The **Center for Critical Computational Studies (C³S)** at Goethe University Frankfurt am Main invites applications for a position in **Computational Social Science, Climate Justice and Demography** (Prof. Dr. Tobias Rüttenauer) as a

Research Assistant (m/f/d)
Doctoral candidate
(E 13 TV-G-U, 75% part-time)

starting on 01.08.2026, subject to the approval of the relevant third-party funding, initially for a fixed term of three years. The salary grade is based on the job characteristics of the collective agreement applicable to Goethe University (TV-G-U).

The LOEWE Professorship integrates Computational Social Science, Climate Justice, and Demography to examine social disparities in climate risk exposure and vulnerability. The research program centers on three key components: (1) Innovative computational methods – including machine learning and spatial econometrics – to uncover intersectional vulnerabilities within climate risks (e.g., mapping heat islands in marginalized urban areas), (2) analysing how climate change affects demographic outcomes such as fertility patterns and migration decisions, and (3) projecting future socio-demographic shifts under local climate scenarios to inform resilience planning.

The "Center for Critical Computational Studies" (C³S) is an interdisciplinary scientific institution and, as such, a central research center of Goethe University (www.c3s-frankfurt.de). The mission of C³S is to establish and enhance the profile of "Critical Computational Studies" as an inter- and transdisciplinary research field with international visibility. In this context, C³S is active in teaching, research, and knowledge transfer. As an interdisciplinary scientific institution of Goethe University, the center provides opportunities to bring together researchers from all departments, academic cultures, disciplines, and thematic areas within the context of "Critical Computational Studies," and to foster both national and international networking. C³S is committed to scientific excellence and to the guidelines for ensuring good scientific practice, as well as to promoting and supporting the early independence of researchers at the early stages of their careers.

Your tasks:

- conduct research as part of the LOEWE-funded research programme Computational Social Science, Climate Justice and Demography
- develop and carry out a doctoral research project aligned with the research agenda of the Chair
- contribute to the development and application of quantitative methods, including machine learning and spatial econometrics, to investigate the socio-demographic impacts of climate change
- contribute to the development of forecasting and scenario-based models of future soco-demographic dynamics under different climate change scenarios at the local and regional level
- work towards peer-reviewed publications
- attend and present at conferences, workshops, and project-related events
- contribute to open-science practices, including reproducible research workflows, open-source software development, and the creation of harmonised data products
- independent research within the LOEWE research project, including the development and execution of a doctoral project aligned with the research agenda of the professorship, as well as work toward the successful completion of a dissertation

We expect from you:

- a completed university degree (Master´s or equivalent) with very good results in the social sciences, particularly sociology, demography, political science, data science, economics, or related fields
- strong interest in the social and demographic dimensions of climate change, environmental inequality, and climate justice
- good training in quantitative methods, demonstrated through coursework, a master's thesis, or research projects
- experience with or strong interest in geo-referenced environmental and social data
- proficiency in statistical software, such as R, Python, or Stata
- high affinity for interdisciplinary research
- strong analytical and conceptual skills and motivation to develop an independent research profile
- willingness to work collaboratively in an interdisciplinary and internationally oriented research environment

Desirable qualifications include relevant coursework in environmental sociology, social demography, or climate-related social science research, as well as interest in or initial experience with machine learning, spatial econometrics or longitudinal data analysis. Interest in working with large, complex or unstructured datasets and in Open Science, reproducible research, or open-source software development is also desirable.

The Johann Wolfgang Goethe University Frankfurt am Main is one of the largest universities in Germany with around 41,000 students and with about 5,800 employees. Founded in 1914 by Frankfurt citizens and since 2008 once again proud of its foundation status Goethe University possesses a high degree of autonomy, modernity and professional diversity. As a comprehensive university, the Goethe University offers a total of 16 departments on five campuses and 155 degree programs along with an outstanding research reputation. Furthermore, the Goethe University is part of the Group of Rhine-Main-Universities (RMU).

Goethe University, as a family-friendly employer, offers flexible working hours, its own collective agreement, and currently a free LandesTicket Hessen for public transportation. The workplace is currently located on the Westend Campus, one of the most modern and beautiful university campuses in Germany, in the heart of Frankfurt am Main, with a park-like setting and good public transport connections.

Goethe University is committed to equal opportunity, family friendliness, and diversity. To strengthen the diversity of perspectives and lived experiences within the university, applications from individuals with a migration background and from members of other groups that have so far been underrepresented are particularly welcome. Applicants with a severe disability, or those legally equivalent, will be given preferential consideration in cases of equal suitability. If women are underrepresented in a faculty or administrative unit, they will be given preferential consideration in cases of equal qualifications.

Please send your application in German or English by e-mail under the reference code **"LOE-Doc"** to: **application@c3s.uni-frankfurt.de** **by 23.06.2026**. Compile your application documents into a single PDF file not exceeding 10 MB; this PDF should include a cover letter, a detailed curriculum vitae including an overview of academic records, a writing sample (e.g. a term paper) and the contact details of two referees. For further questions about the position, please contact Tobias Rüttenauer (ruettenauer@c3s.uni-frankfurt.de). Please note that the application documents will not be returned. Costs incurred during the application process will not be reimbursed by Goethe University.