

## Internship in the research project “Polarisation, Affect, Identity: Nordic Populism and the Media Landscape” (POL-AID)

### What is POL-AID?

POL-AID is a research project that examines Nordic populism and its implications for Nordic societies and democratic politics. It is a 3-year project (2024-2027) financed by the Norwegian Research Council. The project investigates how populism constructs and mobilises political polarisation, affects, and identities in public discourse. This project seeks to rethink populist practices in the Nordic hybrid-media landscape.

It includes researchers from Norway (Liv Sunnercrantz, UiS (project leader); Amanda Machin, UiA), Sweden (Mattias Ekman, SU), Finland (Juha Herkman, UH) and Denmark (Allan Dreyer Hansen, RUC). This is a multidisciplinary team with researchers from sociology, media studies, and political science.

We welcome 1-2 students from different fields (DIGS, MEES, ENDLED).

### What do we do?

POL-AID studies populist discourses that portrays society as divided between two antagonistic camps: a “we-the-people” and “the elite”. The project uncovers constructions of political, social, and cultural divisions in the public medialised discourse. While populism is often associated with anti-immigration, it also mixes with other acute concerns. This includes matters related to e.g. indigenous groups, gender and sexuality, or climate change and climate science. This is what makes POL-AID unique, as we uncover populist practices from the ground up, to look for everything from far-right-populism to green-populism, petro-populism, centrist, leftist, feminist, anti-woke, or climate sceptic populisms – or whatever we might find!

POL-AID also collaborates with journalist education the media sector to develop resources to aid journalists in dealing with populist politics.

### Why is this interesting?

We see populism appear as a reaction against political consensus. Counter-publics turn to social media to challenge dominant thinking on polarising topics such as climate change or immigration. They mobilise counter-knowledge, counter-expertise, and counter-media while also ‘parasitizing’ media practices. The broader implications for our understanding of democratic politics, knowledge, and media in the Nordics are still unclear.

### What can you do?

Together we shape your internship based on your interest, field of study, expectations, and expertise. You will have the opportunity to:

- Practices being a researcher
- Contribute to data collection and coding (e.g. finding news articles, doing digital ethnography, coding media content, etc.). Depends on your interest and expertise!
- Develop your master thesis idea
- Participate in an international research project with leading scholars
- Be mentored by senior researchers
- Partake in planning and day-to-day research activities
- Participate in dissemination and collaboration events (conferences, presentations, workshops, etc.)

### How to apply:

We are looking for students interested in doing research and with a good academic record. Write a maximum 2-page application including:

- A motivation letter that explains why you are interested in the internship and your educational background.
- Full CV and application letter is to be sent to the project leader: Liv Sunnercrantz, liv.sunnercrantz@uis.no