

DFG-/FWF Research Unit 5656 „Communicative AI“

Job Announcement A212-25



At the University of Bremen, at the Centre for Media, Communication and Information Research (ZeMKI), the following position is to be filled at the earliest possible date (January 1st, 2026):

Research Associate (f/m/d)

Salary Group 13 TV-L,

full-time (39.2 hours/week), fixed-term for 36 months (according to § 2 WissZeitVG), for the development of software for communication and media research.

Part-time employment is in principle possible; details may be agreed with ZeMKI.

Job description

The position is part of the innovative team of the ComAI Research Space in the DFG- and FWF-funded Research Unit 5656 “*Communicative AI: The Automation of Societal Communication*”. The team is based in the coordination project of the research group (project leaders: Prof. Dr. Andreas Hepp, Prof. Dr. Wiebke Loosen, Prof. Dr. Christian Katzenbach, Prof. Dr. Cornelius Puschmann, Dr. Gregor Wiedemann).

The research group investigates how societal communication is transformed by communicative AI. The focus of the first funding phase (2025–2028) is set on the emergence and constructions of communicative AI. Research topics include pioneer communities of communicative AI, their interfaces, the legal frameworks surrounding it and its governance by companies, the appropriation of communicative AI in journalism, in public (online) discourse, in everyday life, in healthcare, as well as in learning and teaching. Research is conducted with highly innovative methods from the social sciences and HCI, including digital and computational methods. Further information about the research group and the diverse doctoral opportunities within this context can be found on the website: <https://comai.space/en/>.

Responsibilities

- Conceptualization, development, and evaluation of a web-based tool (open source) for collecting and visualizing data on communicative AI
- Development of the backend database for communicative AI data from social media, media reporting, and media usage
- App development for data collection
- Participation in the planning, implementation, and evaluation of co-creation workshops
- Documentation and maintenance of code
- Contribution to relevant publications

Requirements

- Completed academic degree (Master's/University Diploma) in Computer Science, Media Informatics, Communication and Media Studies, or a comparable field with experience in software development
- Experience in developing dynamic web applications (PHP, JavaScript, MySQL)
- Interest in communication and media studies questions
- Willingness to engage in co-creation and open-source development
- High level of commitment and initiative, ability to work in a team, careful and reliable working style

Desirable qualifications:

- Experience with Python, R, Laravel, Vue.js, and server administration
- Experience with AI/LLM-based data analysis
- Design skills including UX, especially in creating basic user interfaces for testing
- Experience in research projects
- Experience in cooperation with the social sciences

General information

We offer:

- Annual special payment ("Christmas bonus"), regular salary increases in accordance with the collective agreement, and supplementary pension through the public service (VBL)
- A secure, interesting, and varied position at an open-minded university
- 30 days of annual leave per calendar year
- A diverse, future-oriented, and open organizational culture
- Support from a collegial and motivated team with a positive working environment
- Individual onboarding

- Opportunities for professional development and further training
- Compatibility of family and career through flexible working hours (flextime) and the option of mobile work (within given framework conditions)
- Free services in the area of social and family counseling
- Active workplace health management, including discounts for local sports clubs, fitness studios, and swimming pools (EGYM WELLPASS)
- The option to obtain a job ticket for public transport
- Numerous sports and cultural opportunities
- Varied catering options in the canteens of the Studierendenwerk

The University of Bremen has, since its foundation 50 years ago, remained a place of short distances for people and ideas. With a broad range of disciplines, we combine outstanding research performance with great innovation potential. As an ambitious research university, we stand for the principle of research-based learning and a strong commitment to interdisciplinarity. We actively and cooperatively engage in international scientific collaborations. Today, around 23,000 people study, teach, research, and work on our international campus. In research and teaching, administration, and operations, we are committed to the goals of sustainability, climate justice, and climate neutrality. The “Bremen spirit” is expressed in our courage to innovate, in supportive collaboration, and in mutual respect and appreciation. Through our research and study profile and as part of the European YUFE network, we assume social responsibility in the region, in Europe, and worldwide.

The University is family-friendly, diverse, and positions itself as an international university. We therefore welcome all applicants regardless of gender, nationality, ethnic and social origin, religion/belief, disability, age, sexual orientation, or identity. The University of Bremen seeks to increase the proportion of women in academia and therefore explicitly encourages women to apply. In case of equal qualifications, women will be given priority unless reasons specific to a competing candidate prevail.

Applicants with severe disabilities will be given priority if they possess essentially equal professional and personal qualifications.

For general questions regarding the recruitment process as well as for content-related inquiries about the advertised position, please contact: Prof. Dr. Andreas Hepp (ahepp@uni-bremen.de).

Please send your application, including all relevant documents (cover letter including specification of focus areas, CV, thesis, other publications if applicable, certificates) quoting the reference number **A212-25** by **September 9, 2025** as a single PDF file by unencrypted email to:

christina.schober@vw.uni-bremen.de

or by post to:

University of Bremen
Centre for Media, Communication and Information Research (ZeMKI)
Attn: Christina Schober
Linzer Straße 4
28359 Bremen

Please note that photos should not be included with your application.

We kindly ask you to submit only copies (no application folders), as application documents cannot be returned. After completion of the selection process, your documents will be stored and subsequently destroyed in accordance with legal requirements.

Any costs incurred in the application process cannot be reimbursed.