University of Bremen

Job posting for 1-2 student research assistants (remote work)

As part of the Excellence Chair project "**Large-Scale Data and Field Research in the Study of Social Networks**," led by Prof. Dr. Mario L. Small and Prof. Dr. Betina Hollstein at the Department of Sociology / SOCIUM, we seek to fill one or two positions of Master's student research assistants for approx. 37 hours/month for an initial period of 3 months. The duration of the position can be extended. The start of the contract will be as soon as possible (presumably **July 1, 2022**).

One major promise of "big data" was the ability to understand how social networks emerge, operate, and shape human behavior on a much larger scale than previously possible. However, as wide-eyed enthusiasm has given way to sober analysis, researchers and the public have become increasingly aware of the limitations of such data. This project will examine the extent to which field-based research (interview and survey research) can help address the limits of computationally intensive analysis of large-scale administrative data. Focusing on problems such as boundary specification, locality of interaction, algorithmic confounding, and misinterpretation of meaning, we will examine the extent to which bringing field research to bear on the analysis of large-scale administrative data can help improve our understanding of the relationship between networks and social inequality.

Our working group is currently using longitudinal mobility data from the U.S. to study financial decision-making, neighborhood segregation, and more, and we are looking for master's student research assistants with a background in Computational Social Science, Information Science, Data Science, or Computational Human Geography, who have some experience and interest in this type of data and/or research topics. Since the students would be part of our research group through their position as research assistant, they will have access to data that they could use for their Master's thesis (upon prior agreement with the project supervisors). The data offer plenty of opportunities for agent-based modeling, social network analysis, and GIS applications, among other more traditional social science methods.

What you can expect from us:

☐ The remuneration corresponds to the usual university rates for student assistants, currently 12.00 EUR gross per hour.

☐ Scientific insights into new, exciting topics.

☐ Support and promotion of personal development and during studies.

☐ Family-friendly, flexible working hours that are easy to combine with your studies.

☐ Interdisciplinary and international environment.

We expect from you:

☐ Training and experience in data management (e.g. data cleaning and preparation, data transformations, etc.)

☐ High level of proficiency in English (including demonstrated academic writing skills); proficiency in German is welcome, but not required.

☐ Either coursework, training, or other exposure to research in social networks.

☐ A background in the study of social inequality is welcome, but not required.

☐ Reliability, commitment, and the ability to work in a team.

The student assistant supports both the project management and the project staff in all work. These consist, among other things: cleaning and transforming unstructured, large-scale data, performing basic computational and/or quantitative analyses, visualizing data, and writing short reports. The position requires the ability to communicate clearly and contribute positively to a constructive, collaborative environment. All work and communication will be conducted in English.

Please send a detailed application including a letter of motivation, curriculum vitae, college and Master's transcripts, and a writing sample. All the application documents (except the transcripts, if necessary) should be submitted in English. If you currently do not have a writing sample in English, you can provide a short translation of a research paper (at least 3-4 pages) that showcases your research skills.

We will be receiving applications in an ongoing basis until the position(s) are filled, preferably by **June 10, 2022.** The application materials should be sent via email to Dr. Nikolitsa Grigoropoulou at nikolitsa.grigoropoulou@uni-bremen.de. If you have questions or need further information, please contact us!