

The project '*AI in Great Power Competition: Comparing Political Narratives Across Chinese, Russian, and U.S. LLMs*' at the Leiden University Institute for History invites applications for a Research Assistant (≈0,25 fte, 12 months).

Project description

Leiden University Institute for History is looking for a research assistant to work on the NWO XS grant '*AI in Great Power Competition: Comparing Political Narratives Across Chinese, Russian, and U.S. LLMs*.'

This project examines how artificial intelligence is emerging as a strategic instrument in great power competition. Focusing on Chinese, Russian, and U.S. large language models (LLMs), it explores how they generate narratives on political issues such as international conflicts, global governance, and human rights.

By analysing variations in responses across languages, user locations, and models' countries of origin, the project assesses whether LLMs reproduce geopolitical narratives and adapt to context. The findings will help better understand the political implications of artificial intelligence and support more transparent and accountable use of these technologies.

The research assistant will assist the PI, Dr. Intigam Mamedov, in coding and analysing the collected data, conducting literature reviews, and contributing to the preparation of research outputs. While a separate student assistant will focus on data collection and management, the research assistant will be involved primarily in analysis and academic writing.

Key responsibilities

- Coding and analysing textual data using qualitative data analysis software (e.g., NVivo, MAXQDA, ATLAS.ti or similar)
- Identifying narratives, frames, and patterns in political discourse
- Conducting literature reviews and synthesis of academic sources
- Assisting with data collection, dataset management, and preparation of dataset documentation
- Contributing to the preparation of research outputs
- Data visualisation and presentation of findings

Selection Criteria

- Strong interest in AI, politics, international relations, or political communication
- Good command of written and spoken English
- Experience with qualitative or mixed-methods research
- Experience working with Microsoft Excel
- Experience with database management
- Familiarity with qualitative data analysis software (e.g., ATLAS.ti, NVivo, or MAXQDA) is an advantage but not required
- Experience with CSV datasets, R or Python is an advantage but not required
- Knowledge of Chinese is a strong asset but not required

- Current MA student, Research Master's student, or graduate in Political Science, International Relations, Linguistics, Communication, Digital Humanities, or a related field.

Conditions of Employment

The appointment (≈0,25 fte or 9.5 hours per week) is for a period of 12 months, starting from **October 1, 2026**. In accordance with the Collective Labour Agreement for Dutch Universities, the gross monthly salary is € 3,141 (MA) or € 3,382 (recent graduate, salary scale 8.0), based on a full-time appointment (38 hours per week); for this part-time position, the salary will be paid pro rata.

Information and application

Applications should be submitted in English to Dr. Intigam Mamedov (i.mamedov@hum.leidenuniv.nl) and include a letter of motivation (approx. 500 words) explaining how the applicant meets the selection criteria and a resume (CV). In the resume it should be clearly stated which software programs the applicant has experience with, and at what level. No letters of recommendation should be added, but instead name(s), affiliation(s) and contact details of 1-2 academic referees should be provided. Referees will be contacted directly should the need arise.

Applications should be submitted **no later than September 1, 2026**.

Please direct all questions and related queries to Dr. Intigam Mamedov (i.mamedov@hum.leidenuniv.nl)