



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

**Digital Society Initiative**



## **Call for Participants & Projects “Young Scholars in Computational Social Science”**

November 19<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup>, University of Zurich, Switzerland  
Organizer: Computational Methods Working Group

including inputs from:

**Prof. Dr. Ken Benoit**

(LSE, Developer of R-Package “Quanteda”)

**Prof. Dr. Sophie Mützel**

(University of Luzern)

**Prof. Dr. Christoph Stadtfeld**

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**Prof. Dr. Annie Waldherr**

(University of Vienna)

Computational methods including automated content analysis, network analysis, agent-based modeling, or digital trace data have been of increasing importance for social sciences. The workshop “Young Scholars in Computational Social Science” addresses young scholars, i.e., PhD students or those who successfully defended their PhD within the last three years, who apply computational methods to answer questions in social sciences. We aim to attract young scholars from different disciplines in social sciences, including but not limited to communication science, political science, or sociology.

The workshop has two primary goals:

- (1) To *discuss current and innovative studies* in the field of computational social science to critically reflect and further develop ongoing research projects
- (2) To *connect scholars* in computational social science as a networking event

Therefore, we encourage the application of scholars who want to present studies with questions relevant to social sciences using, for example, one of the following methods:

- Automated content analysis/text as data methods (e.g., dictionary-approaches, supervised text classification, topic modeling, image classification, etc.)
- Social network analysis, clustering, community detection
- Computational modeling, agent-based modeling, simulations
- Digital trace data

## Schedule

The event will start on November 19<sup>th</sup>, 1pm, and end on November 20<sup>th</sup>, 2pm. Every young scholar will be asked to present an ongoing research project in the field of computational social science. This project can be in the stage of conceptualization, data collection, data analysis, or write-up, but is preferably not yet published. After this presentation, the scholar will receive feedback from peers and invited senior researchers. All attendees will also be asked to act as a peer response for another young scholar, i.e., to delve into another project and provide feedback for this project during the workshop.

In addition, the workshop will serve as a networking platform for peer-to-peer talks about working in the field of computational social science and offer an advisory setting for senior scholars to discuss their experiences. To facilitate this, the event will include an informal social event as well as an official Q&A session where young scholars can address their questions concerning an academic career in computational social science.

## Application

The application process includes two steps. As mentioned above, please be aware that the workshop specifically addresses young scholars. Therefore, we invite PhD students and scholars who successfully defended their PhD within the last three years to apply. Since the workshop is limited to around 15 people, PhD students will be given priority to take part in the workshop. We are able to support external scholars with travel grants partly covering their travel costs – if you want to apply for a travel grant, please indicate so in your application.

Applicants should send a single PDF-document to the organizing committee ([cssmethods@ikmz.uzh.ch](mailto:cssmethods@ikmz.uzh.ch)) by August 31<sup>st</sup>, 2020 including the following information:

- **a cover sheet** including relevant contact information (first and last name, university, stage of academic career. Scholars who already defended their PhD should indicate when their PhD defense took place.)
- **a short CV** (1-3 pages) including research interests, publications (if applicable) and ongoing projects
- **an abstract** detailing the ongoing computational social science project to be presented at the workshop (max. 800 words, excluding references)
- **an indication** whether and why you want to apply for a travel grant

Notifications of acceptance will be sent out in September. Shortly after acceptances have been sent out, we will inform participants about the program in more detail.

Every attendee will not only present her/his own project, but also be asked to act as a peer respondent for another young scholar during the workshop. By applying for the workshop, you agree to take on the role as a peer respondent for another project.

## 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*  
(Department of Political Science, Department of Communication and Media Research and fög – Research Center for the Public Sphere and Society, University of Zurich)

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