DCU FuJo Postdoctoral Fellowships 2025
EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Call Description

DCU's Institute of Media, Democracy and Society (FuJo) is pleased to announce this call for expressions of interest for the 2 year European Postdoctoral Fellowships under Horizon Europe's Marie Skłodowska-Curie Action. This competitive scheme, fully funded by the European Commission, aims to support postdoctoral researchers in advancing their careers through independent research, mobility, and professional development.

FuJo is particularly interested in this grant to further its research in discourse studies, hate speech, disinformation, AI in political discourse, journalism, media industry developments, and digital authoritarianism, aligning with its mission to explore the intersections of technology, media, and democratic values.

The deadline for submissions is 10 September 2025, 17:00 CEST / 7PM GMT.

To be eligible, you *must hold a PhD degree* and *not have carried out your main activity (work or study) or lived in the Republic of Ireland for 12 months in the 3 years prior to the call* deadline. Interested individuals who believe they meet these eligibility criteria are requested to complete the Expression of Interest form.

This form will be reviewed by the FuJo team and relevant supervisors, which will check eligibility, alignment with project priorities and proposed supervisor's research interest, and experience.

Selected applicants will receive support from the supervisor in developing a competitive research proposal for this scheme.

This form will be used to collect Expression of Interests (EoIs) for this FuJo MSCA call. The information will be electronically shared with the supervisor(s) and the FuJo team. EoIs will be stored until 10 October, after which unsuccessful application details will be securely deleted. You may request your information to be deleted at any time by contacting fujo@dcu.ie.

Note: While Generative AI can be helpful for refining grammar, over-reliance on it often results in generic statements that make it challenging to assess your fit for the programme. Please ensure that your submission reflects your unique experiences, career aspirations, and research interests. We discourage the use of Generative AI for generating research ideas.

Academics and Research Focus

Dr Alessio Cornia is an Associate Professor at Dublin City University and Research Associate at the Reuters Institute for the Study of Journalism, University of Oxford. He is member of Fujo's Steering Committee, where he leads the strand on Journalism and the News Industry. His research interest is comparative research on political communication and journalism, with a focus on the relationship between media and politics, news industry developments, digital news, social media platforms, media coverage of corruption, and EU journalism. Cornia led and participated in several collaborative research projects, including the EU-funded project 'CO.R.E.: COrruption Risk indicators in Emergency' and the H2020 project 'MEDIATIZED EU: Mediatized Discourses on Europeanization and Their Representations in Public Perceptions'.

- For this call, Dr Alessio Cornia is looking for applicants in the area of journalism; changes in media systems; developments in the news industry; and digital authoritarianism. Projects that highlight the democratic implications of major changes in our media environments are particularly appreciated.
- Contact: alessio.cornia@dcu.ie

Dr Eileen Culloty is an Assistant Professor in the School of Communications and Deputy Director of the DCU Institute for Media, Democracy, and Society. Her research explores the quality of the media-information environment with a focus on disinformation and its countermeasures, media literacy, and the future of public media. She leads the Ireland Hub of the European Digital Media Observatory (EDMO) and serves as Co-Chair of Media Literacy Ireland. In 2024, she was appointed to Ofcom's Making Sense of Media Research, Evidence and Evaluation Working Group.

- For this call, Dr Eileen Culloty is interested in projects about the theoretical limits of disinformation and information manipulation; specific cases of information manipulation (e.g., climate, war and conflict); the theory and practice of media literacy and pre-bunking; and policy responses to challenges in the information environment.
- Contact: eileen.culloty@dcu.ie

Dr Iker Erdocia is Assistant Professor and Director of Research at the School of Applied Language and Intercultural Studies (DCU). His research interests lie in the interaction of language/discourse, politics and policy, with a particular emphasis on the role of technology as a mediating force. Iker brings an interdisciplinary lens to his extensive publications on these topics. His projects have been funded by EU's Horizon Europe, the Irish Research Council (2022 & 2024) and Royal Irish Academy/British Academy, among others.

- For this call, Dr Iker Erdocia is looking for projects in the areas of hate speech, disinformation, far right and other movements hostile to democratic values.
- Contact: iker.erdocia@dcu.ie

Dr Dónal Mulligan is an Assistant Professor at DCU School of Communications, whose recent work has focussed in the development and delivery of policy and practice models for the critical review and integration of Generative AI (genAI) in Higher Education. He is also interested in how identity and political discourse are mediated in the structured conversational spaces of social media, and how emergent technologies impact this. He was the founding Chair of the Humanities & Social Sciences

Faculty Research Ethics Committee, at DCU, and remains deeply interested in the ethical issues associated with technology and GenAI in particular.

- For this call, Dr Dónal Mulligan is interested in proposed projects related to the role and impacts of AI in media design, production, reception, and analysis – particularly in contexts related to ethics, education, and public engagement.
- Contact: donal.mulligan@dcu.ie

Dr Jane Suiter is a Professor in the School of Communications, focused on the information environment within the public sphere, with a particular focus on scaling up deliberative practices and tackling disinformation. She is director of DCU's Institute for Future Media, Democracy and Society (FuJo) where she leads initiatives related to democratic governance and innovations. She was awarded an IRC Laureate in 2022 for COMDEL Examining the Potential of Communicative Deliberation for Climate Action, IRCLA/2022/3896. She is currently a partner on HE_SCALEDEM. She has been involved in various research and oversight capacities on the Irish Citizens' Assembly (2012-2022).

- For this call, Dr Jane Suiter is looking for applicants interested in democratic innovations.
- Contact: jane.suiter@dcu.ie

Dr Tetyana Lokot is Associate Professor in Digital Media and Society at the School of Communications. In addition to being a member of FuJo, she is also a member of the Steering Committee at DCU Conflict Institute. Her research focuses on threats to digital rights, networked authoritarianism, networked citizenship, digital resistance, internet freedom and internet governance. She is the author of *Beyond the Protest Square: Digital Media and Augmented Dissent* (Rowman & Littlefield, 2021). She has led several large-scale research projects and consortia, most recently as Project Coordinator on the Horizon 2020 project MEDIATIZED EU: Mediatized Discourses on Europeanization and Their Representations in Public Perceptions (GA no: 101004534). She is also an Executive Board member of ECREA (European Communication Research and Education Association).

- For this call, Dr Tetyana Lokot is interested in projects about networked authoritarianism, digital sovereignty and the return of the state in internet governance; research on citizens' digital practices during crises and conflicts; and projects tackling state policy responses to critical threats to digital resilience and internet freedom.
- Contact: tanya.lokot@dcu.ie

Dr Declan Fahy is an Associate Professor in the School of Communications who researches the public communication of science and health, with a particular focus on how journalists cover health and medicine. He is the Chair of the MSc in Science and Health Communication at the School of Communications. His articles, commentaries, and reviews have been published in journals including Public Understanding of Science, BMC Medical Ethics, Health Promotion Practice, Journalism, and Science. He is on the editorial advisory board of Public Understanding of Science, the editorial board of Environmental Communication, and is a current elected member of the scientific committee of PCST, the global network of science communication researchers and practitioners.

- For this call, Dr Declan Fahy is interested in projects exploring the evolving practices of health and medical journalism, particularly how journalists engage with expert knowledge, including insights from scholarly publications. He also welcomes research on emerging forms of specialist health journalism aimed at niche audiences, as well as co-produced or co-created journalism involving collaborations between journalists, experts, and patients.
- Contact: declan.fahy@dcu.ie

2025 Application Form

Your personal data will be used for the stated purposes only and securely processed in compliance with data protection legislation and in accordance with the Dublin City University Data Protection Policy.

For further information please visit https://fujomedia.eu/privacy-policy/.

Email

Applicant Full Name

Nationality

Country of residence

Current employment

Do you have a PhD?

To be eligible for this call, candidates must be in possession of a doctoral degree before the call deadline (10 September 2025)

Yes

No

Year PhD awarded or successful defense of viva
To be eligible for this call, candidates must NOT have more than 8 years postdoctoral experience (measured from the date of the PhD award).
Month, day, year

Have you worked, studied or lived in the Republic of Ireland for 12 months or more in the last 3 years?
To be eligible, candidates must not have carried out their main activity (work or study) or lived in the Republic of Ireland for 12 months in the 3 years prior to the call deadline.

Yes

No

Proposed supervisor

Project Title

Short Personal Statement (max 300 words)
In particular please address the following
- A short summary of your career to date (include any metrics that best highlight your career achievements to date)
- What expertise and training do you hope to gain through this fellowship to help you build your independent research career
- Describe how working with your selected supervisor will help you achieve your career goals?

Upload Research Abstract (400 words)
Please provide details of your proposed research; in particular address the following
- What is the goal of your research project (describe your the aims, objectives or research questions)
- How does your research go beyond-the-state of the art i.e how is it novel?

Potential Impact (max 250 words)
Please address the following
- What will the impact be on your career development and career plans i.e where do you want to go (e.g., long-term career perspectives) and how does this project contribute to it (tenure track position, initiating a new laboratory or a research group, becoming a pioneer researcher in your specific field, new position in industry, potential ERC application)?

List up to 5 key achievements
Please describe your top 5 achievements in your career to date? These may be from any stage of your research career.

The aim of this section is to enable a rounded recognition of your career to date by providing a holistic overview of your academic and professional profile. For each example, provide an

outline of the stated achievement, what specific role you played, why you think it is important, any benefit to the field and, where relevant, the resulting impact. You may also highlight the international impact of any of the key achievements.

List up to 5 relevant publications

List up to 5 relevant projects you were involved in
Please include: name of the project, overall objective of the project, your role/involvement.

Upload a copy of your CV
File Name should include your name e.g 'FirstNameSurname_CV

Primary Research Area
Key words (Up to 5)

How did you hear about this opportunity?
LinkedIn
Twitter
A colleague
Directly from the Supervisor
FuJo Website
Other…