



ERC-FUNDED DOCTORAL SCHOLARSHIPS ON THE POST-CRISIS POLITICS OF FINANCIAL REGULATION (BANKLASH)

October, 2018

The Blavatnik School of Government is pleased to announce up to two scholarships to work under the supervision of Professor Pepper Culpepper on the politics and political economy of financial regulation since 2008. The scholarships cover full tuition fees, a stipend for living expenses, and costs of travel/research for three years for students of any nationality enrolled in the DPhil programme at the Blavatnik School. The funding is made possible by an Advanced Grant from the European Research Council to Professor Culpepper to study popular backlash against banks, media coverage, and the regulation of financial institutions.

THE PROJECT

The Banklash project asks the following question: when do democracies with powerful banks succeed in imposing significant new regulation on those banks? The project aims to test the links between the prevalence of various frames in the national media environment, changes in public opinion, and the process of policymaking in six countries – Canada, France, Germany, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and the United States – since the financial crisis.

The research programme envisions two doctoral projects, each of which is eligible for a scholarship. One will investigate post-crisis politics in the three liberal market economies of the project: Canada, the United Kingdom and the United States. Comparisons with other relevant economies, such as Australia, could also be envisioned. The second project will compare developments in three economies of continental Europe: France, Germany and Switzerland. These projects will necessarily involve some qualitative research and process-tracing of successful and failed reform episodes, but the exact scope and methods of the doctoral projects will depend on the capacities and intellectual approach of the DPhil student. Within the broad outlines of the Banklash project, students will have substantial autonomy to craft the exact character of the question posed in the DPhil. Creativity is encouraged, including at the stage of submitting the research proposal for the DPhil project.

The overall Banklash project consists of three separate but related components: one examines trends in national media coverage, using computational techniques; one examines trends in public opinion, involving surveys and survey experiments; and a third explores the trajectories of reform in post-crisis regulation through comparative case analysis. This third case analysis component, which will form the basis of the doctoral projects to be funded, could include study of various forms of policy intervention including (but not limited to) crisis bailouts and their legacies, post-crisis structural reform and/or capital requirements, and criminal and civil prosecution and the revision of laws on criminal responsibility for fraud.

THE CANDIDATE

Applicants will be assessed through the regular DPhil application process of the Blavatnik School, which you can read about [here](#). Please make clear in your application that you wish to be considered for a Banklash scholarship. We welcome brilliant applicants from any relevant field of social science, including but not limited to political science, public policy, management, sociology, law or organizational behaviour. Students are ordinarily only accepted to the Blavatnik School DPhil programme if they already possess a research master's degree or equivalent training. For any questions, please contact admissions@bsg.ox.ac.uk. The deadline for application is 25 January 2019.