



Social Sciences and Humanities  
Research Council of Canada

Conseil de recherches en  
sciences humaines du Canada

Canada



**Ethnic Quota Global Study DOCTORAL FELLOWSHIP**  
**McMaster University, Department of Political Science**

<https://ethnicquota.mcmaster.ca/awards-jobs>

Dr. Karen Bird and Dr. Netina Tan are offering up to two (2) **Doctoral Fellowships** to contribute to the project:

**ETHNIC QUOTAS and POLITICAL REPRESENTATION – A GLOBAL STUDY**

**Project description**

Our SSHRC-funded project examines the implementation of so-called “ethnic quotas” – a broad term encompassing a variety of formal measures that reserve seats or candidacies for members of designated ethnic or indigenous groups in elected assemblies. Such measures are currently implemented in elections to national parliaments in some three dozen countries around the world; they also apply in many sub-state jurisdictions. We also consider the role of informal or less codified measures of ethnic and indigenous inclusion.

The project will focus on the following key questions:

1. What principles can inform a set of effective and legitimate mechanisms for improving indigenous and ethnic minority representation via shared governing institutions?
2. What are the social, structural and political conditions under which formal and informal ethnic quota mechanisms emerge, succeed, and fail?
3. What are the substantive and symbolic outcomes of formal and informal ethnic quotas?
4. What can we learn from comparing across countries/regions, and what are the policy implications of our findings?

**Duties and responsibilities**

- You carry out independent research and prepare a doctoral thesis within the project.
- You contribute to the theoretical and empirical development of the project.
- You present project results in workshops and conferences, and participate in joint publications. You cooperate closely with all project collaborators, including organizing and hosting conferences, coordinating publication tasks, etc..

**Essential skills and qualifications**

- You have an MA degree with excellent results in Political Science, International Relations, Globalization Studies, Ethnic Studies, Human Geography/Demography, or another relevant Social Sciences discipline
- You have excellent knowledge of comparative research methods, and experiences in comparative research.

- You must be capable of high quality qualitative analysis including an ability to review the literature, apply a range of theoretical frameworks, analyze underlying discourses, undertake content analysis of legal and policy documents, and have affinity with conducting case studies. You must demonstrate some knowledge of local through to global governance processes.
- You aim to pursue advanced level research on ethnic politics, comparative electoral systems, and political representation.
- You have excellent written and oral communication skills in English, plus good proficiency in another language relevant to the research.
- Most of all, you are quality-oriented, conscientious, creative and cooperative.

### **We offer**

- A doctoral fellowship of \$8,000 per year. The appointment is initially for a period of one year. Contingent on satisfactory performance it will thereafter be extended by a maximum of three years leading to the completion of a PhD thesis. (This funding is in addition to the regular fouryear funding package with TA-ship offered with admission to the PhD program.)
- Opportunities for supplementary training in research methods through venues such as the Centre for Research in Empirical Social Sciences (CRESS, McMaster), the Institute for Qualitative and Multi-Method Research (IQMR, Syracuse) and ICPSR Summer Program in Quantitative Methods of Social Research (Michigan)
- Opportunities to conduct fieldwork in countries in Asia, Europe, Africa, Latin America, Oceania.

### **How to apply**

- Applications must be submitted by e-mail to [kbird@mcmaster.ca](mailto:kbird@mcmaster.ca) by **January 21, 2020**. Please include:
  - a cover letter explaining your motivation, and highlighting any experience and skills relating to the Ethnic Quota project
  - a short (2 page) outline of your intended thesis project
  - a Curriculum Vitae
- The Ethnic Quota Doctoral Fellowship application is NOT part of the standard application to the PhD program. Students currently enrolled in the PhD program are eligible to apply.