

## **CALL FOR APPLICATIONS:**

### **ERC FUNDED SUMMER RESEARCH TRAINEE POSITIONS IN NATURAL LANGUAGE PROCESSING AND INFORMATION EXTRACTION AT KOÇ UNIVERSITY**

Koç University, Istanbul, invites applicants for trainee positions in natural language processing, information extraction and machine learning. The successful candidate will work in a European Research Council (ERC)-funded project, in which a multilingual protest events database (English, Spanish, Russian, Portuguese, Chinese) will be created using online newspaper archives.

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://emw.ku.edu.tr) for details). The candidates will also be supervised by and collaborate with Dr. Deniz Yuret from Koç University Computer Science Department (<http://www.denizyuret.com/>). Candidates (i) who are studying in a master or PhD program in computational linguistics, computer science or a related field/topic (ii) who have knowledge and experience in natural language processing, machine learning, information extraction, and (iii) who are interested in social science applications of these methods are encouraged to apply.

The work package of the project in which the successful candidate will be working has two components: (i) classification of protest events-related news reports in online archives, (ii) extraction of various explicit and implicit protest event characteristics such as participants, organizers, place, ideology, ethnicity, race, religion, class.

The successful candidates are expected to:

- Have knowledge and (preferably) experience in at least one of Natural Language Processing, Machine Learning, information extraction, event extraction, entity tagging, coreference and anaphora resolution, multilingual language processing, dataset construction,
- Keen on following and applying recent advances about the project,

- Improving state-of-art and publishing about it at top conferences,
- Have high level of programming and technical skills,
- Be a master or PhD student by the start date.

This is a paid summer research traineeship position. Funding for conferences is available depending on relevance of the conference to the project.

Please send your application electronically as a one-pdf file comprising your motivation letter, CV including relevant courses attended, a writing sample and the names of two references to **emw@ku.edu.tr (with subject: Summer trainee position)**. The deadline for applications is **May 15, 2018**, but early applications are welcome.

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.

