**DEPARTMENT:** School of Political Studies

**TERM**
- □ SPRING
- □ SUMMER
- X SPRING/SUMMER

**PROFESSOR:** Daniel Stockemer

**RESEARCH TITLE:**

Youth without representation: The presence of young politicians in parliaments and cabinets around the world

**NUMBER OF STUDENT:** 2-4

**LANGUAGE:** English/Bilingual

**ASSIGNMENTS CAN BE SUBMITTED IN FRENCH**
- X YES
- □ NO

**RESEARCH DESCRIPTION:**
This project addresses the democratic deficit of youths’ relative absence in legislatures and cabinets. In its most simple form, the problem is that young adults, defined largely as individuals in between 18 and 35 years, are generally underrepresented, making up only a few percent of parliamentarians although they often constitute over 30 percent of the voting age population. However, while relevant for issues such as youth apathy and decreasing rates of electoral participation, this topic is very rarely theorized nor empirically investigated in present research.

The project is guided by several research questions, such as; what is the current situation of youths’ representation in parliaments and cabinets? How did youths’ representation in parliaments and cabinets change over time? What macro-level and party-level factors explain variation in youth representation across parliaments and cabinets? Does high youth representation in parliament and cabinet helps youths to get substantively represented? Our manuscript answers these questions in a unique comparative analysis on youth representation across parliaments and cabinets, as well as over time.

The students involved in this research project will engage in the following tasks:

1. Collecting data on youth representation in parliaments in cabinets around the world
2. Building an original dataset on youths representation
3. Reviewing and succinctly summarising existing literature on youth representation
4. Contributing in the write up of an article and possible co-authorship

**KEY LEARNING ACTIVITIES:**
- Learning about an emerging topic in political science
- Synthesizing the literature
- Learning about data collection and building a novel dataset
- Learning about accessing government records
- Conducting some simple statistical tests
- Learning how to work independently
- Make sound judgement about the quality of prior research