

Fulbright Lectureship at the Department of Political and Social Sciences of the University of Bologna

Award # 10234

Grant Category: Teaching/Research

Number of Awards: One grant

Discipline and specialization: **Political Science, Sociology**
Specializations: Computational Social Sciences, Big Data Analytics, in their connection with Electoral Behavior, Public Policy, Communication and International Relations.

The lectureship refers to the teaching area of architecture and built environment, aiming at addressing-at multiple scales and looking at the climate changing challenges- the integration of circular economy and environmental and social sustainability issues into the project of transformation of the consolidated city and rural territories. A multiple scales vision, focusing on climate change related challenges is expected to be adopted by the lecturer. The main target is to provide students analysis methods, interpretation tools and design approaches, making them able to face up those contexts, which require profound and continuous renewal interventions, to achieve suitable levels of livability and health, to drastically reduce climate-altering emissions and energy consumption, as well as to increasing their resilience to climate and socio-economic changes.

SPECIAL FEATURES

The Fulbright scholar will be invited to attend the department seminar series, which will facilitate collaborations with colleagues working on research projects related to big data and with colleagues considering adopting computational social science techniques in their research activities.

Several scholars in the department employ big data analysis in their own research activities, which have been funded by the University of Bologna, the Italian Ministry Education, and other national and international institutions in the past:

Prof. Marco Albertini and Giampiero Giacomello have held MA-level courses on Big Data for the Social Sciences and have worked on techniques such as data-mining for their own research activity related to cyber-security (Giacomello) and intergenerational relationships (Albertini).

Dr. Francesco Moro is currently undertaking research on crime and violence that potentially benefits from web scraping/data mining.

Dr. Augusto Valeriani has been involved in several research projects (e.g. <http://www.webpoleu.net/> and <https://elezioni2018.news/>) on political conversation and participation on digital media employing a research design combining computational analysis of behavioral data on social media with survey data.

More broadly, the department hosts a vivid community of sociologists and political scientists with a strong expertise and interest in methodological issues related to empirical research in social sciences from different analytical perspectives. These researchers are constantly involved in developing grant applications and carrying research activities employing multiple qualitative and quantitative methodological approaches.

During the Fulbright lecturer's stay, the department will schedule "data lab meetings" on a periodic basis to develop an open conversation on issues related to methods. Additionally, there is a possibility that the Fulbright lecturer will be actively involved in grant proposals and ongoing research carried out by the department's faculty members.

The Fulbright scholar will be invited to attend seminars held at the Istituto di Studi Avanzati of the University of Bologna.

► **Grant period and activity:** Three to six months. Grant must begin in February 1, 2021.

The scholar is expected to teach 2 short courses:

- 20 hours module: "Big data in the Social Sciences" Master's Degree in International Relations
- 20 hours workshop ("laboratorio"): Big Data, Master's Degree in International Relations. The workshop could also be an elective course for students of the Master's Degree in Politics Administration and Organization
- 10 hours Seminar in the PhD Programme in Political and Social Sciences. Seminars can be organized weekly. Seminar attendance will be open to all interested PhD students and graduate students enrolled in the Master Degrees offered by the Department in Political and Social Sciences both in Bologna and Forlì.

Total teaching load: 50 hours

Module and workshop: 4 hours/10 weeks, or 8 hours/5 weeks; or 5 hours/2 weeks

Average class size: Module: 20 students; Workshop: 20 students; PhD seminar: 15 students

Course and syllabus requirements: The course "Big Data in the Social Sciences" offers an introduction to the foundations of big data, including its foundations in computing technology and statistics. Students are expected to understand the social implications of increased knowledge, surveillance, and behavioral prediction made possible by big data, and the ethical tradeoffs faced as well as to be familiar with text mining techniques.

A course syllabus is required, including key readings and writing assignments. While selected candidate will not be bound to strictly adhere to the syllabus, this should provide a general overview of the course and assessment methods. A template will be provided upon request and guidance regarding suggested number of pages/week and paper length is also available.

Other Grant Activity:

- PhD advising (informal activity to be defined with students' supervisors): possibly 2 students with a thesis on a related subject
- Data lab meetings: informal gatherings to discuss advances in the discipline; 1 faculty seminar to present the state-of-the-art of the discipline to social scientists from a broad range of disciplines.

In addition to being a prestigious academic exchange program, the Fulbright Program is designed to expand and strengthen relationships between the people of the United States and citizens of other nations and to promote international understanding and cooperation. To support this mission, Fulbright Scholars will be asked to give public talks, mentor students, and otherwise engage with the host community, in addition to their primary activities.

During the Fulbright grant, the scholar may be also invited to take part in academic meetings, conferences, seminars and other program-related activities organized by Italian or European universities, under the **Fulbright Inter-Country Program** <http://www.fulbright.it/fulbright-intercountry/>

- Qualifications:** Open to academics only.
The Department welcomes scholars at any academic rank (assistant, associate and full professor) with a minimum of four years of teaching experience. Scholars should be employed full or part-time by academic institutions.
- Teaching experience in graduate-level courses on topics related to social sciences is preferential. Research record should include articles in peer-reviewed academic journals. Preference will be given to candidates who are currently engaging in collaborative research across different disciplinary sub-fields.
- Language:** Lecturing is in English and additional language proficiency is not required. Conversational Italian is considered helpful.
- Letter of Invitation and project proposal:** Letter of invitation should not be requested. Applicants should submit a detailed project proposal in the Fulbright US Scholar application.
- Award benefits:** €9,000 for three months; €12,000 for four months; €15,000 for five months; €18,000 for six months, and a travel allowance of € 1.100.
The grantee will be covered by Health and Accident Insurance for the whole grant period, provided to participants in the Fulbright cultural exchange Program by the *United States Department of State*.
- The University of Bologna will provide assistance in finding accommodation on private market through its housing service SAIS.
- UNIBO staff and students can benefit from special discounts to cinemas, museums and theatres
- Focusing on transport and mobility: Mi Muovo: single train-bus travel pass valid throughout Emilia Romagna
In addition, there are several activities that the scholar might be involved in and benefit from: University Sports Centre - CUSB; University Museum Network - SMA; Collegium Musicum University of Bologna Choir and Orchestra; Wi-Fi wireless connection; UniboCultura - UniboCultural initiatives
- Tax Code desk for students and international teaching staff: A help desk from which University students and international teaching staff may obtain an Italian Tax code.
- Office space with phone, computer and printing facilities; Secretarial assistance; Access to internet and to the bibliographic datasets of the University; University badge (which provides access to all facilities of the University of Bologna); Welcome kit.
- How to apply:** Fulbright Scholar Awards to Italy are assigned through an annual competition administered at the national level in the US by the Council for International Exchange of Scholars - CIES in Washington DC, in collaboration with the Fulbright Commission in Italy. Potential candidates can apply online through CIES (<https://apply.iie.org/apply/>).
- Information on the Fulbright US Scholar Program, catalogue of awards, eligibility requirements, tips, guidelines and resources for applying, review criteria, selection and competition timeline is available on CIES website at <https://www.cies.org/program/fulbright-us-scholar-program>
- Application Deadline:** Monday, September 16, 2019
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For information about the grant, please contact Fulbright Commission staff:

Commissione per gli Scambi Culturali fra l'Italia e gli Stati Uniti
The US - Italy Fulbright Commission
Via Castelfidardo 8 - 00185 Rome Italy
www.fulbright.it

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Resources on the Italian university system and research:

- ❖ MIUR - Ministry of Education, Universities and Research - www.istruzione.it
Italian Government - Ministry of Education, Universities and Research
- ❖ CRUI - Conference of Italian University Rectors - www.crui.it
National Conference of Italian state and private universities
- ❖ ENIC-NARIC network - www.enic-naric.net/index.aspx?c=Italy
Italy Country page on the ENIC-NARIC network of European Information Centers on academic recognition and mobility

- ❖ Ricerca Italiana - www.ricercaitaliana.it
National portal on the world of Italian Research
- ❖ ICCU - www.iccu.sbn.it
National Institute for the Italian Library Catalogue

Travelling to Italy

- ❖ ITALIA - www.italia.it
Discover Italy - info, ideas and resources for the travel to Italy
- ❖ CULTURA ITALIA, Un patrimonio da esplorare - www.culturaitalia.it
Italian Ministry of Cultural Heritage and Activities - Cultural paths and resources from the world of Italian culture