**CALL FOR APPLICATIONS:**

**ERC-FUNDED RESEARCH ASSISTANT POSITION AT KOÇ UNIVERSITY**

**SPANISH, PORTUGUESE AND ENGLISH SPEAKING CANDIDATES ARE ENCOURAGED TO APPLY**

Universidade de São Paulo (USP) invites applicants for three positions of annotator who will work remotely in Associate Professor Erdem Yörük’s (Koç University, İstanbul, Turkey) European Research Council (ERC) funded research project. The title of the project is “The Politics of Welfare in Emerging Market Economies”.

The project investigates political causes of welfare state development in emerging market economies (please see [emw.ku.edu.tr](http://www.emw.ku.edu.tr/) and the brief summary of the project below). The project is building two databases: (i) GLOW: Global Welfare Indicators Dataset, and (ii) GLOCON: Global Contentious Politics Database - creation of which employs artificial intelligence, machine learning, and natural language processing (NPL) methods on local news sources. Successful candidates will work as annotators at the GLOCON database team. Following an annotation training, annotators will work in the creation of a Gold Standard Corpus of protest events from Brazil and Argentina, by annotating texts from local newspapers. :

* Be proficient in Spanish, Portuguese, and English,
* Be a graduate-level (MA or PhD) student in Political Science, Social Sciences or a related discipline at the The University of São Paulo (USP)
* Preferably have text annotation experience and basic knowledge in Latin American history, politics and social movements,
* Be able to meet strict deadlines and attend weekly on-line meetings with project staff,
* Have strong communication skills, and
* Start the job on October 1, 2019, and attend the 1-week obligatory annotation training to be given by one of the researchers of the Project.

This is a full-time position and initial duration of the position is one full year (subject to renewal). The successful candidate will work remotely. Please send your application electronically as one pdf file comprising a cover letter, CV and the names and contact info of two references to emw@ku.edu.tr (**with subject: EMW Annotator Position**).

**About Koç University**

Koç University (KU) (http://www.ku.edu.tr) is an endowed, non-profit institution of higher education, located in Istanbul, Turkey. Koç University is highly reputable and has attracted accomplished, high-caliber researchers from all over the world. The vast majority (97%) of 400 faculty members received their Ph.D. degrees from the most reputable universities in the United States and Europe. Times Higher Education has ranked Koç University as the best university in Turkey in 2016, 250-300th among the best universities in the world and 36th best in the list of universities under 50 years old. Currently Koç University hosts 9 of 16 ERC projects in Turkey.

**About the Project:**

**The New Politics of Welfare: Towards an “Emerging Markets” Welfare State Regime (ERC Starting Grant)**: ERC is the most prestigious, competitive and generous research fund in Europe, which grants 1.5 million Euros to frontier research that would make groundbreaking contributions. This project is the first sociology ERC project in Turkey. The successful candidate will work together with Dr. Erdem Yörük on his ERC-funded project that investigates the political causes of welfare state development in emerging market economies (please see [emw.ku.edu.tr](http://www.emw.ku.edu.tr/) for details). This research project aims to identify a new welfare regime in emerging market economies and explain why it has emerged. The project will compare China, India, Brazil, Argentina, South Africa, and Turkey to test two hypotheses: (i) emerging market economies are forming a new welfare regime that differs from liberal, corporatist and social democratic welfare regimes of the global north on the basis of extensive and decommodifying social assistance programmes, (ii) the new welfare regime emerges principally as a response to the growing political power of the poor as a dual source of threat and support for governments. Based on a comparative and interdisciplinary perspective, the project follows a multi-method strategy that combines protest event data collection techniques, macro-historical methods, quantitative data analyses and qualitative content analysis.

