

**Job Description: Postdoctoral Contract**

within the framework of the research project "Judges, Law and Politics in the Post-Liberal Era"  
(JULPOL-POS), directed by Professor Lisa Hilbink  
**UMR 7318 International, Comparative and European Law (DICE)**

**Category:** A (Postdoctoral)

**Research Unit:** UMR DICE

**Position Location:** Aix-en-Provence

**Expected Duration of the Assignment:** 2 years

**Workload:** 100%

**Application Deadline:** May 21, 2026

**Start Date:** September 1, 2026

**Monthly base salary:** 2,612-2,912 euros brut

**RESEARCH PROJECT DESCRIPTION:**

A new research project, **Judges, Law and Politics in a Post-Liberal Age (JULPOL-POS)**, directed by Professor Lisa Hilbink and centered at the Institut Louis Favoreu, UMR-DICE, School of Law and Political Science, Aix-Marseille University (AMU), offers one 2-year (24-month) Junior Postdoctoral Fellowship beginning 1 September 2026.

The project, funded by the A\*midex Foundation, is a collaboration with Dr. Yasser Kureshi, Assistant Professor at the Chinese University of Hong Kong Faculty of Law, and will involve prominent local researchers ("core collaborators") from the study's nine target countries, as well as from the UMR-DICE. The project examines how, why, and with what effects judges recalibrate their rhetoric and behavior to claim legitimacy in an era when the institutional framework underpinning constitutionalism is increasingly under strain. Our research design encompasses nine countries across three different regions (Eastern Europe, Latin America, and Asia) in which the constitutional order is facing varying levels of strain under political leaders with authoritarian inclinations (Hungary, Poland, and the Czech Republic; Mexico, Brazil, and Chile; Pakistan, Indonesia, and South Korea). We explore how judges adjust their rhetoric and behavior in the face of these attacks, which conditions facilitate judicial complicity and judicial resistance, and how and why judges shape the trajectory of constitutional democracy. Working with local experts to carry out in-depth contextualized research on judges in each country, we will theorize from the ground up, building a new framework for analyzing and understanding the evolution of judicial roles across these regions and beyond. In so doing, this project will illuminate both key vulnerabilities of constitutionalism and sources of its resilience, providing actionable insights on how democracy, rights, and rule of law might be safeguarded, restored, and/or strengthened in contemporary political systems.

**PRINCIPAL DUTIES AND ACTIVITIES OF THE POSTDOCTORAL FELLOW:**

The postdoctoral researcher will contribute to the theoretical, methodological, and empirical elaboration of this comparative study of judicial behavior (on and off bench). They will work side by side with the Principal Investigators in all project activities and outputs, including (funded) fieldwork in Latin America and Eastern Europe, regular online meetings with core collaborators in the target countries, participation in workshops and other similar events, publication of findings in international journals and an edited volume, construction of the project website, and presentation of key findings at international conferences. In addition to co-authoring articles with PIs Hilbink and Kureshi, the post-doc will be encouraged to pursue publications based on their own research, although the primary dedication of time will be to the research project.

The postdoctoral position is planned to commence on 1 September 2026. This fulltime position includes salary and health benefits, a new university-issued laptop with relevant software, and covered expenses for seven trips over two years with PI Hilbink to research sites in Latin America, Eastern Europe, and Hong Kong, as well as to international conferences. This is an in-person position requiring residence in the Aix-Marseille area. There are no citizenship or prior French legal residency requirements.

**REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS**

- A recent PhD degree (since 2023) in the social sciences and/or law (constitutional, comparative, or public international), with a dissertation on a topic related to the research project;
- Methodological training and experience in building datasets and conducting content analysis, qualitative and/or quantitative, of written and/or oral texts, including legal texts and judicial decisions, press releases and articles, interview transcripts, etc.
- Demonstrated experience in and enthusiasm for conducting field research in/on legal and judicial topics/settings;
- Written and oral proficiency in English, including ability to draft professional communications and prepare academic presentations and articles in English;
- Proven ability to work in interdisciplinary and cross-cultural professional settings, and to adapt to and interact respectfully and collaboratively with colleagues and research subjects in foreign contexts and across time zones.
- Availability to relocate to the Aix-Marseille area by the start of the contract.

**PREFERRED QUALIFICATIONS**

- Proficiency in one or more of the languages spoken in the countries where fieldwork will be conducted with PI Hilbink (Spanish, Portuguese, Czech, Hungarian, Polish);
- While fluency in French is not a requirement, it is a plus, and an intermediate or higher level of French proficiency will enable the postdoc to adapt quickly to the host country and institution and will help in local collaborations at AMU as well as diffusion of project findings in France.
- Knowledge of and experience in data visualization and website construction

## **ENVIRONMENT**

The research project is housed within the [DICE unit](#) in Aix-en-Provence ([Faculty of Law and Political Science](#), Espace Cassin, 5 avenue Robert Schuman). The Aix-en-Provence site is comprised of 41 faculty members, 9 CNRS researchers, 10 support staff, 5 teaching and research assistants (ATERs), and 91 doctoral students (including 16 doctoral students on fixed-term contracts). The postdoctoral researcher will be affiliated with the [Louis Favoreu Institute](#) team within the DICE Joint Research Unit (UMR).

Located in Provence, in the south of France, the UMR-DICE is part of Aix-Marseille University, which has 114 research units across all disciplines and is among the most prestigious European universities, addressing current global challenges through innovative research programs. Alumni of the Faculty of Law and Political Science hold important positions in Europe, America, and around the world. The Aix-Marseille region benefits from excellent national and international connections by TGV high-speed train and air. The UMR-DICE is located within the Faculty of Law and Political Science at Aix-Marseille University. Its history is rich, spanning over 600 years of legal expertise. To learn more, [click here](#).

### **The application must contain:**

- 1) a letter of interest in English (max 1000 words) containing a brief presentation of yourself and your qualifications, including your experience conducting empirical research on law and courts, as well as an explanation of why you are interested in working on the JULPOL-POS project and what you might bring thereto (e.g., conceptualization, methodological and theoretical approaches, strategies for data collection and analysis).
- 2) a summary in English of your PhD thesis (max. 1500 words), including your research question, the scholarly debates you engaged, the methods you employed, your key findings, and the theoretical contribution.
- 3) a concise CV (four-page max), including any publications and level of language proficiency in English (the lingua franca of the project) and any other languages spoken;
- 4) a relevant writing sample (dissertation (or book) chapter or article manuscript, published or in preparation for publication, max 10 000 words, in English, French, Spanish, or Portuguese);
- 5) official graduate transcripts and PhD diploma;
- 6) the names and contact details of 2-3 recommenders.

All documents must be submitted as PDF attachments via email to Elisabeth Hilbink (elisabeth.HILBINK@univ-amu.fr, Project Manager) and Donia Landoulsi (donia.landoulsi@univ-amu.fr, Administrative Manager of the UMR DICE) **no later than May 21, 2026**.

Applications will be evaluated based on their alignment with the required and preferred qualifications.