

PhD Researcher Vacancy (fully-funded, for 4 years) in the CLASSPARENT Project, at UNED (Universidad Nacional de Educación a Distancia) in Madrid

The CLASSPARENT project seeks applications from excellent candidates with a strong interest in social science research from a gender perspective. We offer a **4-year predoctoral fellowship** to develop a PhD at the Department of Sociology II as part of the research project “**Couples Divisions of Paid and Unpaid Labour over the Life Course across Social Class**” (CLASSPARENT) conducted together with the Department of Political & Social Sciences of the UPF in Barcelona. The project is headed by Teresa Jurado Guerrero and María José González López) and it is funded by the Spanish State Research Agency (AEI, *PID2020-119339GB-C21* and *PID2020-119339GB-C21*).

The successful applicant shall join the PhD Program “Cambio Social en las Sociedades Contemporáneas” at the UNED and the training activities of the Faculty of Political Sciences and Sociology. He/she will be supervised by the two principal researchers of the project. The PhD researcher will write a dissertation based on a set of research articles publishable in international refereed journals.

Selection Criteria:

We are looking for a candidate with:

- a Master degree in sociology, economics or another relevant social science, to be completed before September 2022
- excellent academic record
- statistical training, analytical skills and experience with data analysis
- strong motivation to undertake a doctoral dissertation related to the themes of the project
- good writing skills and fluency in written and spoken English

Application Process

Applications should be sent both to UNED and to the Spanish State Research Agency:

a) Direct applications to UNED should contain:

- a motivation letter.
- a detailed CV, including academic record.
- a written sample of your work, e.g. the master thesis.
- names and contact details of two referees.

Documents should be sent to: Teresa Jurado Guerrero (tjurado@poli.uned.es) by November 11th, 2021. Shortlisted candidates may be asked to attend an online interview.

b) Official application to AEI:

Moreover, an official application has to be sent to the [call for PhD scholarships of the Spanish State Research Agency](#) (Agencia Estatal de Investigación, AEI) to be eligible for the position. Candidates should pay close heed to the formal requirements of this call. The closing date for receipt of applications is 11 November 2021 (2 p.m. CET). Inquiries may be sent to Teresa Jurado Guerrero (tjurado@poli.uned.es).

Short project description

This project deals with a *social class paradox* in work-life balance. On the one hand, most resources designed to reconcile work and family life of employed parents in Spain are used by middle-class families and employees who enjoy stable working conditions. On the other hand, and despite the more extended use of family policies, research has not proven that these families have more egalitarian divisions of parenthood than working-class families. Working-class families have often equally or more egalitarian divisions of work than professionals from upper social classes. Even if we may expect those middle-class families and the “educational elite” to be the front-runners of gender equality and equitable work-life balance, this is far from reality.

The coordinated research project is organised in two sub-projects. The general goals of the coordinated project are: (1) understanding how mothers and fathers in different class positions organised parenthood and domestic work over the life course; (2) how family policies interact with different social class positions to create gender equality in daily life; (3) the role of family policies during and after the pandemic crisis to guaranty parents’ work attachment and gender equality; and (4) how the experience of parenthood intersects with immigration background, class, and gender in different national institutional contexts in Europe.

The **first subproject** aims at answering the question of how family policies interact with different social class positions to create gender equality in couples over the life course from 2004/5 to 2018. It will be based on focus groups for working-class workers with family responsibilities and three large representative surveys: the ‘Muestra Continua de Vidas Laborales’ (MCVL), the ‘Encuesta de Fecundidad’ 2018 (INE) and the Ad-hoc Module on WLB of the European Labour Force Survey 2018 (EU-LFS-AHM) harmonised by Eurostat. All three surveys offer cross-sectional data for 2018 and some retrospective information on employment trajectories, and the use of leave policies of people with children below age 15. The **second sub-project** aims to understand, how different women and men in occupations representing different social classes deal with family responsibilities, and the gender and social consequences of couple choices such as reducing working hours or temporary drop out from paid work. To address these aims, we propose to generate a “National Representative Survey of Occupations & Work-Life Balance”. The data set will oversample four occupations held by partnered women and men (aged 25-50) representing different social classes: two middle-class occupations; and two working-class occupations. They are expected to face quite different circumstances in terms of education, occupational status and income and practical dilemmas and constraints to organise family daily life. This will be a unique data on couples and occupations which will allow us to overcome the middle-class narrative dominated in most literature, and the flagrantly neglected working-class. Both sub-projects together will contribute to improve our knowledge about WLB with a mixed-method approach, more inclusive, intersectional and culture-sensitive understanding of reality.