



European Research Council  
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## Vacancies for 2 PhD Candidates

### ERC Project “Uncovering the Kinship Matrix: A New Study of Solidarity and Transmission in European Families” (KINMATRIX)

We invite applications for the positions of

**2 PhD Researchers, 65%, 48 months (reference: Wiss2001-20)**

These positions are available on Professor Thomas Leopold’s ERC Starting Grant project “Uncovering the Kinship Matrix: A New Study of Solidarity and Transmission in European Families” (KINMATRIX). The project is based at the Institute of Sociology and Social Psychology (ISS) at the University of Cologne. The positions are available from **September 1, 2020**. Later start dates are possible.

The **project description** is available [here](#).

#### The PhD researchers will:

- Join the KINMATRIX team to collect and analyze large-scale survey data, genealogical data, and register data on family networks in Europe.
- Carry out their own independent PhD project within the remit of the grant and under the primary supervision of Professor Thomas Leopold.
- Write a cumulative doctoral dissertation consisting of at least four chapters published in, or submitted for publication in, peer-reviewed journals. Their work will be situated in the field(s) of social demography, family sociology, and/or life course research. Focus and scope of the dissertations will be defined by the PhD researchers in collaboration with the PI.
- Assist with administrative tasks related to the project, such as preparation of data collection and organization of workshops, conferences, or other project events.
- Have no teaching obligations but may teach on a voluntary basis.

Successful applicants will hold an MA degree (or be close to completion) in sociology, demography, psychology, statistics, or a closely allied discipline. Further requirements are knowledge of advanced quantitative methods, good skills in Stata/R/other statistical software, and commitment to open science.

#### What we offer:

- The Institute of Sociology and Social Psychology (ISS) is one of Germany’s top schools in social research. The ISS is a large and interdisciplinary research and teaching institute with a flourishing graduate and postgraduate community and particular expertise in social demography, social psychology, family sociology, social networks, social stratification, survey methodology, and cross-national comparative research.
- Access to funding for conference travel and other research activities within the remit of the project. PhD researchers will receive advanced training in theory and methods at the University of Cologne and at international summer schools.
- A support package including family support, health management, and local transport.
- Employment on terms governed by German federal law, state university law, and collective agreements applicable to the University of Cologne. The pay scale for the

advertised positions is TVL E-13 and payment within this scale is determined by job experience. On a 65% position, the monthly payment before taxes is approximately EUR 2,600 in the first year, increasing to approximately EUR 3,000 after the third year.

### **Application**

Please submit your electronic application **in a single PDF file**, including:

- Motivation letter (1-2 pages).
- CV including the contact details of two references.
- A full grade transcript for the MA and BA programme(s) of graduation.

We will ask shortlisted applicants to submit further material (a writing sample and code). Correspondence will be in English. Please send your application as an e-mail attachment to [kinmatrix@wiso.uni-koeln.de](mailto:kinmatrix@wiso.uni-koeln.de). The subject line of the email message should include the applicant's last name and the reference to the position (Wiss2001-20).

The application deadline is **1 July 2020** (before midnight).

Please direct inquiries about the positions to Thomas Leopold at [kinmatrix@wiso.uni-koeln.de](mailto:kinmatrix@wiso.uni-koeln.de).

Please also see the official job ad [here](#).

The University of Cologne is committed to diversity, equal opportunities and compatibility of family and career. International candidates are welcome. We explicitly encourage minorities to apply.