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Trinity College Dublin
The University of Dublin

Dear Members of the Selection Committee,

I am writing to express my interest in the PhD position in Quantitative / Mixed Methods Sociology. I have been looking for PhD and job opportunities for the past few months, and I was amazed when I saw this announcement, as my academic background in sociology and survey research, as well as my research experience with quantitative methods over the last few years are closely aligned with the research focus of this position. Additionally, I am highly motivated and enthusiastic about the opportunity to contribute to **Stream 3**, particularly in the areas of social attitudes and perceptions of inequalities in cross-country comparative research.

In 2017, I began studying Sociology at the University of Chile, the country's oldest and most prestigious public university. In this context, I have taken several courses on statistical analysis with R, as well as some elective courses on multilevel analysis and open science, which have enabled me to work continuously with R since 2018. As a sociologist with a master's degree in Social Sciences, I have developed a solid foundation in empirical research methods. Much of my academic career has involved extensive work with the R programming language, focusing on survey analysis and data visualization. For example, I'm a co-author in a research paper about social attitudes related to the justification of inequalities in education, with a [panel survey](#) from Chile (accepted in Social Justice Research), and in a study on gender gaps in perception and justification of wage gaps using ISSP data (published in 2024).

Over the last five years, I have served as a research assistant on Fondecyt projects, which are research grant initiatives for scientific research and development funded by the National Research and Development Agency ([ANID](#)). Besides, I have served as a research assistant at the Center for the Study of Conflict and Social Cohesion ([COES](#)), which is a research center financed by the Research fund in Priority Areas (FONDAP-ANID). During this time, I have participated in designing, programming, and applying several surveys, using software such as Qualtrics and FormR. These surveys have been applied to both adult and school populations, covering topics such as citizenship, inequalities, and meritocracy. Furthermore, I have successfully implemented protocols and workflows by integrating R, R Markdown, Quarto, Git, GitHub, Zotero, and other open-source tools, which facilitate collaborative work and transparency in social science research. Similarly, I have developed visualization and results communication tools using dynamic documents (R Markdown/Quarto/Blogdown) and interactive platforms, such as Shiny.

Additionally, I have taught statistics and R courses at Alberto Hurtado University and have served as an assistant professor in the sociology degree and the master's degree in social sciences at the University of Chile, where I have participated in courses on quantitative methods, multivariate statistics, and multilevel statistics. These courses focus on using and learning R for survey data analysis.

Pursuing a PhD is a natural continuation of my academic and professional trajectory. I am deeply motivated to engage in high-level, interdisciplinary research that addresses how people understand, perceive, and justify social inequalities. I am particularly interested in comparative and longitudinal approaches to study the legitimacy of inequality, meritocratic beliefs, and redistributive attitudes across different national contexts. A PhD will not only allow me to expand my expertise in advanced statistical methods and mixed methodologies, but also to contribute to global academic debates on inequality, while consolidating an academic career centered on research and teaching in sociology.

I would appreciate the opportunity to discuss how my skills and background align with TCD's objectives and how I can contribute to the ongoing research initiatives at your prestigious institution. Although I am currently working on several projects, these are solvable, and in fact, it is expected and motivated to study for a PhD. Likewise, I am available to move to Ireland and start in September. I possess strong speaking and writing skills in English, and I have also completed an in-depth course over the past few months.

Sincerely,

Kevin Carrasco

Sociologist and Master in Social Science

Research Assistant

Center for Social Conflict and Cohesion Studies (COES)