

The Leibniz-Zentrum Allgemeine Sprachwissenschaft (ZAS) in Berlin invites applications for the position of a

Doctoral Researcher

(E13 TVöD, 65% part-time) starting September 15, 2022

funded for 3 years by the German Science Foundation (Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft DFG).

The position is offered within the project “On the FLExibility and Stability of gesture-speech coordination: Evidence from multimodal production, comprehension, and imitation (FLESH)” (PIs: [Aleksandra Ćwiek](#), [Susanne Fuchs](#), [Wim Pouw](#)). The project is part of the DFG Priority Programme 2329 “Visual Communication” (<https://vicom.info>).

In this project, we are concerned with why humans communicate using multiple modalities. During speaking, humans perform facial, hand, and sound-producing actions in a highly coordinated manner. What is the nature of this coordination, and how does it relate to meaning generation? The project FLESH addresses these questions to inform our understanding of the evolution of human communication. It is at the intersection of movement science, cognitive science, and linguistics and utilizes methods from different fields.

The project is a team effort, so the candidate must be comfortable working closely with the PIs and collaborative partners. Please note that team communication is held in English.

The candidate should be eager to solve problems and acquire new skills, such as learning to code and reading up on fields of research that the candidate may not have original training in. The project is neither purely theoretical, experimental, nor computational but (eventually) requires skills at the intersection of those modes of inquiry. There is however a focus on performing experimental work, which will require social and organizational skills to work with participants during data collection.

Requirements:

- Interest in motion kinematics and acoustic research of human multimodal communication
- Interest in theoretical issues in the evolution of language
- Basic knowledge of statistics and a coding language (such as R)

- The candidate is required to physically work in Nijmegen at the Donders Center for Cognition, Brain, and Behavior for one year from April 2023
- Proficiency in English
- Basic knowledge of German (or willingness to learn before starting the position)

Preferred skills:

- Knowledge of Python (or MATLAB)
- Knowledge of basic signal processing methods

The application should contain the following documents:

- A motivation letter (maximum one page)
- CV (including two contacts for possible reference)
- A certificate of your MA degree (or equivalent) with a transcript of records
- A scientific piece of work (e.g., thesis, paper)

Please send the application as a single PDF file to Susanne Fuchs, fuchs@leibniz-zas.de

Please write "FLESH PhD application" as the email subject.

Application deadline: August 7, 2022

The ZAS is certified for ensuring family-friendly working conditions by the audit "berufundfamilie" (jobandfamily). The ZAS strives to strengthen gender balance and diversity of staff in all working areas and at all scientific levels. Members of groups traditionally underrepresented in German academic positions as well as in science support positions are particularly encouraged to apply.