SOCIETY FOR THE NEUROBIOLOGY OF LANGUAGE

Newsletter

May 2024

Join us in Brisbane for SNL 2024!

Brisbane (traditional name, Meanjin) is a modern, sub-tropical capital city with the river at its heart. With almost year-round sunshine, the city and surrounds offer a range of appealing visitor experiences including easy access to the nearby Gold and Sunshine Coasts and to the Great Barrier Reef.

TOURISM & EVENTS Queensland

The State Host Destination

The SNL meeting will convene at the [Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre](#), situated across from the 1.5 hectare [South Bank Parklands](#) precinct with its lagoon beach, the [Queensland Cultural Centre](#) and [Gallery of Modern Art](#) (GOMA).

Brisbane was named by Frommer's guide as one of the best places to go in 2024:
https://www.frommers.com/slideshows/848587-frommer-s-best-places-to-go-in-2024

And by the New York Times as a 'must see' for 2024:
https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2024/travel/places-to-travel-destinations-2024.html

For more information, visit https://www.queensland.com/au/en/places-to-see/destinations/brisbane and https://visit.brisbane.qld.au

Brisbane's Must-Do experiences

Unforgettable memories are made through experiences and Brisbane is home to an abundance of adventures waiting to be discovered. From bridge climbing to island hopping, Brisbane has no shortage of unique experiences, and they just keep

Beaches to Rainforests: Beyond Brisbane City

Delve into Brisbane's beautiful regions. Feast on local produce with food and wine regions abound, hike through tranquil World Heritage-listed

getting better. These are the top new Brisbane experiences to add to your list. Learn more

rainforests or seek out picturesque bayside villages. Learn more

Neurobiology of Language is the open-access journal sponsored by the Society for the Neurobiology of Language and MIT Press. Launched in March 2019, the journal provides a new venue for articles across a range of disciplines addressing the neurobiological basis of speech and language. To learn more about Neurobiology of Language and how to submit articles, go to https://www.mitpressjournals.org/nol.

Job Postings and Announcements

If you have a job posting, general announcement, or conference that you would like to include in the SNL Newsletter, please send it to newsletter@neurolang.org.

Job Postings

University of Jyväskylä, Department of Psychology is currently seeking to recruit A Postdoctoral Researcher in field of cognitive neuroscience, for a fixed-term period of 10/2024–8/2026 (23 months)

The Postdoctoral Researcher will work in project Social foreign language learning: behavioral and electrophysiological studies funded by Research Council of Finland, and as a part of Active Mind research group led by associate professor Piia Astikainen: Active Mind Lab | University of Jyväskylä (jyu.fi).

The research project investigates the effectiveness of methods utilizing social interaction and embodiment in Finnish-speaking adults learning Chinese. Virtual reality (VR) is used in learning situations, and behavioral, electrophysiological (EEG), and psychophysiological measures are used in the study of language learning.

The duties of postdoctoral researcher include research and publication activities. In addition, some teaching, coordination, and supervision of theses are included.

Qualifications we are looking for

The applicants' research profile is expected to correspond to the topic and methods of the project. The applicant is required to have a doctorate in psychology, education, cognitive neuroscience, or a related discipline. They should have previous experience with electrophysiology (EEG). Experience in psychophysiology and/or VR is also considered an advantage.

We value project-relevant methodological skills, the ability to publish scientific articles in cognitive neuroscience journals, and good communication and interaction skills.

The duties, qualification requirements and language skillsof a Postdoctoral Researcher are stipulated bythe University of Jyväskylä Regulations and language skills guidelines. Postdoctoral Researchers are required to have a relevant doctoral degree, the ability for independent scholarly work and the teaching skills required for the position. According to Finnish law, a non-native university teaching and research staff member can be granted an exemption from the requirement of Finnish language proficiency. In this position, the Postdoctoral Researcher is expected to have excellent skills in English language.

The duties of Postdoctoral Researcher are expected to be carried out in Jyväskylä.

What does the University of Jyväskylä offer as an employer?

At the University of Jyväskylä, you are a recognized member of our community with a unique opportunity to influence international research. You get to participate in our international and multidisciplinary community where the wellbeing of each individual is important. At the University of Jyväskylä, we offer a great and lively campus area with opportunities to maintain an active and healthy lifestyle.

Salary is based on level 5 of the job requirement scheme for teaching and research staff in the salary system of Finnish universities. The starting salary will be between 3400-3800 EUR/month depending on the candidate's qualifications and experience. A trial period of six months will be used at the beginning of employment.
To find useful information about the University of Jyväskylä, the City of Jyväskylä and living in Finland, see the University's
International Staff Guide.

How to apply

Please attach following documents to the online application in English as PDF files:

1. A motivation letter showing your match to the discipline and specific position call (free form)
2. Curriculum vitae (CV) which is to be written in accordance with good scientific practice and the followingCV template of TENK
3. A numbered list of scientific publications (i.e., conference papers in proceedings, scientific journal articles, scientific book chapters, etc.)
4. Names and contact information of 1-3 referees

Apply between 10 April 2024 **and** 14 June 2024 23:59 **(Europe/Helsinki) by using the online application form:**
https://urly.fi/3vj8

For further information, please contact Associate Professor Piia Astikainen, phone: +358408053480, email:
piia.astikainen@jyu.fi

Postdoctoral Research Associate, Department of Psychology, University of York (UK)

Project: "Lost For Words: Cognitive Ageing And Language Control In Bilingual Older Adults With And Without Cognitive Impairment"
Contact: Dr. Angela de Bruin, angela.debruin@york.ac.uk
Application deadline: 7 June 2024
Project description
We are looking for a highly motivated postdoctoral research associate to join Dr Angela de Bruin's research group in the Department of Psychology at the University of York. The Research Associate would be working on a project funded by the UKRI Frontier Research Guarantee Funding (for selected ERC starting grants), entitled "Lost For Words: Cognitive Ageing And Language Control In Bilingual Older Adults With And Without Cognitive Impairment". The goal of the project is to understand how bilingual language use and language control (as used, for example, while switching languages) change with ageing. The project combines interviews and focus groups with experimental paradigms looking at cognitive and neural mechanisms involved in bilingual production and comprehension.
The position initially is for 36 months, with the option to extend for another 21 months. The position would start in November 2024.
Role
Based at the University of York, you would lead a longitudinal study on language and ageing, including both younger and older bilingual adults. You would work closely together with Dr Angela de Bruin and other researchers on the project. Your responsibilities include supervising the project manager working on the project, setting up experiments, surveys, and focus groups, testing participants, analysing data, and disseminating the results through publications, conference presentations, and public engagement activities. As part of the project you will also work with clinical partners and people with cognitive impairment.
For more information about the project, including person specification and the application procedure, please see: https://jobs.york.ac.uk/vacancy/research-associate-bilingualism-and-ageing-554221.html

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Postdoctoral Research Associate

University of Edinburgh

We are looking for a postdoctoral research associate for a full-time, fixed-term post for 24 months from July 2024 to work as part of the Edinburgh team on the John Templeton Foundation funded project "Functional Communication, Quality of Life, and Human Flourishing," with Principal Investigator, Dr Dan Mirman.

The focus of your research will be on a mixed methods (qualitative and quantitative) project examining communication strategies in post-stroke aphasia. This project will focus on strategies that people with aphasia use to communicate in real-world settings and will use participatory research principles where the experiences of people with aphasia are a key form of knowledge that will define the research questions and methods.

Looking for candidates with:

- PhD or equivalent degree in Psychology, Speech Science/Communication Disorders, or related discipline (pending assumed complete can be considered).
- Experience in aphasia research, including primary data collection (recruiting and testing participants with aphasia).
- Familiarity with discourse and/or functional communication research in aphasia.
- Experience in qualitative OR quantitative data analysis.
- Experience in disseminating scientific results through presenting at conferences and peer reviewed journal publications.

Applications must be submitted by 30 May 2024. Questions can be directed to Dan Mirman (dan@danmirman.org). More details about the position and application instructions, see are available at
https://elxw.fa.em3.oraclecloud.com/hcmUI/CandidateExperience/en/sites/CX_1001/job/10414

Postdoctoral Position available at the University of Pittsburgh: Neuroimaging of Speech

Applications are invited for a postdoctoral position in the Speech Neural Systems Lab (https://snslab.pitt.edu; PI Jason Bohland) in the Department of Communication Science and Disorders at the University of Pittsburgh (available immediately). The overall goal of this project is to test and refine a neurobiological systems model describing how the brain's motor system interacts with its sensory systems (including via trans-cerebellar circuits) as we plan and produce speech. The project will make extensive use of state-of-the-art ultra-high field (7T) functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI) to precisely characterize these neural systems in individual participants, including neurotypical adults and individuals with cerebellar damage.

This position is NIH funded and available immediately. Responsibilities will vary based on qualifications, experience, and specific interests, but will include involvement in experimental design and implementation of protocols, carrying out sophisticated fMRI data analyses, interpreting results within contemporary theories of (speech) motor control, and preparing manuscripts and presentations.

The candidate will join a vibrant research community with opportunities to connect and collaborate with other researchers in Pittsburgh. The SNS Lab is part of the Brain and Auditory Sciences Research Initiative, a cluster of labs in Pitt CSD with common vision and extensive, shared resources. The candidate will have multiple additional opportunities for mentorship and professional development, including through the Office of Academic Career Development in the Health Sciences, and the joint CMU-Pitt Center for the Neural Basis of Cognition.

Qualifications:
- PhD in neuroscience, psychology, engineering, communication sciences, or a related field
- Demonstrated experience using functional neuroimaging technologies, preferably including fMRI
- Strong quantitative and computational skills
- Strong communication skills
- Ability to work well both independently and in a team

If you are interested in this position and would like further information, please email Dr. Bohland (j.bohland@pitt.edu), including your current CV and a brief statement of interest and availability. Formal applications will additionally require a cover letter and three letters of reference.

Four Research Fellow/Research Assistant Positions Available at University College London, Institute of Cognitive Neuroscience/ Deafness, Cognition and Language Research Centre

Neural basis of language processing - Two Post-Doctoral Research Fellow positions are available to lead projects that will examine how BSL and English are processed in the brain in deaf children (using optically pumped magnetometers – OPMs) and deaf adults (using fMRI). Both posts are offered for 3yrs in the first instance. Full details available here.

The application deadline for the posts investigating the neural basis of language processing is 9th June.

Reading Development - Two research posts are also available to work on projects examining reading development in deaf children. Both will look at the relationships between language skills, both BSL and English, and reading development. One project focusses on young children - 4 to 7 year olds. This is advertised at Post-Doctoral Research Fellow level for 3 yrs in the first instance.   Full details available here.

The second project focusses on older children - 8 to 11 year olds. This is advertised at both a Research Assistant (pre-PhD) and Post-Doctoral Research Fellow level for 21mths in the first instance.   Full details available here.

The application deadline for the posts investigating reading development is 29th May.
Please do get in touch if you have questions about the posts (see Job Adverts for relevant contact details for each post).

Postdoctoral Fellowships Available in the Georgetown University Neuroscience of Language Training Program
https://neurolang.georgetown.edu/

The Neuroscience of Language program provides postdoctoral fellowship training in the brain basis of language, as well as sensory, motor, and cognitive systems as they pertain to language, speech, concept representation and communication. Fellows will conduct research with one or more of our many faculty members focused on Neuroscience of Language research, ranging from basic work on auditory or language processing (spoken, signed, and written language), plasticity and development of language systems, to clinical trials in adults and children with brain injuries affecting language. Interactions with Georgetown's highly regarded Linguistics Department, as well as Children's National Hospital and MedStar National Rehabilitation Hospital, provide us with access to additional faculty and research populations and further enrich the training environment.

Fellows will have an individualized development plan designed to advance their career goals. In addition to conducting research in the broad field of the Neuroscience of Language, fellows will have opportunities to take coursework and participate in a regular journal club and seminar series, clinical experiences, community engagement activities, and professional development activities.
The overall goal of the program is to develop well-rounded scientists who have a broad perspective on basic and clinical Neuroscience of Language research.

Appointments are funded at **standard NIH NRSA** stipend rates, with an initial one-year term, which will be renewed for a second year assuming fellows are in good standing.

Individuals with doctoral degrees from any field related to Neuroscience of Language (Neuroscience, Cognitive Science, Linguistics, Psychology, Communication Science and Disorders, etc.) are encouraged to apply.

U.S. citizens or permanent residents who currently hold a doctoral degree or will have met all doctoral program requirements before enrolling are eligible to apply. Admissions are rolling and applicants are encouraged to inquire about available slots early. Individuals from **groups recognized to be underrepresented in the sciences** are encouraged to apply.

Please submit the following application materials via the **application form**.

- CV
- Personal statement describing career goals, prior research, goals for postdoctoral training, and lab(s) of interest (3 pages)
- Names and contact information for three references
- Writing sample (manuscript or dissertation)

Contact Dr. Peter Turkeltaub (peter.turkeltaub@georgetown.edu) with any questions.

Postdoc position in Cognitive Neuroscience of Language at the University of Potsdam

We offer a three-year postdoc position (with possibility for renewal) at the Cognitive Neuroscience lab at the University of Potsdam (PI Milena Rabovsky). The salary and benefits are determined by the collective bargaining agreement for public employees in Germany (TV-L 13 Ost; 100%). The position would ideally start by September 1, 2024 (but starting date is somewhat flexible).

The University of Potsdam hosts leading groups in cognitive sciences, providing a vibrant interdisciplinary scientific environment (http://www.uni-potsdam.de/en/cognitive-sciences/index.html). The lab receives funding via a DFG Emmy Noether grant ("Combining electrophysiology and deep neural network models in research on language comprehension") and is participating in two Collaborative Research Centers relevant to its research focus, namely SFB 1287 „Limits of variability in language" (https://www.uni-potsdam.de/sfb1287/index.html)
and SFB 1294 „Data assimilation: The seamless integration of models and data" (https://www.sfb1294.de/). Please find more information on the lab here: https://www.uni-potsdam.de/en/cogneuro/index

Potsdam is an attractive historical city and its palaces are a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Furthermore, Potsdam is at close commuting distance to Berlin, a culturally vibrant and progressive city. Both cities have a high quality of life at relatively modest living costs.

Responsibilities
This position is not based on third party funding for a specific project, but is based on funding provided by the university ("Haushaltsstelle"). Responsibilities include conducting research relevant to our lab's research interests (see, e.g., our publications to get an idea of what we are working on: https://www.uni-potsdam.de/en/cogneuro/publications) and teaching.

We offer
- An interesting collaborative scientific environment at the University
- International cooperation and travel support
- Excellent EEG laboratory facilities and computational resources
- Research support by student assistants
- A friendly and open-minded lab research environment

Requirements
- Very good Master and PhD in relevant field (Psychology, Cognitive Sciences, Cognitive Neurosciences, etc.)
- Experience with EEG research
- Excellent computational skills (e.g., MATLAB, Python,…)
- Capacity to work independently
- Excellent writing, communication, and presentation skills (in English)
- Strong interest in several aspects of the lab's research focus, e.g., cognitive neurosciences, language, meaning, prediction, attention, neural network models, etc.
- High motivation and commitment

In addition, the ideal candidate has
- Excellent track record in a relevant field
- Deep learning/ deep neural network modeling skills

The University of Potsdam strives to maintain gender balance among its staff. Severely disabled applicants shall receive preference in case of equal qualifications. We expressly invite applications from people with migration backgrounds.

Please send your application (including letter of motivation, CV, at least 2 names of potential referees, copies of academic certificates) as a single pdf file to Milena Rabovsky at milena.rabovsky@uni-potsdam until June 10 for full consideration (late applications may be considered until the position is filled). Please direct informal inquiries to milena.rabovsky@uni-potsdam.de.

Other

PolyU Presents Lifetime Achievement Award to Two Distinguished Scholars at Inaugural Yuen Ren Chao Prize in Language Sciences

The Hong Kong Polytechnic University (PolyU) is privileged to announce that Prof. Peter HAGOORT, Director of the

Max Planck Institute for Psycholinguistics, and Prof. William Shiyuan WANG, Chair Professor of Language and Cognitive Sciences of PolyU, are bestowed the Lifetime Achievement Award at the inaugural Yuen Ren Chao Prize in Language Sciences (Chao Prize). The Prize Presentation Ceremony was held on 10 May 2024.

The Chao Prize, initiated and hosted by the PolyU Faculty of Humanities, is named after the late Professor Yuen Ren Chao who is widely regarded as the father of modern Chinese language studies. It is an international award that honours scholars and researchers who have made distinguished contributions to language sciences. Read more.

The Chao Prize details are available at: https://www.polyu.edu.hk/en/fh/chao-prize/

Academy of Aphasia 62nd Annual Meeting
Nara, Japan and Virtual (Hybrid)
Friday, October 18 – Sunday, October 20, 2024

ABSTRACT SUBMISSION DEADLINE: **MAY 20, 2024**

The 62nd Annual Meeting of the Academy of Aphasia will be hosted at Nara Kasugano International Forum IRAKA in Nara (Japan). We encourage onsite attendance – **required for platform presenters** – although we also offer the option to participate online via an interactive hybrid platform. On Saturday, October 19, we will hold a reception highlighting traditional Japanese culture (Noh performance) at the conference venue, followed by a welcome party. The Academy welcomes submissions of experimental, clinical, theoretical, and historical research from any field that contributes to the study of aphasia, including Speech-Language Pathology, Psychology, Neurology, Neuroscience, Linguistics, History, and Computational Modeling. To submit an abstract, please check the interactive hybrid platform.

This year's keynote speaker will be Dr. Atsushi Iriki, Senior Researcher of Innovation Design at Riken Research Institute and Research Supervisor of CREST "Multi-Sensing" projects at Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST). Dr Iriki investigates evolutionary precursors to higher cognitive functions based on neurophysiological analyses of non-human primates, as well as studying cognition through functional and structural brain imaging. Dr Iriki is the principal investigator of the project Neurobiological mechanisms of cognitive niche construction.

Now in its seventh year, the NIDCD-funded Academy of Aphasia conference grant (R13 DC017375) will sponsor selected student fellows to attend and present their work at the conference. Fellows will also receive focused mentoring and training from seasoned faculty mentors at the meeting. Both U.S. and international students are eligible to apply; please contact Swathi Kiran (kirans@bu.edu) or Heather Dial (hrdial@central.uh.edu) with inquiries. The grant also sponsors a state-of-the-art *New Frontiers in Aphasia Research* seminar. This year's topic will focus on cortical tracking of speech and language processing, and the speaker will be Dr. Andrea E. Martin of Max Planck Institute for Psycholinguistics in Nijmegen (the Netherlands).

Abstract guidelines

Submission procedures. Abstracts (max. 500 words) must be submitted through the *vFairs* platform (submission link to follow). An individual can submit and participate in more than one abstract, but be listed as first author on only one submission.

Presentation types. This includes *papers* (i.e., platform and poster sessions) consisting of original research that has not yet been published and *symposia* (i.e., 3-4 platform sessions focusing on a common theme) consisting of original or previously published research. *Platform session* presenters will be required to attend and present onsite (in Nara). *Poster session* presenters have the option to present onsite (in Nara) or present in the online poster hall.
Templates. All abstracts should conform to a specified template format (either for platform/poster presentations or symposia). Please use the correct template to be considered for acceptance to the conference program.

Notification of acceptance. The Program Committee will e-mail a decision **by July 31, 2024.**

Visa information for Japan is available on our website. Citizens of many countries are exempt.
Onsite childcare can be arranged with early registration. Email kirans@bu.edu with interest.
Program Committee: Adrià Rofes & Shari Baum (Co-Chairs), Aneta Kielar & Elena Barbieri (Co-Vice Chairs), Rajani Sebastian, Silvia Martínez Ferreiro, Eva Kehayia and Gabriele Miceli.
Local Arrangements Committee: Masaru Mimura (Local Chair), Yutaka Tanaka, Mika Otsuki, Anthony Pak-Hin Kong.

Connect with us to get the latest membership updates and announcements.