Recipient name: Dr Roman-Gabriel Olar

Discipline and subject area: Humanities and Social Science

Amount and year awarded: €2,408 in 2022

Title of project: Autocratic Revolving Doors: A biographic approach to studying autocratic elites.

Summary of findings:
The area of research explaining the return of autocratic elites is vastly understudied and lacks systematic empirical evidence. Cabinet positions of autocratic elites systematically explain which one of them is more likely to return to office in new democracies. There is vast heterogeneity at the country level that can explain the phenomenon of autocratic revolving doors.

Plans for continuing collaboration:
I am currently developing an experiment with my host at the University of Chicago (Michael Albertus) in which we plan to examine how political candidates’ connections with the former autocratic regime impacts voter preferences. This experiment will be probably run in Mexico. Also, Michael Albertus and his former PhD student, Mark Deming, will become part of my ERC Starting Grant application as advisory board members.
Published work and publication plans:
The project I presented will be developed into an ERC Starting Grant application and will be composed of multiple articles, and result in a book manuscript with a major university press.

Dissemination and plans for future dissemination:
My paper on autocratic revolving doors was published at the Comparative Politics Workshop at the University of Chicago and I will also present at the WPSA in April 2023 in San Francisco, California.

Collaborations and planned collaborations:
In addition to the above, I will do two research visits in 2023 to develop my project. One will be at the University of Oslo and the other at Collegio Alberto in Turin, Italy.