

The project “CAIUS – Consequences of Artificial Intelligence for Urban Societies”, funded by the Volkswagen Foundation until the end of February 2025, invites applications to join our project team, starting as soon as possible as a

Ph.D. Researcher (m/f/d) (50% TV-L E13)

The project takes place at the MZES—an interdisciplinary research institute of the University of Mannheim, dedicated to comparative European social research and the analysis of European integration processes. It is Germany’s largest university-based social science research center.

In this project, a multi-disciplinary team of social scientists and computer scientists from three institutions (Mannheim Centre for European Social Research [MZES] at the University of Mannheim, HdM Stuttgart, and LMU Munich) studies whether and how the increasing use of artificial intelligence and automated decision-making systems in the public space affects social inequality. We draw on agent-based modelling as a social simulation technique that allows us to model technical and social agents and their interactions within social/urban environments.

The role of the candidate will be to contribute to social scientific research on social impacts of automated decision making. The candidate will be involved in the collection of survey data that will be used to inform the social simulations. The position provides an opportunity to pursue independent research on social inequality aspects of artificial intelligence and automated decision-making, embedded in a multi-disciplinary project team. Pursuing a Ph.D. is highly encouraged and the selected candidate will be supported by the project team in developing their dissertation project. Moreover, the project team will also support the selected candidate’s application for the graduate school of the University of Mannheim (GESS) at a later stage.

Payment will be 50% of a full TV-L E13 position (according to the collective agreement applicable to the University of Mannheim). Additional funding may be available through teaching grants. The University of Mannheim is an equal opportunity employer and particularly encourages applications from women and persons with disabilities.

Requirements:

- Close to finishing/holds a Master’s degree in one of the social sciences (sociology, political science, and related fields), ideally with a focus on social inequality/stratification in urban societies or digitalization
- Interested in computational social science
- Strong quantitative skills
- Familiarity with a statistical programming language (e.g. R, Python)
- Fluent in English (written/spoken)
- Experience with survey data collection and working in interdisciplinary teams is a plus but not a requirement

For further questions about the position or the project, please contact Christoph Kern by e-mail (c.kern@uni-mannheim.de). **We review applications on a rolling basis. Please send your application documents as a single PDF file to: c.kern@uni-mannheim.de** or by postal mail to:

University of Mannheim
School of Social Sciences
Christoph Kern
68131 Mannheim (Germany)

Please be aware that breach of confidentiality and unauthorized access by a third party cannot be excluded for e-mail communication without encryption.

Application deadline: **31 October 2021**



After completion of the application procedure, submitted documents will be deleted according to the laws of data protection. Electronic applications will be deleted appropriately.

Information on the processing of personal data according to article 13 of the GDPR is provided on the Universities website, section “Employment Opportunities”:

<https://www.uni-mannheim.de/universitaet/stellenanzeigen/datenschutz-bei-bewerbungen/>