



Doctoral Positions (f/m/d)

The Max Planck Institute for the Study of Societies (MPIfG) conducts basic research on the governance of modern societies. It aims to develop an empirically based theory of the social and political foundations of modern economies by investigating the interrelation between economic, social, and political action.

We are currently seeking to recruit up to two

Doctoral Researchers for our Research Group on Technology and Sovereignty.

The starting date is October 1, 2025.

While technologies and infrastructures have never been neutral, their political and societal relevance have become more apparent in the context of (geo-)political tensions and heightened security: Ties between tech companies and state actors are growing stronger, while efforts to achieve digital, technological, monetary, and data sovereignty are intensified. This new research group, directed by Dr. Carola Westermeier, analyses how reconfigurations of socioeconomic relations engendered by articulations of sovereignty manifest in concrete technologies and how technologies are in turn shaped by political demands of sovereignty and security.

We are looking in particular for doctoral researchers interested in one of the following topics:

- Digital Currencies
- Techno-Politics and Economic Statecraft
- (Digital) Infrastructures in International Relations

Applicants must hold a master's degree (or equivalent) with at least 120 ECTS in a discipline related to the School's program (sociology, political science, economics, or a related field). As the doctoral degrees are awarded by the University of Cologne or the University of Duisburg-Essen, applicants must meet the requirements for admission to doctoral study at the degree-awarding university.

Successful applicants will join the International Max Planck Research School on the Social and Political Constitution of the Economy (IMPRS-SPCE). Their supervisor will be Dr. Carola Westermeier. The doctoral dissertation can be written in German or English.

A collaborative and collegial working environment is integral to the MPIfG. Starting from the application process, we are committed to promoting equality of opportunity for all of our employees. The compatibility of career and family is also one of our key concerns, as is the employment of people with disabilities.

We look forward to receiving your [online application](#) (see also the button below) in English. Please note that applications by email cannot be considered. For further information on the program and how to apply, please visit our [website](#). Applications **must be submitted by February 28, 2025 (23:59h UTC+01:00)**.

ABOUT US

Talent, creativity, and passion are qualities the Max Planck Society and the MPIfG rely on. We are committed to building a diverse and inclusive workplace. We advocate equality of opportunity and welcome applications from people of all backgrounds, irrespective of gender, nationality, religion or belief, disability, age, or sexual orientation or identity. In diversity lies the basis for the cutting-edge research conducted at over 80 Max Planck Institutes.

CONTACT

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