



Job Announcement

Young, modern, and research oriented... the University of Potsdam has firmly established itself within the scientific landscape since its founding in 1991. Nationally and internationally renowned scientists teach and perform research here at Brandenburg's largest university. The University of Potsdam is successful in acquiring third-party funds, delivers outstanding performance in technology and knowledge transfer, and has a very service-oriented administration. With about 21,000 students studying at three campuses – Am Neuen Palais, Griebnitzsee and Golm – the University of Potsdam is a prominent economic factor and engine of development for the region. The University of Potsdam has a total of over 3,000 faculty and staff members and is located in one of Germany's most scenic areas.

The **University of Potsdam, Faculty of Human Sciences, Junior Professorship School Pedagogy, with the focus school and teaching development Schulpädagogik** with the project **“Social responsiveness and learning in heterogeneous groups: Effects on human-human and human-robot interaction”** invites applications for the following position **subject to funding commitment:**

Research Assistant (PhD-Candidate) **Requisition No.: 396/2020**

The latest possible start is October 01, 2020. The salary is determined by the collective bargaining agreement for public employees in Germany (TV-L 13 Ost). The position is for 40 hours per week (100 %). This is a temporary position limited to a term of 3 years/36 months in accordance with Section 2 subsection 1 of the Academic Fixed-Term Contract Law (WissZeitVG).

The Universität Potsdam invites applications for a PhD position for the Cluster of Excellence “Science of Intelligence”.

What are the principles of intelligence, shared by all forms of intelligence, no matter whether artificial or biological, whether robot, computer program, human, or animal? And how can we apply these principles to create intelligent technology?

Answering these questions - in an ethically responsible way - is the central scientific objective of the new Cluster of Excellence Science of Intelligence (www.scienceofintelligence.de), where researchers from a large number of analytic and synthetic disciplines - artificial intelligence, machine learning, control, robotics, computer vision, behavioural biology, psychology, educational science, neuroscience, and philosophy - join forces to create a multi-disciplinary research program across universities and research institutes in Berlin. Interdisciplinary research projects have been defined (<https://www.scienceofintelligence.de/research/projects>), which combine analytic and synthetic research and which address key aspects of individual, social, and collective intelligence.

Working field: Social responsiveness and learning in heterogeneous groups: Effects on human-human and human-robot interaction.

This interdisciplinary research projects combines research from educational psychology and computer vision to examine principles of social responsive teaching behaviors in social learning situations. Perceiving and appropriately reacting to social cues facilitate effective knowledge transfer between interaction participants, whether they be humans or humans and an artificial agent such as a robot. The main goal of this project therefore is to develop synthetic systems (robotic teaching assistants) with high-level perceptual capabilities in social learning situations and, in the course of that, synthetic systems that are able to simulate social responsive behaviors.

Responsibilities: Doctoral project “Social responsiveness in human-human and human-robot interaction during learning situations in heterogeneous groups: Providing adaptive learning support through responsive behaviors”

The project focuses on the identification of teaching behaviors that can be labeled as ‘social responsive’ in learning situations. We aim to examine relations between social responsive teaching behaviors and student engagement, emotion, and cognitive performance in Human-Human and Human-Robot interaction. One aim is to better understand behaviors that define social responsive teaching behaviors, to synthesize such behaviors and to examine their relations to learning outcomes. To reach this goal, we apply classroom video observation (CLASS system) and quasi-experimental research to study social interaction in learning situations between humans as well as between humans and robotic teaching assistants.

Requirements:

- Completed academic studies at an institute of higher learning (Diploma/Master’s degree in Psychology) or related sciences
- Expertise:
 - in planning and realizing experimental studies in the field of learning and instruction
 - or*
 - in classroom video observation
- Excellent skills in statistical software (e.g. R, Mplus, SPSS)
- excellent communication skills in English language: both written and spoken

Skills/background in following topics are required:

- Skills in video rating software (e.g., Videograph) is an advantage
- A conscientious work approach, flexibility, good time management, and ability to work in an interdisciplinary team

Application procedure:

Applications should include: motivation letter, curriculum vitae, transcripts of records (for both BSc and MSc), copies of degree certificates (BSc, MSc), abstracts of Bachelor-, Master-thesis, list of publications and one selected manuscript (if applicable), two names of qualified persons who are willing to provide references, and any documents candidates feel may help us assess their competence.

Applicants should send their application materials, by November 20th, 2020 at the latest, either by mail to the University of Potsdam, Juniorprof. Schulpädagogik, Karl-Liebknecht-Straße 24-25, 14476 Potsdam, Germany, or via email to kraegerm@uni-potsdam.de with the subject line, “Job Title – requisition number.”

Potsdam, October 19, 2020