



**Universität  
Zürich<sup>UZH</sup>**

**Digital Society Initiative**



## Call for Participants

### “Text classification in Python”

October 15<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup>, 2020, University of Zurich, Switzerland  
Instructor: Anke Stoll (*Heinrich Heine University Düsseldorf*)

Every second, online media produce vast amounts of text that are beyond the human scope of information categorization and analysis. Countering this information overload, researchers use text classification algorithms to properly tag large amounts of documents based on training data. Text classification is a fundamental subset of Natural Language Processing (NLP) and has broad applications such as sentiment analysis, topic labeling, and named entity recognition. These applications also flourish in the social sciences.

Therefore, the Computational Methods Working Group at the University of Zurich offers a two-day workshop on “*Text Classification in Python*” with Anke Stoll (University of Düsseldorf) and invites PhD students from all social sciences with prior general programming experience to apply.

The workshop aims to equip participants with the knowledge to apply text classification methods to their own research. The course covers (1) an introduction to classification tasks of texts and corpora; (2) interactively applying the toolkit of the discussed methods; (3) a hands-on group task requiring students to apply the methods, including preprocessing, in a group.

#### Schedule

The workshop will start on October 15<sup>th</sup>, 1pm, and end at October 16<sup>th</sup>, 2 pm. The workshop starts with a theory-driven introduction to classification tasks and continues with interactive sessions in which participants apply text classification in Python. In the evening, there will be an informal social event to get to know each other. On the second day, participants will engage in a hackathon that challenges them to apply the learned recipes to natural, non-preprocessed text data.

**Date:** October 15<sup>th</sup>, 2020 (1pm) to October 16<sup>th</sup>, 2020 (2pm). The event includes a social event in the evening

**Venue:** Zurich, Switzerland (travel & accommodation costs not covered)

**Who can apply and how?**

The workshop is aimed at early career researchers who work at the University of Zurich in the field of social sciences. We invite both PhD students and scholars who successfully defended their PhD within the last three years. However, the workshop is limited to 15 people, so PhD students will be given priority if necessary. Please fill in [this form](#) by August 31st, 2020 to apply. We are looking forward to your application!

**Do I have to pay a participation fee?**

No, there are no fees involved to take part in the workshop. However, we cannot cover individual travel or accommodation expenses for participants.

**What happens after my application?**

In mid-September, we will announce the selection outcome. Shortly thereafter, we will inform participants about the program in more detail.

**Contact information of organizing team**

Computational Methods Working Group, University of Zurich

Contact: <http://www.cssmethods.uzh.ch> or [cssmethods@ikmz.uzh.ch](mailto:cssmethods@ikmz.uzh.ch)

*Ivo Bantel, Theresa Gessler, Valerie Hase, Lara Kobilke, Nico Pfiffner, Anna Staender & Daniel Vogler*  
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