

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS:

ERC-FUNDED RESEARCH ASSISTANT POSITION AT KOÇ UNIVERSITY

The Department of Sociology, Koç University, Istanbul, invites applicants for a position as an annotator. The successful candidate will work with Assistant Professor Erdem Yörük and Dr. Ali Hürriyetoglu at a European Research Council (ERC)-funded project on 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 and the brief summary of the project below). The project is building two databases: (i) welfare state database (the most comprehensive database in terms of countries, variables, and years covered), and (ii) protest events database on emerging markets (the creation of which employs artificial intelligence, machine learning, and natural language processing (NLP) methods on local news sources). Following the annotation training that will be given by the researchers of our project, the successful candidate will work in the creation of the protest events database through annotating texts that are collected from newspapers.

The successful candidate is expected to:

- Have advanced knowledge of English,
- Have at least master's degree in Political Science, Social Sciences or a related discipline,
- Preferably have annotation experience.

This is a full-time position and initial duration of the position is a full year (subject to renewal). **The successful candidate can 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 and eryoruk@ku.edu.tr (with subject: **EMW Annotator Position**). The applications will be evaluated on a rolling basis.

About the Institution

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 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 Brazil, China, India, Indonesia, Mexico, 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.



European
Research
Council

**EMERGING
WELFARE** 



KOÇ ÜNİVERSİTESİ