



Center for Multilingualism in Society Across the Lifespan (MultiLing)

Postdoctoral Fellowship in Early Language Development

Job description

One fully-funded 2-year Postdoctoral Research Fellowship (SKO 1352), financed by a FRIPRO grant from the Research Council of Norway, is available at the Center for Multilingualism in Society across the Lifespan (MultiLing) at the Department of Linguistics and Scandinavian Studies, University of Oslo. The fellowship is connected to one of MultiLing's research projects, which is entitled "The role of parental speech on infant language development: Insights from Norwegian language", led by Dr. Natalia Kartushina, in collaboration with Professor Julien Mayor (Section of Health, Development and Personality Psychology, Department of Psychology, University of Oslo) and Dr. Alejandrina Cristia (CNRS, Laboratoire de Sciences Cognitives et Psycholinguistique, Ecole Normale Supérieure, Paris). A brief description of the project can be found [here](#).

More about the position

The successful applicant will work closely with Natalia Kartushina (project manager) and a PhD student to examine the acoustic properties of infant-directed speech and their role in early language development of Norwegian 6- to 18-month-old infants. In particular, the candidate will be involved in carrying out the acoustic analyses of parental speech and computing a number of traditional measures used to describe infant-directed speech, complemented with the measures aimed to assess the quality and clarity of speech sound production (e.g., sound distinctiveness, category preciseness).

Applicants are expected to present a statement of research, summarizing their scientific work and their research interest, and articulate how they fit into the current project.

MultiLing is a Center of Excellence funded by the Research Council of Norway (2013-2023). MultiLing aims to generate scientific knowledge on multilingualism across the lifespan, related to three themes: Theme 1 Multilingual competence, Theme 2 Multilingual practices, and Theme 3 Multilingualism, ideologies and language policies (for more information, see <http://www.hf.uio.no/multiling/>).

The position is available for a period of two years, starting September-October 2021. The main purpose of postdoctoral research fellowships is to qualify researchers for work in higher academic positions within their disciplines.

Qualification requirements

- The candidate should have a PhD degree or equivalent in Linguistics, Psychology, Language Science, Speech engineering or some other relevant discipline related to the project
- Experience in working on speech sound processing and acoustic analyses (e.g., Praat, Matlab, Audacity)
- Solid background in statistics (e.g., in R)
- Ambitions for high-quality research within the project, as evidenced by the required research statement, explaining the motivation for applying and how own qualifications are suitable for the announced position
- Enthusiasm for the topic
- Excellent oral and written communication skills in English

The following qualifications will be an advantage

- Experience in language development/acquisition research
- Open Science practice
- Experience in coding (e.g., R, Matlab, Python) is a big advantage
- Knowledge of Norwegian (or a Scandinavian language) is a plus

We seek strongly motivated, competent candidates, with excellent qualifications in the relevant area of research. In the assessment of the applications, emphasis will be placed on:

- The applicant's academic and personal qualifications to carry out the project within the allotted time frame
- The quality of the research statement and its relevance for the project
- Personal suitability and motivation for the position
- The applicant's international experience and network
- Good cooperative skills, and the ability to successfully join in academic collaboration within and across disciplines

We offer

- Salary NOK 526 000 - 608 200 per annum depending on qualifications in position as Postdoctoral Fellow (position code 1352)
- The possibility to attend conferences, courses and workshops
- A professionally stimulating working environment
- Attractive welfare benefits and a generous pension agreement, in addition to Oslo's family-friendly environment with its rich opportunities for culture and outdoor activities

How to apply

The application must include:

- Statement of research (statement of motivation, summarizing scientific work and research interest in relation to the project)
- Curriculum Vitae (complete list of education, positions, teaching experience, administrative experience and other qualifying activities, including a complete list of publications)

The application with attachments must be submitted in our electronic recruiting system.

Please note that all documents should be in English.

Publications, MA theses or PhD theses and the like are not to be submitted with the application, but applicants may be asked to submit such information or works at a later date.

The short-listed candidates will be called in for an interview at the University of Oslo or we will arrange for a digital interview. It is expected that the successful candidate will be able to complete the project in the course of the period of employment.

Formal regulations

Please see the [guidelines and regulations](#) for appointments to Postdoctoral fellowships at the University of Oslo.

No one can be appointed for more than one Postdoctoral Fellow period at the University of Oslo.

According to the Norwegian Freedom of Information Act (Offentleglova) information about the applicant may be included in the public applicant list, also in cases where the applicant has requested non-disclosure.

Inclusion and diversity are a strength. The University of Oslo has a personnel policy objective of achieving a balanced gender composition. We also want to have employees with diverse expertise, combinations of subjects, life experience and perspectives. We will make adjustments for employees who require this.

If there are qualified applicants with special needs, gaps in their CVs or immigrant backgrounds, we will invite at least one applicant in each of these groups to an interview.

Contact information

For questions about the position: Project leader [Natalia Kartushina](#)

For questions about MultiLing: Center Director [Elizabeth Lanza](#)

For questions on how to apply: HR-Officer [Steffen Remvik](#)

About the University of Oslo

The University of Oslo is Norway's oldest and highest ranked educational and research institution, with 28 000 students and 7000 employees. With its broad range of academic disciplines and internationally recognised research communities, UiO is an important contributor to society.

Center for Multilingualism in Society across the Lifespan (MultiLing) is a Center of Excellence (CoE) under the Department of Linguistics and Scandinavian Studies at the Faculty of Humanities, financed through the Research Council of Norway's CoE scheme. The center also has status as one of five world-leading research communities at the University of Oslo, and is currently building a socio-cognitive laboratory. MultiLing's vision is to contribute to the knowledge on multilingualism across the lifespan for the individual and for the society. Through this the center aims to shed light on the opportunities and challenges represented by multilingualism for the individual in the family, school, other institutions, and in the society as a whole. The staff consists of 40 employees from 15 different countries. Moreover, MultiLing has an extensive network of national and international collaborative partners working on multilingualism at various research institutions.

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