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| College Management Unit: | College of Social Science and Law |
| School Unit: | Politics and International Relations |
| Post Title | European Research Council (ERC) Doctoral Researcher |
| Project: | Democracy Challenged: Corporate Tax Avoidance and Wealth Inequality. |
| Post Duration: | 4 years (48 months). Proposed start date: Monday 9 th September |
| Supervisor: | Associate Prof. Aidan Regan |
| Deadline: | March 28 th |
| Submission instructions | All application materials, outlined below, should be emailed directly to aidan.regan@ucd.ie before 5pm on the closing date. |

Position/project Summary:

Democracy Challenged is a 5 year project funded by the **European Research Council (ERC)** to investigate the role of legal-technical power in shaping corporate tax avoidance and the wealth inequalities that undermine democracy. The project has five research objectives. First, to develop a new theoretical framework, typology and causal mechanism for studying the relationship between corporate tax avoidance, wealth inequalities and democratic capitalism. Second, to empirically map, reconstruct and explain the global tax-avoiding wealth chains of big-tech and big-pharmaceutical multinationals. Third, to explain how legal-technical experts create and sustain these tax-avoiding strategies and structures. Fourth, to examine the role of the media in democratically contesting the technocratic politics of corporate taxation. Fifth, to develop new normative principles to guide democracy-enhancing reforms.

A PhD doctoral researcher is being recruited to work with the Principal Investigator to deliver the research objectives of the project. You will conduct a specified programme of doctoral research to deliver a specific work package of the ERC grant, under the supervision and direction of the Principal Investigator. While you will be given the autonomy to design your own research questions(s) within the scope of the ERC project, as part of this you will also be tasked with mapping, visualising and explaining the global tax-avoiding wealth chains of big tech and big pharmaceutical multinational groups, using firm-level data from the Orbis database.

This is a 4 year (48 month) position. The **benefits** include:

- €25,000 tax-free stipend per year for 4 years.

- Full fees paid every year.
- Generous funding for conference travel.
- Laptop allowance.
- Organisational/administrative support from project manager.
- Dedicated office space.
- A multidisciplinary doctoral studies research panel
- Integration into UCD's School of Politics and International Relations (SPIRe) doctoral training programme.
- Integration into UCD's data science and politics lab.
- Acting as global researchers in a prestigious ERC consolidator grant.
- Privileged access to proprietary firm-level Orbis data.
- You can apply for student accommodation on UCD's campus.

Principal Duties and Responsibilities:

- Complete 50 credit doctoral research training programme.
- Complete an extensive review of the scholarly literature and international media coverage of multinational corporate tax abuse, and relate it to the question of wealth inequality and democratic capitalism.
- Complete a doctoral thesis (or a three paper model) under the supervision of the Principal Investigator that addresses a key research question/puzzle/objective in the Democracy Challenged ERC project.
- Whilst you will have the autonomy to design your own research thesis question(s), as part of this thesis, you will be expected to use firm-level data from the Orbis database to visualise, reconstruct and explain the complex tax-avoiding global wealth chains of big-tech and big-pharmaceutical multinationals.
- Use forensic accounting and data science techniques to 'follow the money' through these structures.

Application materials:

- Cover letter outlining your motivation for the PhD position (max 2 pages).
- Curriculum Vitae (max 2 pages – focused on your educational/research credentials).
- Thesis proposal that addresses the Democracy Challenged project (max 2 pages).
 - Note – this is mainly designed to assess your engagement with the ideas of the project.
- Names and details of 2 referees.
- Applications will only be considered if the full documentation have been emailed to aidan.regan@ucd.ie by 5pm on March 28th.

Selection criteria:

- Some undergraduate or masters-level training in economics and/or political economy/business-finance studies and/or financial accounting.
- Preferably a political science and economics/financial accounting background.
- Master's level-degree in relevant subject area, with a minimum 2.1 grade (GPA 3.6).
- Commitment to learning quantitative and data science techniques.
- Familiarity with using excel.
- Strong commitment to engaging UCD's SPIRe doctoral research training programme.
- Strong commitment to pursuing political economy and political science research.
- Excellent written and oral communication skills.
- Excellent interpersonal and organisational skills, including working to tight deadlines.
- Strong commitment to working in an interdisciplinary/transdisciplinary research team.
- Awareness of UCD's equality, diversity and inclusion agenda.

Supplementary information:

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| The University: | https://www.ucd.ie/ |
| The School: | https://www.ucd.ie/spire |
| UCD Strategy 2020-2024: Rising to the Future | https://strategy.ucd.ie/ |
| Equality Diversity and Inclusion at UCD | https://www.ucd.ie/workatucd/diversity/ |

Informal Enquiries to:

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| Name: | Aidan Regan |
| Title: | Associate Professor |
| Email address: | aidan.regan@ucd.ie |