 2-page research proposal
- short motivation letter

Deadline: 1st of June
Candidatures received after the 1st of June will not be considered.

Starting date: ideally in September 2019