**Fully Funded PhD Fellowship**

Maynooth University invites applications for a fully funded PhD Fellowship, starting September 2022, as part of the SFI-IRC Pathway project **Anti-neoliberal parties and popular movements: Andean and Southern European cases in Comparative Perspective (ANPPMASE)**

***Project overview***

Where financial crises were followed by austerity, and where traditional labour-based parties programmatically converged with their conservative rivals by imposing neoliberal adjustment programs, mass social and electoral protests paved the way for the emergence of varying types of anti-neoliberal parties/candidates (ANPs). While similar underlying factors opened space to the left of traditional mainstream party-systems, each ANP emerged from, and adapted to, respective national contexts. SYRIZA (Greece), Podemos (Spain), Evo Morales’ MAS (Bolivia), Rafael Correa's PAIS (Ecuador), and Hugo Chávez’ MVR (Venezuela) are key examples and are the focus of research.

The project will assess the capacity of each ANP to

* respond to popular demands for boosted political and socio-economic incorporation,
* what forms opposition to the projects take,
* how ANPs respond to such opposition, and
* how they have reshaped core constituencies of the traditional mainstream parties.

The research also aims to open the black box concerning ANP relations with constituent bases, addressing the following issues

* if and why party-base tensions emerge,
* how tensions develop,
* whether bases mobilise against “their” party if it moderates from demands,
* how the party responds to bottom-up critique (accede/coopt/repress),
* impact of party-base tensions on voter support for alternative outsider parties (left/right)
* impact on democratic participation.

***The PhD Fellowship Scheme***

This exciting opportunity will cover the candidates’ PhD fees and provide the successful applicant with an annual stipend of €18,500. Furthermore, the successful candidate will be allocated significant funding for fieldwork research expenses in Southern Europe, expenses for participation and attendance at three international conferences in Europe, and course fees for participation in an international methods school.

The successful candidate will be located in the Centre for the Study of Politics at the Department of Sociology, Maynooth University in the new state of the art Technology, Society and Innovation building and alongside a vibrant international postgraduate community. The PhD will be supervised by the project’s Principal Investigator, Dr. John Brown and with noted Latin American specialist Dr. Barry Cannon acting as second supervisor. The successful candidate will be enrolled in the structured 4-year PhD Programme in the Departmentof Sociology (for details relating to required and optional courses, credits and training, see the Department’s website [here](https://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/study-maynooth/postgraduate-studies/courses/phd-sociology).

***Your role***

The topic of the PhD research should fall within the broad thematic focus of the project, as described above and focusing particularly on the **Southern European** cases, but we will actively encourage and facilitate candidates developing their own individual projects within that. An example of possible topics that the candidate may address (though not limited to) include the emergence and impact of outsider-parties to the left and right of mainstream party systems in Southern Europe in the past decade and/or popular movements’ evolution from the era of anti-austerity mobilization to the current moment.

***The successful applicant should have the following qualifications*:**

**Essential*:***

* A Master’s degree / diploma (awarded or pending) or international equivalent in a relevant academic area (relevant areas include but are not limited to: Politics, Sociology, International Relations). Exceptions may be made for applicants without a masters if a compelling case is made.
* Fluency in English (both written and spoken as per Maynooth University’s general requirements, see [here](https://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/study-maynooth/postgraduate-studies/courses/phd-sociology) for details.
* A solid understanding of Spanish, written and spoken

**Desirable*:***

* Language competency in Greek
* Knowledge of qualitative methods (interviewing, document analysis)
* Qualitative Software Analysis (Maxdata, NVivo etc)
* Good report writing skills
* Social media skills to promote and disseminate project
* Project and time management skills
* Ability to work on own initiative
* Preparedness to travel and spend time outside Ireland

***Informal enquiries*** should be sent by email to Dr. John Brown john.brown@mu.ie with the words “IRC-Pathway PhD” followed by the applicants name in the subject bar.

***To Apply***:

Applicants should submit:

* A detailed CV
* Letter of motivation detailing how the applicant’s studies and research interests relate to the project
* Two letters of recommendation from referees familiar with the applicants’ academic record to date
* Certified academic transcripts and certificates of all degrees
* Please send your applications as a single PDF to Dr. John Brown at john.brown@mu.ie

***Closing Date for Applications*:** 1 May 2022.

Shortlisted candidates will be invited to interview in June 2022. Applicants will be notified of the outcome of their application in early July.

***Important information***

Please note that all applicants must meet the general requirements for a PhD at Maynooth University. - For non-native English speakers without a degree from an English-speaking institution, a language test is required (TOEFL, IELTS or PTE); the application can be submitted without the test, but any offer made will be conditional until the required test results are submitted. The successful candidate will further have to apply separately for their place through the Maynooth University system. Such applications have to be submitted by following the link for PhD in Sociology (Full Time – 4 years, MHY02), <https://v2.pac.ie/institute/2>