Saarland University is a campus university that is internationally recognized for its strong research programmes. Fostering young academic talent and creating ideal conditions for teaching and research are a core part of the university’s mission. As part of the University of the Greater Region, Saarland University enables students and staff to share and exchange knowledge and ideas between disciplines, between universities and across borders. With over 17,000 national and international students, studying more than a hundred different academic disciplines, Saarland University is a diverse and dynamic learning environment. [Saarland University is officially recognized as one of Germany’s family-friendly higher education institutions and with a combined workforce of more than 4,000 it is one of the largest employers in the region.]

The Department of European Social Research is inviting applications for the following position commencing at the earliest opportunity.

**Academic research assistant (m/f/x)**

Reference number W2355, salary in accordance with the German TV-L salary scale¹, pay grade: E13 TV-L, duration of employment: 3 years, volume of employment: 100 % of standard working time.

**Workplace/Department:**
Department of European Social Research

**Job requirements and responsibilities:**
How is uncertainty of scientific evidence for instance in simulations communicated and how do political decision-makers deal with such uncertainty in the policy process? The project STRAKOSIM (“Strategische Kommunikation der Unsicherheit von Simulationsmodellen), a joint project by the RPTU (Campus Landau) and Saarland University funded by the German Ministry of Research and Higher Education will investigate these questions during the next three years. At Saarland University, we are advertising a Post-Doc position in the research group of Prof. Wenzelburger (Comparative European Politics) which will be researching how scientific evidence finds its way in the policy process. The research will involve both, quantitative time-series analyses of data collected as part of the project, and qualitative process tracing research based on expert interviews with political actors. Therefore, successful candidates will have skills in quantitative regression-based analyses as well as some experience in qualitative process tracing, document analyses and elite interviews.

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¹ TV-L = collective agreement on remuneration of public sector employees in the German Länder

The pay grade assigned to an employee depends on their professional qualifications and the number of years of service. Each pay grade is further subdivided into levels. Entry-level employees with no previous experience will initially be assigned a level 1 rating. After one year at level 1 of the E10 pay grade, an employee will move up to level 2. After a further two years, the employee will move to level 3, etc.
As a postdoctoral researcher at Saarland University, you will be part of a highly motivated research group working in an international environment. As part of the interdisciplinary group of the STRAKOSIM project, which consists of political and communication scientists as well as psychologists, you will have the opportunity to advance your own career in the international community working on a cutting-edge research question.

Your tasks within STRAKOSIM:

- Setting up a dataset merging public opinion data and media data on the communication of scientific evidence collected through the project.
- Performing quantitative time series analysis of the dataset exploring the connections between communicative content and public opinion.
- Collecting data on policy processes that led to political decisions during the Covid19-pandemic, the energy security law, and national strategy on biodiversity from documents and via elite interviews.
- Joint work with the other subprojects from the project on network analysis, experiments and preparation of the stakeholder workshops.
- Representing the project at (inter-)national conferences.
- Publishing at scientific outlets based on the data collected within the project.

Your profile:

- Research interest in the topics of public policy research, policy-making processes, or political communication
- Skills in quantitative data analysis
- Experiences with qualitative case study research
- Excellent spoken and written German.

Your academic qualifications:

- Doctoral degree/PhD: Very good completed (or nearly completed) dissertation in the field of political science.

The successful candidate will also be expected to:

- have social and communication skills, as well as demonstrated administrative and organizational skills, incl. self-direction
- have some experiences of working in collaborative research projects
- Any other European language (in particular English) is considered as an additional benefit.

What we can offer you:

- A flexible work schedule allowing you to balance work and family, among other things the possibility of teleworking
- Secure and future-oriented employment with attractive conditions
- A broad range of further education and professional development programmes (for example language courses)
- An occupational health management model with numerous attractive options, such as our university sports programme
- Supplementary pension scheme (RZVK)
- Discounted tickets on local public transport services (‘Job-Ticket Plus’ of the saarVV)

We look forward to receiving your meaningful online application (in a PDF file) by 18.08.2023 to georg.wenzelburger@uni-saarland.de. Please include the reference number W2355 in the subject line of the e-mail.

If you have any questions, please contact us for assistance. Your contact:
Herr Prof. Dr. Georg Wenzelburger
georg.wenzelburger@uni-saarland.de
Tel.: 0049 681 302 71222

Pay grade classification is based on the particular details of the position held and the extent to which the applicant meets the requirements of the pay grade within the TV-L salary scale. Part-time employment is generally possible.
If you have obtained a foreign university degree, a proof of the equivalence of this degree with a German degree by the Zentralstelle für ausländisches Bildungswesen (ZAB) is needed before hiring. If necessary, please apply for this in time. You can find more information at [https://www.kmk.org/zeugnisbewertung](https://www.kmk.org/zeugnisbewertung).

Unfortunately, neither costs for attending an interview at Saarland University nor costs for any certificate evaluation by the ZAB can be reimbursed in principle.

We welcome applications regardless of gender, nationality, ethnic and social origin, religion/belief, disability, age, and sexual orientation and identity. In accordance with its policy of increasing the proportion of women, the University actively encourages applications from women. Applications from severely disabled persons will be given preferential consideration in the event of equal suitability.

When you submit a job application to Saarland University you will be transmitting personal data. Please refer to our privacy notice for information on how we collect and process personal data in accordance with Art. 13 of the Datenschutz-Grundverordnung. By submitting your application you confirm that you have taken note of the information in the Saarland University privacy notice.