

Postdoctoral researcher for Dutch Research Consortium 'Language in Interaction' (Senior)

Dutch Research Consortium 'Language in Interaction'

Maximum salary: € 5230 gross/month

Vacancy number: 25.01.2022

Application deadline: March 1, 2022, 23:59.00 (CET)



Responsibilities

The Language in Interaction research consortium invites applications for two senior postdoctoral positions. We are looking for highly motivated candidates to enrich a unique consortium of researchers that aims to unravel the neurocognitive mechanisms of language at multiple levels. The goal is to understand both the universality and the variability of the human language faculty from genes to behavior. You will contribute to the integration of empirical research in our consortium and will aid in the coordination of 'Theory of Language' meetings in which cutting edge research is discussed by consortium researchers. You will act in close collaboration with Peter Hagoort, programme director of the consortium. These positions provide the opportunity for conducting world-class research as a member of an interdisciplinary team. Moreover, it will provide the opportunity to contribute to developing a theoretical framework for our understanding of the human language faculty.

Work environment

The Netherlands has an outstanding track record in the language sciences. The research consortium 'Language in Interaction', sponsored by a large grant from the Netherlands Organization for Scientific research (NWO), brings together many of the excellent research groups in the Netherlands with a research program on the foundations of language.

In addition to excellence in the domain of language and related relevant fields of cognition, our consortium provides state-of-the-art research facilities and a research team with ample experience in the complex research methods that will be invoked to address the scientific questions at the highest level of methodological sophistication. These include methods from genetics, neuroimaging, computational modelling, and patient-related research. This consortium realizes both quality and critical mass for studying human language at a scale not easily found anywhere else.

We have identified five Big Questions (BQ) that are central to our understanding of the human language faculty. These questions are interrelated at multiple levels. Teams of researchers will collaborate to collectively address these key questions of our field.

Our five Big Questions are:

BQ1: The nature of the mental lexicon: How to bridge neurobiology and psycholinguistic theory by computational modelling?

BQ2: What are the characteristics and consequences of internal brain organization for language?

BQ3: Creating a shared cognitive space: How is language grounded in and shaped by communicative

settings of interacting people?

BQ4: Variability in language processing and in language learning: Why does the ability to learn language change with age? How can we characterize and map individual language skills in relation to the population distribution?

BQ5: How are other cognitive systems shaped by the presence of a language system in humans?

You will be appointed at one of two participating institutes: The Max Planck Institute for Psycholinguistics in Nijmegen or the Donders Institute for Brain, Cognition and Behaviour (Donders Centre for Cognitive Neuroimaging), also located in Nijmegen. The research is conducted in an international setting at all participating institutions. English is the lingua franca.

What we expect from you

- a PhD in an area related to the neurobiology of language and/or language sciences;
- expertise/interest in theoretical neuroscience and language;
- expertise / interest in theoretical neuroscience and language;
- an integrative mindset;
- a theory-driven approach;
- good communication skills;
- excellent proficiency in written and spoken English.

What we have to offer

The positions will be held at one of the participating institutes (Max Planck Institute Nijmegen or Donders Institute for Brain, Cognition and Behavior at the Donders Centre for Cognitive Neuroimaging).

- Employment: 1,0 fte;
- Employment at the Max Planck Institute or Donders Institute at the Radboud University;
- Starting date June 30th 2022 for a period of maximally 24 months;
- Starting salary will be based on previous work experience;
- Gross salary at the Max Planck Institute will be between € 4187 and € 4911 per month;
- Gross salary at the Radboud University will be between € 3821 and € 5230 per month (salary scale 11);
- In addition to the salary: an 8% holiday allowance;
- Each participating institute has a number of regulations that make it possible for employees to create a good work-life balance.

Other Information

The participating institutes are an equal opportunity employer, committed to building a culturally diverse intellectual community, and as such encourage applications from women and minorities.

Would you like to know more?

Further information on [the Language in Interaction Consortium](#).

For more information about this vacancy, please contact:

Prof. dr. Peter Hagoort, programme director Language in Interaction

E-mail: peter.hagoort@donders.ru.nl

Tel: ++ 31-24-3610648/651

Fax: ++ 31-24-3610652

Are you interested?

Applications can be submitted to Julia Verhoef (secretary of the Language in Interaction consortium; Julia.Verhoef@donders.ru.nl) in electronic form. Your application should include (and be limited to) the following attachments:

- a cover letter;
- your curriculum vitae, including, if applicable, a list of publications and the names of at least two persons who can provide references.

Please apply before March 1, 2022, 23:59.00 (CET).