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Zukunft!



UNIVERSITÄT
DES
SAARLANDES



Saarland University is a campus university with an international reputation for research excellence, particularly in computer science and in the life sciences and nanosciences. The university is also distinguished by its close ties to France and its strong European focus. Around 17,000 students, studying over one hundred different academic disciplines, are currently enrolled at Saarland University. 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 SOUNDS project is inviting applications for the following position commencing at the earliest opportunity.

Postdoc Researcher positions (f/m/x) for Societal Computing

Reference number W2801, salary in accordance with the German TV-L salary scale¹, pay grade: E13 TV-L, duration of employment: 2 years, volume of employment: 100 % of standard working time.

Workplace/Department:

SOUNDS supported by Societal Computing Group, Department of Computer Science

SOUNDS is an interdisciplinary research project funded by the State Transformation Fund, investigating societal transformation processes using innovative, large-scale data sources such as satellite imagery, social media, and barcode scanner data. Its long-term goal is to establish a permanent institute building on the project's structures. The project works closely with partners including the Interdisciplinary Institute for Societal Computing (I2SC) and the Max Planck Institute for Software Systems, and it engages disciplines such as political science, sociology, and macroeconomics. A strong emphasis is placed on knowledge transfer through collaborations with public administrations, regional policymakers, and industry.

The Societal Computing Group focuses on *societal computing*, encompassing both the computer-enabled study of societal phenomena ("computing of society") and the development of computational methods to support social development ("computing for society"). Research topics include real-time monitoring of migration flows (e.g., in response to the war in Ukraine) and the measurement of digital inequalities, with a particular focus on gender gaps in internet access and usage. The group maintains close collaborations with international stakeholders such as the United Nations, the European Commission, NGOs, and humanitarian organizations, with the explicit goal of achieving impact beyond academic publications.

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.

This position is a joint appointment between SOUNDS and the Societal Computing Group, reflecting the close scientific and strategic collaboration between both initiatives. The successful candidate will contribute to and shape research across both environments, benefiting from their complementary strengths in data-intensive, interdisciplinary research and international engagement. The joint nature of the position offers a unique opportunity to work at the interface of computer science and the social sciences, contribute to long-term institution-building efforts, and translate scientific insights into real-world societal and policy impact.

Job requirements and responsibilities:

- Conducting internationally visible research in the field of computational social science, natural language processing, computer vision or geoinformatics that has the potential to have a real-world impact.
- Building partnerships with regional, national and international stakeholders to strengthen societal progress through data science.
- Supervising Bachelor/Master/PhD theses
- Support of teaching activities in the group which might include
 - Compilation and communication of the curriculum contents
 - Coordination of communication with students, principal investigators (PIs), administrative staff, and committees
 - Development of concepts for individual courses within the curriculum
 - Evaluation and documentation of courses
- Support in data integration and pre-processing for the SOUNDS database, including preparation of datasets for research use
- Sue and develop state-of-the-art methods for analyzing diverse datasets
- Communication with data archives, survey institutes and cooperation partners
- Support in the organization of conferences, workshops and project meetings
- Contribution to joint project proposals and grant applications
- Reporting on research activities and project progress
- Communication with cooperation partners and administrative units
- Writing of academic scientific texts in English

Your academic qualifications:

- Doctoral Degree / PhD in Computer Science, Statistics, Mathematics, Digital Humanities or related fields (completed or completed at time of the commencement of work)

The successful candidate will also be expected to have:

- Strong experience in applied machine learning
- Hands-on experience working with large datasets related to earth observation or (social) networks
- Independent research experience (for example evidenced by internationally visible publications)
- Established international networks in research, international development or public sector consulting
- Very good command of written and spoken English

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 courses on project management skills, language and many more)
- Supplementary pension scheme (RZVK)
- Discounted "Deutschlandticket" ('D-Ticket' as jobticket via saarVV)
- An occupational health management model with numerous attractive options, such as our university sports programme

We look forward to receiving your **meaningful online application** (incl. a letter of motivation, a Curriculum Vitae, a list of publications, in a PDF file) by **27.02.2026** to **projekt-sounds@uni-saarland.de**. Please include the reference number **W2801** in the subject line of the e-mail.

If you have any **questions**, please contact us for assistance. Your contact:

Herrn Heiner Seidel

heiner.seidel@uni-saarland.de

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>.

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.