Open PhD position (100%) on Socio-Emotional Processes in Neurodevelopmental Disorders

Department of Special Education, University of Fribourg, Switzerland
Swiss Center for Affective Sciences, University of Geneva, Switzerland

We are looking for a highly motivated and skilled candidate willing to pursue a PhD over a period of four years to focus on a Swiss National Science Foundation funded project that aims at better understanding socio-emotional processes in individuals with and without neurodevelopmental disorders, i.e., Autism Spectrum Disorder and Williams syndrome. Using a multi-method approach including psychophysiology, possibly NIRS, and virtual reality (VR), the PhD student will contribute to developing a battery of tests designed to measure social approach, positive emotion, and emotion regulation and to recruiting participants in German speaking regions. Therefore, besides good English writing skills, the candidate should ideally be able to speak German.

The main lab will be at the Department of Special Education, University of Fribourg, but some activities will also be at the Swiss Center for Affective Sciences, Campus Biotech, University of Geneva. The PhD candidate will be part of the Swiss Doctoral School in Affective Sciences.

The candidate should have knowledge and experience with running experiments, is expected to prepare stimulus material, to program the experiments in eprime/matlab, and to help set up mobile physiological assessments including VR stimulation with collaborators at the CISA, Campus Biotech.

The candidate obtained a Masters degree in Psychology, Neurosciences, Special education or a related field and had at least a grade of 5 (Swiss grade system with 6 as the maximum) in his or her masters. Ideally, the candidate already has some research experience. Good social-communication skills are also necessary since the candidate will conduct assessments with individuals with neurodevelopmental disorders including intellectual disability. Programming experiences (e.g., Matlab, Eprime) would be an advantage. The candidate has a strong interest in conducting research, excellent writing and communication skills and a good command of English and German.

The position is available from September 1, 2018 and applications will be considered as they come and until the position is filled.

Applications must include:
- Motivation letter
- Curriculum Vitae
- Copy of the university marks (grade list)
- 2 reference letters (that should be sent directly to andrea.samson@unige.ch)

For more information on the position, please contact: Prof. Andrea Samson, Swiss Center for Affective Sciences (CISA) – Campus Biotech, University of Geneva & Swiss Distance Learning University, Brig, Switzerland
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