CRIMINOLOGICAL
RESEARCH INSTITUTE
OF LOWER SAXONY



Research Associate (all genders), 65 % part-time (Sociology, Criminology, Psychology, Political Science or related disciplines)

The position is available from **1 March 2027** in the research project **"New Data Structures and AI-Based Methods for Criminological Research (KI-KRIM)"**. It is a part-time position (65%) for a fixed term of three years. The position is funded by **zukunft.niedersachsen**, a joint funding programme of the Lower Saxony Ministry of Science and Culture and the Volkswagen Foundation.

The project is led by **PD Dr. Daniel Seddig** and combines Criminology and Social Data Science. Using juvenile delinquency as a case study, it investigates how heterogeneous survey data can be integrated and analysed in theoretically meaningful ways using machine learning (ML) methods. To this end, a research data infrastructure is being established to integrate and harmonise studies from different regions, age groups and survey periods. The methodological focus is on issues of relevance to the social sciences as a whole: the harmonisation of different measurement instruments, the handling of multilevel structures, and the application of interpretable and causal ML methods. Further information about the project is available here: https://kfn.de/en/research-projects/ki-krim/

The project's cooperation partner is **Prof. Dr. Christoph Kern** from the Social Data Science and AI Lab (SODA), Institute of Statistics, Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich (LMU). He will be granted access to the application documents and is bound by an obligation of confidentiality. A research stay at SODA (e.g., six months) is planned for the candidate.

Your Responsibilities:

- Contributing to the KI-KRIM research project
- Integrating and analysing criminological research data
- Applying and further developing machine learning methods and techniques
- Publishing research findings in academic journals
- Presenting research findings at conferences and workshops
- Independently pursuing a doctoral research project within the scope of the project
- Contributing to the organisation and implementation of a project workshop

Your Profile:

- A completed university degree (Master's or equivalent) in Sociology, Psychology, Criminology, Political Science, Statistics, Data Science, or a related discipline
- Specialisation in Social Data Science, Computational Social Science, Statistics, or Empirical Social Research
- Very good knowledge of quantitative research methods and statistical modelling
- Proficiency in R and/or Python
- Initial experience with machine learning methods; knowledge of structural equation modelling or multilevel models is an advantage
- Interest in criminological research questions; relevant prior knowledge is an advantage
- Excellent English skills and German language proficiency at least at B2 level (the study materials are in German); willingness to publish in English-language academic journals
- Willingness to undertake an extended research stay at LMU Munich

What We Offer:

- The opportunity to work at a leading criminological research institute and become part of an interdisciplinary research team
- The opportunity to develop your own research interests and focus areas, for example as part of an independent doctoral research project
- Close collaboration with the Social Data Science and AI Lab (SODA) at LMU Munich, as well as access to programmes and resources offered by the Munich Center for Machine Learning (MCML) and the Konrad Zuse School of Excellence in Reliable AI (relAI)
- Excellent conditions for conducting research, publishing academic work and pursuing further academic qualifications
- Regular doctoral colloquia, as well as subject-specific and methodological training opportunities
- Financial support for attending conferences, summer schools and other professional development activities
- Flexible working hours and the option to work remotely (up to 50%)
- Remuneration according to the German public sector pay scale (TV-L), salary grade E13 (65% part-time)

If you are interested in this position, please submit your **application** (in German or English), including a cover letter, CV, academic certificates and transcripts, and a writing sample (e.g. an excerpt from a Master's thesis or term paper), **by 3 January 2027**. Applications must be submitted exclusively by email as a single PDF file to Bewerbungen@kfn.de. You may also direct any questions about the project or the position to this email address. **Interviews** will take place in Hanover between **11 and 14 January 2027**.

We expressly welcome applications from all qualified candidates, regardless of gender, nationality, ethnic or social background, religion or belief, disability, age, sexual orientation or gender identity. Applicants with severe disabilities will be given preference in the event of equal suitability, qualifications and professional performance, in accordance with the applicable legal provisions. Applications from international candidates are warmly welcomed.

In order to carry out the application process, it is necessary to store personal data. By submitting your application, you consent to your data being stored and processed electronically for recruitment purposes, in accordance with applicable data protection regulations. Please note that, pursuant to Article 13 of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), applicants are entitled to various rights. Detailed information about these rights and how your personal data is processed can be found at: https://kfn.de/en/data-protection/



We look forward to receiving your application!

PD Dr. Daniel Seddig
Bewerbungen@kfn.de