COMPETITION ANNOUNCEMENT

Are you an expert in computer science or computational social science research? Do you specialise in NLP models, LLMs, software development, with an interest in applying your work to social science questions and "the real world"? Are you interested in social media, their recommendation algorithms, polarization, and misinformation?

We invite applications for the position of **a post-doctoral researcher** at the **Centre of Excellence in Social Sciences**, University of Warsaw for the research project "NEWSUSE: Incentivizing Citizen Exposure to Quality News Online: Framework and Tools" directed by Prof. Magdalena Wojcieszak and funded by the European Research Council (ERC Consolidator Grant).

Ref no	OBM-NA-HEERC-1.2
Position	post-doctoral researcher
Job type	research
Key words	Data science, computer and information sciences, computational social science, data analysis, political science, communication science, computational sociology
Project description	We have a vacancy for a post-doctoral researcher as part of the international ERC Consolidator Grant titled "NEWSUSE: Incentivizing Citizen Exposure to Quality News Online: Framework and Tools" directed by Prof. Magdalena Wojcieszak, University of California, Davis, University of Warsaw. The project aims to explore how social media users can be encouraged to use quality and verified political news and information to minimize polarization, misinformation, extremism, etc. In addition to focus groups and experimental research, the project includes computer and data science methods. Specifically, the project will entail the development of mock social media platforms for online experiments, the development of multilingual (and ideally multimodal) NLP models (LLMs, Language Models such as BERT, etc.) to identify quality news in four countries, and the development of open-source software extensions for three social media platforms. These software extensions will be implemented in experiments with large samples of social media users who will install these extensions to test the impact of incentive strategies on algorithmic recommendations and user information consumption. The project may also entail algorithmic audits of social media platforms using

	automated sock puppets and prompt engineering using LLMs (e.g., ChatGPT).
	You will have the opportunity to shape the specific questions and designs, and to envision and implement innovative technological solutions to increase the external validity of these designs.
Scientific discipline	computer and information sciences, social communication and media studies, political and administrative sciences, sociology
Type of employment	fixed-term employment contract
Working pattern / Hours	full-time
Number of job offers	1
Salary	at least 14 715 PLN gross/month as a full-time salary plus the so-called thirteenth salary (the final salary depends on the length of the previous employment of the candidate)
Estimated starting date	January 2025 or to be arranged
Planned period of employment	36 months
What we offer	The opportunity to be part of a high-impact ERC-funded research project that uses state-of-the art data and methods (i.e. online trace data and machine learning models) to address crucial societal issues. We also offer you the opportunity to present your work in top academic conferences, increase your professional network, and submit work to top academic journals and proceedings.
	In addition, we offer:
	- access to a wide range of training courses; - access to infrastructure (office space, library, IT resources, sports infrastructure); - work in an enthusiastic and international team with external collaborators in a research environment at one of the best universities in Central and Eastern Europe, with developed international cooperations; - the opportunity to present your work at top conferences, increase your professional network and submit to top academic journals; - the possibility of obtaining funds to conduct your own research; - international research trips for field work and project meetings;

	● some possibility to work remotely (to be arranged). To work at the University of Warsaw is to work in a discerning, independent, creative, innovative and international climate characterised by an open atmosphere and a genuine engagement with the city of Warsaw and society.
Job description and responsibilities	The project entails analyzing information selection online and on social media, the impact of algorithms and user predispositions on information selection, and the impact of communication on political attitudes using computational methods and advanced quantitative analysis. You will: 1. co-design and program innovative online experiments combining random assignment, content selection and online behavioural data; 2. develop mock social media platforms for their adaptation in experimental settings 3. co-design and oversee online field experiment/s on social media platforms; 4. develop open source software extensions for social media platforms (for experimentation and on-platform behavior tracking); 5. use advanced statistical models to test hypotheses using large amounts of data; 6. write papers to be submitted to high-impact international conferences and journals; 7. present findings in international high-impact conferences and academic gatherings.
Candidate profile	Requirements: ● a doctoral degree in computer and information sciences, social communication and media studies, political and administrative sciences, or sociology (or outside of these disciplines if it is an area related to the thematic scope of the project) ● proven expertise in NLP, LLMs, PyTorch, Huggingface Transformers API, BERT, scikit-learn. ● experience implementing Machine Learning / Deep Learning Pipelines using Python; ● expertise in web scraping and automation (using Selenium, Puppeteer, OpenWPM, etc) for large-scale data collection ● experience with quantitative methods (e.g., advanced statistical analyses, data visualization);

	- experience working in Python (experience with R for data analysis a plus);
	- good written and spoken English skills;
	- interest in social science and computational social science (i.e., answering relevant social questions using computation skills);
	- track-record of publications on international journals on at least some of the substantive and/or methodological areas of interest to the project;
	- meeting the conditions set out in Art. 113 of the Act of 20 July 2018 - Law on Higher Education and Science (Journal of Laws of 2022, item 574 as amended) and the Statute of the University of Warsaw (Resolution No. 443 of the Senate of the University of Warsaw, from 26 June 2019, Monitor item 190).
	Additional assets:
	- high communication and organisational skills,
	- proactivity, reliability, and independence when conducting research;
	- teamworking skills.
Application	Obligatory:
	- a CV detailing the candidate's education and experience, the most important publications, an overview of previous activities and academic achievements (e.g., visits to conferences, courses, awards), data analysis skills, a link to your Google Scholar and GitHub profile.
	- a cover letter presenting the candidate's profile, in accordance with the requirements stated in the announcement and the motivation to apply for the offered job,
	- a scan of the document confirming the holding of a doctoral degree,
	- a sample of scientific work in English (e.g., journal article, doctoral dissertation),
	- a list of 3 individuals who could be consulted as references for the candidate (reference letters are not required),
	- a statement in which the candidate signs a confirmation of having read and accepted the rules of conducting competitions, as set out in Ordinance No. 106 of the Rector of the University of Warsaw from 27 September 2019, on specifying the detailed rules and procedures for conducting a competition for the position of an academic teacher at the University of Warsaw[1],

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[1] https://monitor.uw.edu.pl/Lists/Uchway/Uchwa%C5%82a.aspx?ID=5592

	• a signed declaration (scan) of consent to the processing of personal data, attached to this announcement, • a signed and completed questionnaire for the applicant for employment[2],
Department	Centre of Excellence in Social Sciences (a part of the Centre of Migration Research)
How to apply	by email to cess@uw.edu.pl with the title "OBM-NA-HEERC-1.2"
Selection and recruitment procedure	The competition is the first stage of the recruitment procedure for the position of an academic teacher, as specified in the Statute of the University of Warsaw, and its positive outcome is the basis for further proceedings. The selection committee will perform a preliminary evaluation of applications prior to the full evaluation of applicants. After the initial evaluation of the submitted applications, selected candidates will be contacted for the interview. The University of Warsaw reserves the right to close the competition without stating the reason.
Questions	Please direct your questions to wojcieszak@ucdavis.edu.
Closing date for applications	29 February 2024 (23:59 CET)
Notification about the results	April 2024
Results will be announced	by email

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[2]
https://bsp.adm.uw.edu.pl/wp-content/uploads/sites/18/2021/01/KWESTIONARIUSZ_OSOBOWY_KANDYDAT_11_2019_EN.docx

Information regarding the processing of personal data

Administrator

The administrator of the data which is processed as part of the recruitment process is the University of Warsaw, ul. Krakowskie Przedmieście 26/28, 00-927 Warszawa.

Contact with the data administrator:

- by mail: University of Warsaw, ul. Krakowskie Przedmieście 26/28, 00-927 Warszawa (please indicate the organisational unit to which the correspondence is addressed);
- by phone: **22 55 20 355**.

Data Protection Officer (DPO)

The administrator has a designated Data Protection Officer, whom you may contact via email at: iod@adm.uw.edu.pl. You may contact the DPO about all matters relating to the processing of your personal data by the University of Warsaw and in order to exercise your rights in relation to the processing of personal data.

The DPO, however, does not perform other functions, such as carrying out recruitment for employment, accepting documents as part of recruitment processes, or providing information on recruitment for work.

Objectives and legal basis for data processing

Personal data of job candidates will be processed only for recruitment purposes.

Your personal data, in the scope indicated in the provisions of the labour[3] code *(name(s) and surname, date of birth, contact details provided by you, education, professional qualifications, course of previous employment)*, will be processed in order to conduct current recruitment procedures[4], while other data[5] may be processed on the basis of your consent, which may take the following wording:

I consent to the processing of my personal data contained in (e.g., CV, cover letter and other attached documents) by the University of Warsaw for the purpose of participating in the recruitment process.

If the documents contain the data referred to in Art. 9, section 1 of the GDPR (special categories of personal data), you will need to consent to their processing[6], which may take the following wording:

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[3] Art. 22[1] Act from 26 June 1974 - Labour Code (Journal of Laws 2019, item 1040, as amended).

[4] Art. 6 item 1 b of the Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council (EU) 2016/679 of 27 April 2016 on the protection of individuals (natural persons) with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data and the repeal of Directive 95/46/EC (general resolution on data protection) of Laws of the EU, L 119 from 04.05.2016, page 1, as amended) (hereinafter GDPR).

[5] Art. 6 item 1 (a) of the GDPR.

[6] Art. 9 item 2 (a) of the GDPR.

I consent to the processing of special categories of data, as referred to in Art. 9 section 1 of the GDPR included in (e.g., CV, cover letter and other attached documents) by the University of Warsaw for the purpose of participating in the recruitment process.

The University of Warsaw will also process your personal data in subsequent recruitment of employees, if you give your consent[7], which may be as follows:

I consent to the processing of my personal data for the purpose of using it in subsequent recruitment conducted by the University of Warsaw for the next 9 months.

At any time, you may withdraw your consent to any of the above uses of your personal data, by sending an email to the following address: cess@uw.edu.pl

At the same time, we would like to remind you that the withdrawal of your consent does not affect the lawfulness of the processing which was carried out on the basis of your consent before its withdrawal.[8]

Data retention period

Your personal data collected in this recruitment process shall be stored over the period of three months from the date the recruitment process is completed.

If you consent to the use of personal data for the purposes of future recruitment, your data will be used for this purpose for a period of 9 months from the end of the recruitment.

Data recipients

Access to your personal data will be granted to authorised employees of the administrator, who must process personal data as part of their duties and official tasks.

Data transfer outside the European Economic Area (EEA)

Your personal data shall be disclosed to subjects authorised by law. Sign-in is through Google Forms. Your personal data may be also processed by the provider of the G-Suite services for education by the Google Corporation in their data processing centres.[9]

Rights of data subjects

Under the terms of the GDPR, you are entitled to:

- to access your data and to receive copies thereof;
- to correct (rectify) personal data;
- to limit the processing of personal data;
- to remove personal data, subject to the provisions of Art. 17 section 3 of the GDPR;
- to file a claim with the President of the Office for Personal Data Protection, if you believe data processing is in violation of the law.

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[7] Art. 6 item 1 (a) of the GDPR.

[8] Art. 7 section 3 of the GDPR.

[9] https://www.google.com/about/datacenters/inside/locations/index.html

Information on the requirement to provide data

Providing your personal data to the extent resulting from legal provisions is necessary in order to participate in the recruitment procedure. The provision of personal data is voluntary.

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(place and date)   (candidate's signature)