

## **PhD Opportunity & Call for Applications – RISE Project**

Institution: Charles University (CU), Faculty of Social Sciences, Institute of Political Studies

Project: Research in Societal Extremism (RISE)

Funding: Competitive base salary in the Czech Republic with opportunities for additional funding

Submission Deadline: February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2026

Start Date: September – October, 2026

### **About the Project**

RISE is a new, interdisciplinary research project examining how extremist ideologies are embedded within, shaped by, and reinforced through mainstream social, cultural, and digital structures. Rather than treating extremism as marginal or isolated, RISE aims to capture the mechanisms that link everyday online cultures and experiences with extremist communities.

The project brings together expertise in digital ethnography, discourse analysis, interviews, and other qualitative methods to study violent and non-violent forms of extremism across different online and offline spaces. The PhD student will be fully integrated into this research environment and supported through training, publication mentoring, and international networking.

### **Four Key Research Pillars**

Applicants are invited to develop a PhD project aligned with one or more of the following pillars:

#### ***Gender***

- Online misogyny, masculinities, and gendered grievance
- The relationship between mainstream gender norms and extremist worldviews

#### ***Gaming***

- Gaming cultures, platforms, and extremist mobilisation
- Gamification, play, and the normalisation of violence
- Extremist online communities, identity formation, and recruitment through gaming spaces

#### ***Conspiracies***

- Conspiracy narratives as shared ontologies across extremist movements
- Alternative knowledge systems, distrust, and epistemic communities
- The role of platforms, memes, and narratives in conspiracy diffusion

#### ***Ideology / Identity***

- Identity, belonging, and community-building in extremist spaces
- Ideological convergence between far-right, misogynist, Islamist, and other extremist milieus

Interdisciplinary and comparative approaches across these pillars are particularly encouraged.

### **Funding and Support**

Competitive PhD base salary with opportunities for additional funding

Substantial project support for research, training, and publication

Opportunities to apply for additional CU funding for mobility grants and conference travel

Structured support for researcher safety and well-being

### **Who Should Apply**

We welcome applications from candidates with backgrounds in, or closely related to political science, security studies, sociology, media and communication studies, digital anthropology, internet studies, or cultural studies.

#### ***Applicants should have***

A strong (and preferably proven) interest in online extremism research

Openness to learning and applying qualitative and digital research methods

An interest in interdisciplinary and collaborative research

### **Submission Guidelines**

1. An up-to-date CV of the applicant with academic references included
2. A 2–3-page research proposal aligned with one or more of the outlined pillars
3. A 1-page motivation letter

Please send the applications to [Jonathan.Collins@fsv.cuni.cz](mailto:Jonathan.Collins@fsv.cuni.cz). If you have any questions, do not hesitate to reach out to me.