



## Research Group Leader (f/m/d)

The Max Planck Institute for the Study of Societies (MPIfG) in Cologne is seeking an outstanding social scientist for the position of

### Research Group Leader in Social Science in the field of Digitalization and Society (W2 tenure track)

for a new research group focused on the societal implications of digitalization and technological change. The group will explore the broad socioeconomic and political impacts of technological change, strengthening the MPIfG's capacity to analyze the relationship between economy, society, and technology. The starting date is **October 1, 2025, or by agreement**.

The 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 social, economic, and political action.

In making this call, the MPIfG aims to help counteract an existing underrepresentation of women at W2 and director level. Within the permissible boundaries, priority will therefore be given to applications from highly qualified women who meet the selection criteria.

#### POSSIBLE RESEARCH FOCUS OF THE GROUP

- Impact of digital technologies on labor markets, including automation, gig economy, and worker protection
- Changes to market structure due to digital technologies and the rise of tech giants
- Effects on democracy, governance, and the public sphere
- Broader societal impacts, such as privacy concerns, inequality, and smart cities

The new research group is described in more detail in a downloadable [concept paper](#).

#### YOUR QUALIFICATIONS

- PhD in sociology, political science, or a related discipline

#### 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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- Several years of postdoctoral experience
- Outstanding research trajectory in the social sciences with a focus on technological change and its societal impacts
- Proven ability to conduct empirical research using qualitative or quantitative methods
- Ability to lead a team of researchers

## WHAT WE OFFER

- The opportunity to develop and lead a new research group in a rapidly evolving field
- A stimulating intellectual environment at a leading international research institute with interdisciplinary collaborations
- Access to research funding and an excellent support infrastructure
- A diverse and dynamic research community engaged in critical inquiry into societal transformations
- Salary and benefits based on the German public sector pay agreement (W2)

The term of the group is six years, with an option of extension for a further three years. Evaluation for tenure (W2) will take place during the fifth year. On receiving an outstanding evaluation, the research group leader will become eligible for inclusion in a competitive procedure to appoint a third director of the MPIfG.

The research group will comprise the research group leader, one postdoc, and two doctoral researchers. The successful candidate is expected to be involved in teaching and advising doctoral researchers.

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.

## APPLICATIONS

Candidates interested in the advertised position are invited to apply, in English or German, via our [online application portal](#) by uploading the following documents:

- A cover letter outlining your research interests
- A detailed curriculum vitae, including a list of publications
- An example of your scholarly work of up to 20 pages in length, e.g., a journal article or book chapter (preferably in English but German is also acceptable)
- A research statement (max. 3 pages) describing your planned research program
- Scans of official transcripts/records of studies from all colleges and universities you have attended

The deadline for applications is **April 15, 2025 (11:00 am UTC+1)**. We regret that we cannot consider applications by email or post.

We look forward to receiving your application!



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GESELLSCHAFT



