

At the University of Bremen, the Center for Media, Communication and Information Research (ZeMKI) / Faculty 9 Cultural Studies in the Lab "Datafication and Mediatization" of Prof. Dr. Andreas Hepp has a 0,5 vacancy for the position of a

Research Associate (doctoral researcher) (f/m/d)

- Remuneration group 13 TV-L

The position is to be appointed for a period of 3 years. More information about the working environment and the PhD program of the ZeMKI can be found on the ZeMKI website at <https://www.uni-bremen.de/zemki>.

We are looking for a new staff member (f/m/d) with enthusiasm for communication and media studies and with a special interest in research on media use and digital media practices. We invite you to join us in a highly engaged team that addresses the multiple forms of recent media change at all levels (including automation and datafication of communication, pioneer communities, communicative figurations in different social domains, communicative artificial intelligence). In our research we rely on innovative combinations of qualitative and quantitative as well as digital methods and also develop new research software ourselves. In this context, too, we look forward to your perspectives and willingness to contribute.

The fixed-term contract is for scientific qualification according to § 2 para. 1 WissZeitVG (Wissenschaftszeitvertragsgesetz). Accordingly, only applicants who still have the corresponding qualification periods according to § 2 para. 1 WissZeitVG can be considered.

You can expect the following tasks:

- Independent research** in the form of a PhD thesis as a self-developed project in the above-mentioned subject area.
- Collaborative research.** These include, among others:
 - Participation in ongoing research projects of the ZeMKI Lab "Datafication and Mediatization", especially in the domain of communicative AI and pioneer communities.
 - Support of the acquisition of a research project on automation of communication and related publications.
 - Support of and participation at academic conferences and workshops.
- Academic teaching** on BA level in media and communications to the extent of currently 2 SWS per week
 - Introductory seminars or seminars according to own topics in the BA program Media and Communication Studies.
 - Supervision of exams, seminar papers, term papers, presentations (depending on the given course) as well as bachelor theses.

Hiring Requirements:

- Above-average academic university degree (master's/diploma) in communication and media studies or a related discipline.
- Sound methodological training (especially with regard to qualitative methods and digital methods).
- Knowledge of or a high level of interest in the research areas listed above.
- Willingness for further scientific qualification (doctorate) in the mentioned field.
- High level of commitment and initiative, ability to work in a team, careful and reliable work ethic.
- Willingness to participate in academic self-administration and active science communication.
- Willingness and enjoyment of teaching science

We offer you:

- A flexible workplace at one of the most research-intensive institutes of communication and media studies in Europe.
- An inspiring environment with numerous guests from Germany and abroad as well as diverse international networks, cooperation opportunities and exchange programs.
- A dedicated team in which everyone supports each other in publications, presentations, submissions, etc., and in which cooperation and mentoring are emphasized.
- Diverse formats for exchange and collaboration.
- The opportunity to actively participate in research networks and (international) professional societies.
- A structured doctoral program of the ZeMKI with diverse supervision and additional free space such as writing weeks.

The university is family-friendly, diverse and sees itself as an international university. We therefore welcome all applicants regardless of gender, nationality, ethnic and social origin, religion/belief, disability, age, sexual orientation and identity.

As the University of Bremen intends to increase the proportion of female employees in science, women are particularly encouraged to apply. Disabled applicants will be given priority if their professional and personal qualifications are essentially the same.

Questions can be directed to Prof. Dr. Andreas Hepp (andreas.hepp@uni-bremen.de).

Applications are invited by **27.11.2023**, quoting the **reference number A220/23**, to the

Universität Bremen
Zentrum für Medien-, Kommunikations- und Informationsforschung (ZeMKI)
Ms Fadil Kerstein
Postfach 33 04 40
28334 Bremen

or by e-mail as PDF to: fadil@uni-bremen.de

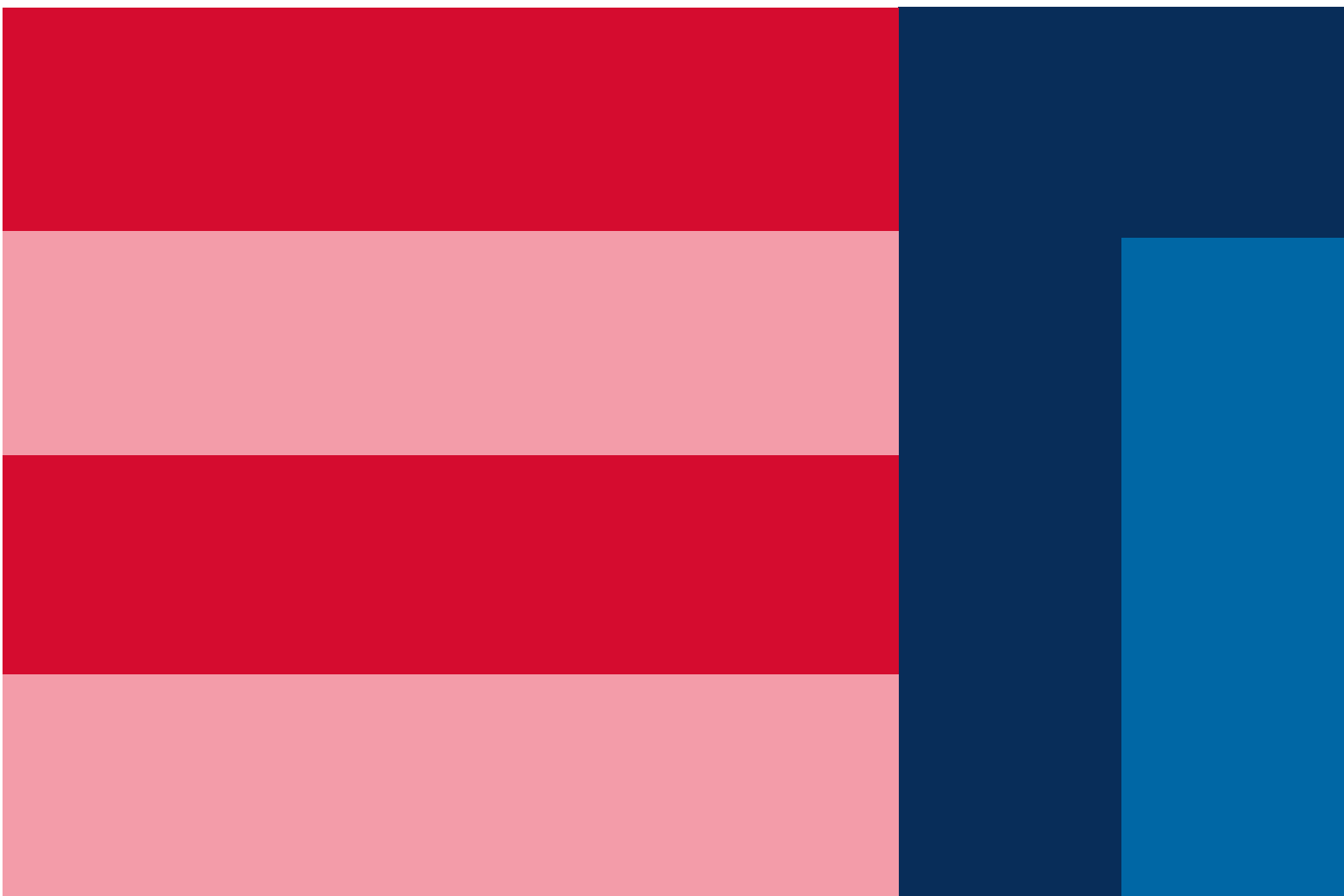
In addition to a cover letter outlining motivation, the application should be submitted with a curriculum vitae, certificates, and the final MA thesis or other publications, if applicable.

We kindly ask you to send us only copies (no portfolios) of your application documents, as we cannot return them. They will be destroyed after the selection process has been completed.

Additional information for applicants

The ZeMKI at the University of Bremen

– - some additional information



The ZeMKI at the University of Bremen - some additional information

We are very pleased that you have become aware of our job advertisement (reference A220/23) for a position as a research assistant (doctoral candidate) (f/m/d) at the ZeMKI and that you can imagine applying. To give you a better idea of your possible future workplace, we have compiled a brief overview of who we are, what we do at the ZeMKI, what makes us tick and what you can expect from us. If you still have questions, just get in touch! The advertised position is assigned to the Lab Datafication and Mediatization of Prof. Dr. Andreas. You can reach him via email: andreas.hepp@uni-bremen.de.

The ZeMKI

The ZeMKI, shorthand for Centre for Media, Communication and Information Research, is located at the University of Bremen in the Northwest of Germany. The ZeMKI has a very high international profile. It is one of the most research-intensive communication and media science institutes in the DACH countries as well as in the entire European scientific area. We are one of nine [Central Research Units](#) of the University of Bremen. What does that mean? Our work is of central strategic importance for the University of Bremen. We pursue our tasks across faculties or institutions, pursuing a common research focus that brings together our scientific activities: We deal with the transformation of society and culture as well as the transformation of media and communication. Our employees at ZeMKI belong to different [faculties of the university](#).

Our main focus is researching changing processes of media and communication at the intersection of social and cultural sciences on the one hand and technical sciences on the other. A [specific field of our research](#) is the emerging digital society in terms of existing inequalities, both in terms of historical questions of their genesis and in terms of current challenges of algorithms, automatization and datafication. For some time now, we have also been tak-

The work of the ZeMKI is of central strategic importance for the University of Bremen.

ing a close look at the development, use and consequences of artificial intelligence. To this end, we explore, among other things, communicative figurations in various social sub-areas, pioneer communities, the changes in practices and patterns of (digital) media use, and interactions between regulation, discourses and the development of technologies and business models. We rely on [standardized methods as well as qualitative digital and computational methods](#), which we use and further develop in research and teaching to explore questions of digitization, datafication and deep mediatization. A variety of accompanying and social events round off the work at the ZeMKI. These include the regular ZeMKI colloquium with lectures by staff and external guests, the ZeMKI Research Day, the Teaching Day and the Lecturers' Day, participation in lecture series and public events of the university as well as a Summer party and a Christmas and New Year's party.

The labs at ZeMKI

The research activities at ZeMKI are organized in the form of working groups, we call them Labs. The [task of the Labs](#) is the realization of basic and applied research in the interdisciplinary overall research field of the ZeMKI. In other words, the labs bring together employees who work together on research projects and address common topics. But the labs are not a "closed job". We also cooperate intensively across Lab boundaries, both in teaching and in research. This is especially true when it comes to applying for new or implementing large projects. Current examples include the Communicative Figurations Network and research on artificial intelligence.

The Lab Datafication and Mediatization

The advertised PhD position is affiliated with the [Lab Datafication and Mediatization](#). Head of the Lab is [Prof. Dr. Andreas Hepp](#). Currently, he is also the [spokesperson](#) of the ZeMKI, together with Prof. Dr. Kerstin Radde-Antweiler. Good to know: With 16 members, we are at the moment the largest Lab at the ZeMKI and are additionally supported in our work by several student assistants. And now we're really looking forward to welcoming a new member to the team soon! In our research we deal with how societies change when they are increasingly saturated by digital media and their infrastructures. The lab focuses on the role digital data play in these globalized processes of change. Current research is particularly concerned with the automation of communication, the role of pioneer communities and pioneer journalism in media-related transformation processes, as well as media and data practices in, for example, media use and appropriation, sports communication, mourning com-

At present, the ZeMKI has ten labs:

- Audio-visual Media and Historiography
- Datafication and Mediatization
- Digital Communication and Information Diversity
- Film, Media Art and Popular Culture
- Communication History and Media Change
- Media and Education
- Media and Religion
- Platform Governance, Media, and Technology
- Political Communication and Innovative Methods
- Socio-technical systems and critical data studies

How are societies changing in the wake of profound mediatization and datafication?

munication, community building, and science communication. In this regard, the Lab is also developing research software and a news platform for local journalism and information. Across these topics, a particular focus is paid to questions of the "good life" and the sustainable formation of our media environment.

A unique aspect of our Lab is that we not only conduct research and teaching, but are also active in media practice. With [Molo.News](#), we operate a news platform for local journalism and local information and [continue to develop](#) it further. The app is now operating in several

cities and the latest version is available for download both for iOS in Apple's App Store and for Android in the Google Play Store. In addition, we are also active in the development of research software. Branded as [MeSoftware](#) we offer digital tools for qualitative research. In this sector, we are supported by the DFG, the German Research Foundation. With [MeSort](#) and [MeTag](#), two programmes are currently available that can be used for sorting studies and for recording digital media diaries. The next MeSoftware will be an offering for collaborative coding of data. For the technical implementation we have several programmers and software developers in our team.

One of your tasks at the beginning of your employment at the ZeMKI will be to design and initiate your own research project (PhD project). The project must have relevance to communication and media studies as well as to society. In addition, it must be connecting to the Lab's perspectives. You will not only get the support of your supervisor, but that of all team members, because we do not work against each other in the lab or in science. We support each other. To realize this collaborative exchange, we have developed various formats:

- Project- and topic-related, we meet regularly in a weekly to discuss current issues and challenges and to keep each other up to date.
- In Lab meetings all members come together and we communicate about recent topics in teaching, research, organization, and other things.
- Lab colloquia are another free format in which we present and discuss our current publications, projects, and topics, or read and discuss texts together. Lab colloquia usually take place in the early evening, so that we can also eat and drink together.
- Once or twice a year, we go on a Lab retreat together for two to three days. We use this time for an intensive

exchange about the current status of our projects and to push them forward together. A special focus is on supporting the qualification projects.

- Of particular importance for you: There is always the possibility to arrange an individual meeting with the supervisor of the doctoral thesis. But your colleagues are also available for advice and support. In addition, there is the [ZeMKI doctoral programme](#) to support your qualification project.

Working as a scientist also includes publications and the presentation of research projects at national and international conferences. Common publication formats include journal articles, book chapters in anthologies and monographs. These are written both individually and as a team, whereby we generally support each other. This support includes in particular the discussion and improvement of texts as well as proofreading. Conferences are held in Germany, in Europe and also all over the world. Presentations at conferences can only be given if the peer review process has been successfully completed. In this process, other scientists review a submission for its quality and suitability for the conference. We also support each other in writing these submissions, both (shorter) abstracts and (longer) full papers. Travelling to conferences is one of the highlights of the scientific community! You can present your own research to a large audience and at the same time get insights into the current work of others. In addition, conferences and also their informal meetings are very important forums for exchange and networking. For sure, travelling to conferences can be exhausting. But it's also a great way to travel the world and get to know other countries, universities and scientific systems. Internationalization is a top priority at the ZeMKI!

Internationalization and cooperations at the ZeMKI

Cooperations are indispensable for excellence in science. This principle applies both nationally and internationally. The ZeMKI is involved in various [research networks](#). Another platform for cooperation is provided by the scientific associations. In the field of communication and media studies, the ZeMKI focuses on four major associations:

- The German Communication Association ([DGPUK](#)) with its sister societies in Austria (Austrian Society of Communication - [ÖGK](#)) and Switzerland (Swiss Association of Communication and Media Research - [SACM](#)).
- For Europe, the European Communication Research and Education Association ([ECREA](#)).
- At the international level, the International Communication Association ([ICA](#)) and the International Association for Media and Communication Research ([IAMCR](#)).

All associations organize their work in Fachgruppen, sections, and working groups. They also organize, in addition to the main conferences, their own annual meetings with a stronger thematic focus. In addition, there are numerous other associations and conference series that may be of interest, depending on the positioning of your doctoral project. Summer and Winter Schools also provide support on the path to a doctorate, for example with regard to methods or theoretical perspectives.

Since 2017, the ZeMKI has been running its own international visiting research program, the [ZeMKI Visiting Re-](#)

The ZeMKI is one of the important European institutions for research into the transformation of digital media and communication.

[search Fellowship](#). Within the framework of this programme, [scientists from all over the world](#) come to Bremen for four weeks to conduct projects and to collaborate with selected ZeMKI Labs. This also provides opportunities for exchange and networking. The highlight of each such stay is the guest's lecture at the ZeMKI colloquium.

Within the framework of the [Erasmus+ programme of the European Union](#), the ZeMKI has numerous cooperation partners in almost all participating countries. In the course of your doctorate, you can benefit in two ways: Many Erasmus contracts include not only the exchange of students in BA and MA programmes, but also of students in doctoral studies - please consult the [International Team](#), headed by [Prof. Dr. Christian Katzenbach](#). In addition, as a research assistant at the ZeMKI, you will be involved in teaching and can also complete a short stay for the [internationalization of teaching](#) via Erasmus+. In parallel to Erasmus, we also maintain numerous cooperations with universities worldwide and support our employees in corresponding exchanges.

Teaching at the ZeMKI

Science at a university represents the unity of research and teaching. At the [ZeMKI](#), we rely on contemporary approaches that link [current research with teaching](#) in lectures and seminars. The education includes introductory courses, a comprehensive training in methods as well as dealing with theories. In research seminars, the acquired knowledge is applied practically and own research projects are implemented. In doing so, we offer numerous courses to allow students to set their own individual focus. In addition, there are also courses in media practice, internships and courses that prepare students for their thesis. We maintain a wide range of partnerships with the [media industry](#). Currently, the ZeMKI is offering three study programmes:

- [BA Communication and Media Studies](#) (the main language of instruction is German)
- [MA Digital Media and Society](#) (the language of instruction is English)
- [MA Media Culture and Globalization](#) (the main language of instruction is German)
- Starting with the winter semester 2024/2025, we will establish another English-language degree programme, the MA Media and Public Engagement.

We care about the diversity and individuality of our teachers at heart!

As part of your employment, you will also provide independent teaching. This part of your contract covers one third of your employment. What does it mean? You will offer one two-hour course in each of the Winter and Summer semesters. As a doctoral candidate, you will teach in the BA Communication and Media Studies. In addition, you will supervise seminar papers and bachelor theses. Don't be afraid to take your first steps in teaching! Our curricula have a modular structure. Each module is supervised by a responsible person who offers support. In addition, each module team is composed of experienced and new lecturers. You will not be left alone, but will develop your first courses in a team. We will ensure that you are involved in more structured modules at the beginning and can draw on existing teaching materials. However, we also care about diversity and individuality of our employees: Later on, you can also offer courses that have a strong focus and are oriented towards your doctoral project or Lab projects.

ZeMKI doctoral programme

The doctorate is a major milestone in your academic life! In order to offer you the best possible support in this process, you will have two supervisors at the ZeMKI. But you can also draw on the resources of the [ZeMKI doctoral programme](#).

The doctoral programme of the ZeMKI deals with the development of media and communication. In deeply mediated societies, social fields including politics, education, religion, popular culture and art are transforming. Not only changing digital infrastructures, but also innovative practices of media use and datafication play a role. Since phenomena in these thematic fields are multi-layered, the doctoral programme as a whole is based on a broad interdisciplinary approach in order to strengthen the respective disciplinary doctorates.

The range of disciplines involved in the doctoral programme are broad: in addition to communication and media studies, it includes history, film studies, religious studies, sociology, political science, education, and computer science.

We offer our own structured doctoral programme with many opportunities for exchange.

The aim of the ZeMKI doctoral programme at the University of Bremen is to provide cooperative and collegial supervision for its doctoral students. Participants must be registered as doctoral students at the University of Bremen, and be supervised by professors working at the ZeMKI. The doctoral programme is based on a binding doctoral agreement that separates supervision from peer review, and gives doctoral candidates extensive opportunities to develop and complete their dissertation projects in a constructive environment.

The ZeMKI doctoral program also includes numerous opportunities for cooperation and offers such as writing weeks and so on. Read more [here](#).

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