Research Assistantship
Central Banking after the Great Recession; and
Housing Policy in Germany and the United States

This research assistantship offers a Harvard College student the opportunity to work with a John F. Kennedy Memorial Fellow on one or two of the following research projects.

Project 1: Central banking after the Great Recession

This project investigates how central banks have responded to the Great Recession and the pandemic, including the political implications of these actions. Central bank actions included conventional measures, such as lowering interest rates to historically low levels, as well as unconventional measures, such as buying large amounts of government and housing bonds. Central banks also have considered “green central banking” to tackle climate change. The project will look at the ECB (and its member banks, such as the German Bundesbank), U.S. Federal Reserve, and the Bank of England. While central banks are independent, they have become politicized in recent years, this project will also investigate how political parties and interest groups evaluate central bank actions.

Project 2: Comparing housing policy in Germany and the United States

This project compares the evolution of housing policy in the two countries and examine the effect of contemporary housing policy and house prices on the sustainability of Modell Deutschland. It will trace the differences in homeownership and rental market policies--such as tax policies, social housing policies, and housing finance subsidies--from the early 20th century to today. The project also explores current housing market developments, including soaring house and rental prices, and what the two countries can learn from one another. In times of increasingly unaffordable housing markets, growing (racial) wealth inequality, and heightened concerns about asset price bubbles, the project will make a timely contribution to political economy research and public debates on housing.

Research Tasks

- Identify research-relevant experts and interview partners in the Boston area, including at Harvard/MIT/BU
- Review literature.
- Conduct news surveys.
- Proofread and edit articles and book chapters.
- Collect and scan central bank transcripts/minutes from websites.
• Brows national parliamentary debates.
• Collect data from website sources.

Additional Skills (not required)
• Experience with creating charts in R
• Basic German language skills

How to apply:
Visit our website for more information.