

The Comparative BioCognition Research Group of the Institute of Cognitive Science invites applications for **1 Research Assistant (Ph.D. student level)**
(Salary level E 13 TV-L, 65 %) to be filled by August 15, 2019 for a period of 3 years.

Description of Responsibilities:

The position involves studying the communicative and social skills of bonobos (*Pan paniscus*) living in the Kokolopori Bonobo Reserve and in the buffer zone of the Salonga National Park (DRC) to participate in the research activities within the EU funded research project "Taking Turns: The 'missing' link in language evolution". The project investigates whether cooperative turn-taking bridges the gap between the communication system of our species and our inarticulate primate cousins and whether pro-social behaviors drove its emergence. The project will address these issues through a comparative investigation of human and nonhuman primates (chimpanzees, bonobos, geladas, common marmosets) to explore the development, production and comprehension of turn-taking via systematic behavioral observations in natural environments and controlled experiments (eye-tracking, pupillometry) in captive settings.

Required Qualifications:

Applicants are expected to have an excellent academic degree (Master/Diploma) in Biology, Evolutionary Anthropology, Psychology, Cognitive Science or related fields and good knowledge of animal behaviour, communication and cognition.

Experience in the following areas is expected:

- Carrying out field observations and collecting systematic data on social living nonhuman primates,
- Salient expertise in conducting statistical analyses using R, LMM's and GLMM's,
- Working and living under harsh conditions in remote areas (preferably Africa).

Successful applicants would speak fluent French, would have excellent written and spoken English skills, be resistant to physical and psychological stress, have strong social skills, enjoy collaborative work and be able to work and live in an intercultural environment. Extensive stays in Africa are expected to collect data on wild living bonobos in the Kokolopori Bonobo Reserve and the Salonga National Park (DRC) in collaboration with Dr. M. Surbeck, Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology (Germany) and Dr. B. Fruth, Liverpool John Moores University (UK).

Osnabrück University has been certified as a family-friendly university committed to helping working/studying parents and carers balance their family and work life.

The university aspires to ensure equal opportunities for men and women and strives to work towards a gender balance in schools or departments where new appointments are made. If equally qualified candidates apply, preference will be given to those with special needs.

Applications with the usual documentation should be submitted by e-mail in a single PDF file to Simone Pika (spika@uos.de) with a cc to office@ikw.uniosnabueck.de no later than July 4, 2019. Further information can be obtained from Simone Pika (spika@uos.de).

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