



The **MZES – Mannheim Centre for European Social Research** is offering a part-time position as

Research Associate / Doctoral Researcher in Social Psychology (all genders)

starting as soon as possible.

The Social Psychology and Microsociology research group, in affiliation with the Mannheim Centre for European Social Research (MZES), is seeking to appoint a **research associate with the opportunity to pursue a doctorate**, starting as soon as possible. The position will initially be funded through the MZES at 50% until the end of February 2027. From March 2027, the position will continue for a further four years, until the end of 2031, at 75% (funded by the DFG).

The position is part of a social psychological research project led by Dr Lotte Pummerer on **belief in conspiracy theories and morality**. The project examines how conspiracy beliefs shape perceptions of the morality of oneself, one's own group, and other societal actors, and to what extent such moral evaluations contribute to justifying one's own behaviour and reassessing existing societal norms.

The project is part of the **DFG Research Unit "Beyond Crazy: Integrating Benefits into the Analysis of Conspiracy Beliefs"** and is therefore embedded in a larger interdisciplinary research network. This includes regular academic exchange with doctoral researchers and professors at the other participating institutions, as well as participation in joint meetings and workshops.

The project studies important societal questions using a social psychological approach. Methodologically, it will primarily involve quantitative experimental studies. The position provides the opportunity to develop an individual doctoral project within this broader thematic framework and to contribute one's own research interests and ideas.

Your tasks include:

- Developing study materials and questionnaires
- Designing, conducting, and analysing social psychological studies in the laboratory and online, including supervising participants and coordinating data collection
- Preparing and statistically analysing quantitative data

The **University of Mannheim** is one of the leading universities in Germany with approximately 12,000 students in five schools. Particularly in business and economics as well as in the social sciences the university ranks among the top institutions both at national and international level. More than 2,600 employees profit from an exciting work environment with numerous benefits.

The **Chair of Social Psychology and Microsociology**, headed by Professor Olga Stavrova, examines how people experience their social world and how these experiences shape their cognitions, emotions, behaviour, and life trajectories.

Key information

Start: as soon as possible

Term: until end of February 2031

Remuneration bracket: E 13 TV-L BW

Weekly hours: 19,75 hours

Location:

MZES – Mannheim Centre for European Social Research A 5,6 68159 Mannheim

Application deadline:

10 Oktober 2026

- Presenting research findings at national and international conferences
- Preparing manuscripts for publication in international peer-reviewed journals
- Collaborating with the researchers and cooperation partners involved in the project
- Willingness to complete a doctoral dissertation within the thematic scope of the project
- Participating in the department's colloquium and lab meetings
- Opportunities for teaching and the supervision of Bachelor's and Master's theses

Your profile:

- An excellent Master's degree, preferably in Psychology or a related social science discipline, obtained through a two-year Master's program
- Strong knowledge of social psychology, particularly in at least one of the following areas: social perception, intergroup relations, moral psychology, or political psychology
- Good knowledge of quantitative research methods and statistical data analysis
- Experience with statistical software, preferably R
- Excellent written and spoken English
- The ability to work independently, carefully, and in a well-organised manner
- Willingness to collaborate within a research team and to present your research at international conferences

Experience with experimental laboratory research and more advanced statistical methods is an advantage.

What we offer:

- The opportunity to pursue a doctorate in a current and societally relevant area of research
- Close academic supervision and regular opportunities for scholarly exchange
- Integration into an active research environment and existing national and international collaborations
- Support in publishing research findings and participating in academic conferences
- Opportunities for further methodological and academic training
- Methodological training opportunities offered by the Mannheim Centre for European Social Research



International
orientation



Outstanding research
culture



Extensive range of
further training
opportunities

Applications from persons with a disability are given preferential consideration

Data protection

Please find detailed information on the collection of personal data from the data subject according to Article 13 GDPR on the university's homepage:
www.uni-mannheim.de/datenschutz-bei-bewerbungen.

Submitted application documents will only be returned if you enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope. Otherwise, they will be destroyed in accordance with current data protection law after the application procedure has ended. Electronic applications will be deleted accordingly..

If you apply by e-mail, please note that protection of confidential data cannot be guaranteed as unauthorized third parties might gain access to unencrypted e-mails during transmission.

provided that they are appropriately qualified. The University of Mannheim is committed to increasing the quota of women in areas where they are underrepresented and thus encourages women with appropriate qualifications to apply.

If you are interested in applying, please send your application documents via e-mail or mail **by 10.10.2026 at the latest**:

lotte.pummerer@uni-mannheim.de
[Please submit applications by email only.]

Please include the following documents with your application:

- Curriculum vitae
- Cover letter
- Transcripts of records from your Bachelor's and Master's programmes

You may also optionally include a thematically relevant academic paper of your own, such as a seminar paper or a similar piece of work.

Interviews are expected to take place online on October 14 and 15.
For questions, please contact Lotte Pummerer.
lotte.pummerer@uni-mannheim.de

