The **Department of Social Sciences** at Goethe-University Frankfurt, Germany (**Chair of Sociology specializing in Quantitative Analyses of Social Change**) seeks to recruit a

pre-doctoral researcher (m/f/d)
(E13 TV-G-U, 65%-part-time)

for the project **Does Europe grow together? Convergence and divergence of political attitudes in Europe,** which is funded by the German Federal Agency of Education and Research (BMBF) and headed by Prof. Dr. Daniela Grunow and Yassine Khoudja, PhD**.** The intended starting date is **1st April 2021** and the work contract will be for 33 months with the option for a three months extension conditional on the project funder's approval of an extension application. The salary grade is based on the job characteristics of the collective agreement (TV-G-U) applicable to Goethe University.

Project description
After Europe steadily converged since WW2, the last decade has revealed several serious challenges for a continuing European integration. In light of these developments, this project examines potential polarization and fragmentation trends in the public opinion in Europe. Attitudes towards four key political issues are at the center of the investigation: social inequality, gender relations, migration/cultural diversity and European integration.
Polarization- and fragmentation trends are examined from three analytical perspectives: First, we examine country differences in issue alignments, i.e. how attitudes towards the key political issues are entangled. Second, we compare distributions in political attitudes and their changes over the last decades between and within European countries. Third, we compare the structure of attitudes within individuals to identify political belief systems. The empirical basis for addressing these questions are representative cross-national surveys with repeated cross-sections (e.g. European Social Survey).

Tasks
The tasks of the successful candidate will focus on research concerning the alignment of attitudes towards the four key political issues. Particular attention will be paid to developing theoretical models for differences between Northern and Southern European countries as well as Eastern and Western European countries that will be tested using existing secondary data from international surveys. The work will be conducted in close cooperation with the other project participants.
Although working within a frame of a specific project, the successful candidate will have the possibility to shape the focus and research design of the analysis. The candidate will also be expected to work on their dissertation in the framework of the project. Opportunities for obtaining further qualifications will be provided. Funding for attending national and international conferences is available. A visit as guest researcher to one of our international collaborators is also planned.

Qualifications
Job requirements are an above-average Master's degree in sociology or political science, knowledge of multivariate statistics, experience in the use of statistical software (preferably R or Stata), demonstrated in the master thesis or academic papers, and very good English skills. Background knowledge relating to the topics of the project will be an asset.

Application material should contain a cover letter, a CV, a writing sample (e.g. publication as first author or master thesis), copies of certificates and name and contact information of two references. Please submit your application, stating the **reference number 28/2020,** by **1st February 2021** to the Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences at Goethe University Frankfurt, e-mail: dekanat.fb03-bewerbungen@soz.uni-frankfurt.de. For further questions about the position, you are welcome to contact Yassine Khoudja (khoudja@soz.uni-frankfurt.de).

Goethe University aims to increase the proportion of women in research and teaching and therefore strongly encourages qualified female scientists to apply. Applications from persons with disability will be given preferential consideration if they are equally suitable.