



**University of
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Department of Political Science

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Research assistant in computer science (20-40%)

Professor [Fabrizio Gilardi](#) invites applications for a research assistant position (Hilfsassistent:in) (20-40%) in the context of the project “Problem Definition in the Digital Democracy” ([PRODIGI](#)), **starting in September 2022** (a later start may be possible). The position is initially offered **until December 2022**, but may be extended.

Responsibilities

The position provides specific **technical, computational support** for several subprojects within PRODIGI, specifically frame detection from text and performing topic modeling techniques on short and long text.

Qualifications

The position is suitable for **MA students** who are interested in computational social science researching the implications of politics on digital technologies and vice versa. Applicants for this position should meet the following requirements:

- Enrolled in a **computer science or similar degree** program (MA) at the University of Zurich or ETH
- Excellent working knowledge of Python for Accessing API's / Machine Learning (scikitlearn / transformer / pytorch) and network science (Gephi / networkx)
- Knowledge on how to train, evaluate and fine-tune sophisticated NLP models for multi-class or multi-label text classification tasks
- Good knowledge of word embeddings and pre-train language models (e.g. bert and roberta) and willingness to work with new language models
- Good oral communication skills in English
- High degree of self-motivation and excellent work ethics

We offer

- Working with an international team of researchers doing cutting-edge research on digital technology and politics
- Gaining research experience
- Gaining substantive knowledge on digital technology and politics
- Workspace at the Department of Political Science

How to apply

For any questions about this position, feel free to send an email to: gilardi@ipz.uzh.ch. Please address your application, including motivation letter, CV, proof of academic performance and, if available, a link to your GitHub account as well as a 1-page description of one of your projects on GitHub, to gilardi@ipz.uzh.ch with the subject “Research assistant computer science (PRODIGI)”. Review of applications will begin on September 1, 2022 and continue until the position is filled.