



Warsaw, 28th February 2024

Neurocognitive Development Lab – Institute of Psychology, Polish Academy of Sciences

Call for Applications for 2x PhD student positions

Project info: We are looking for applications for 2x PhD positions in externally funded research project entitled „ *How do parents facilitate early vocal development of infants? The role of optimising postural stability and locomotor activity during social interactions*” (National Science Centre of Poland, OPUS24, 2022/47/B/HS6/02565).

Our goal is to investigate, how parents support postural stability of their infants and how this facilitates the early development of speech and vocalisations. The project will use existing datasets. It involves longitudinal analyses of postural stability and motor activity of infants during their social interactions with the parent. [Project abstract here.](#)

Lab website: babylab.edu.pl

[Short video about us.](#)

Information on positions: Successful candidates will conduct their doctoral research under the supervision of prof. P. Tomalski (additional external advisors are possible), they will be enrolled as graduate students with the Graduate School for Social Research of the Polish Academy of Sciences (<https://www.gssr.edu.pl>). Stipend in Years 1-3: ca. 5000 PLN/month. Year 4: standard graduate student stipend (currently ca 5340 PLN/ month). Start date: before 1st April 2024 and no later than 1st October 2024.

Location: We offer research-focused full-time PhD training (no teaching commitments) in a successful, interdisciplinary research team based in Warsaw, Poland. We have been active for over 10 years (see: babylab.edu.pl) with a network of excellent international collaborators. Also, we offer:

- personal laptop,
- opportunities for undertaking specialist training abroad and participation in international workshops on research methods and statistical analyses related to the project,
- opportunities for research stays and major conferences, as well as collaboration (including co-supervision) with partners from e.g. the United Kingdom, USA, France and Germany.

Available projects:

Project 1: Automatic analysis of postural stability at 4-12 months of age and its effects on infant vocal production:

- Video-coding and analysis of infant body posture
- Developing measures of postural stability in infancy using wearable motion sensor data,
- Analysis of the effects of postural stability on infant vocal production,



- Supporting the research team in other project activities (coding of video recordings; analysis of infant vocalisations; analysis of infant motor activity; analysis of language outcomes) and helping to organise team meetings,
- Preparing conference presentations, research reports and article manuscripts.

Project 2: Analysis of parental behaviours that affect infant postural stability and their effects on infant vocal production:

- Setting up a behavioural coding scheme (video recordings) for the analysis of parental activity that supports postural stability of the infant during social interactions,
- Analysis of relationships between parental behaviour and developmental changes in vocal production during social interactions,
- Supporting the research team in other project activities (coding of video recordings; analysis of infant vocalisations; analysis of infant motor activity; analysis of language outcomes) and helping to organise team meetings,
- Preparing conference presentations, research reports and article manuscripts.

Requirements. We accept applications from candidates who:

1. on the day they commence graduate studies will hold a Master's degree in psychology, cognitive science, speech and language therapy, neuroinformatics, biomedical physics, biology or related field. Candidates, who do not currently hold a Master's degree may take part in the competition if they will be able to obtain this degree and commence graduate studies by 1st October 2024.
2. have excellent English language skills (in speech and writing)
3. have experience in conducting empirical research (data collection and analysis) in psychology, cognitive science or social sciences (experience in developmental psychology or neurocognitive development will be an advantage)
4. we particularly welcome candidates with programming skills in Matlab/Python/R and/or experience with the analysis of biosignals in those programming environments

How to apply? Candidates should submit the following documents in their application:

1. CV with information on education and research experience, as well as information on potential publications or other achievements that are relevant to the project;
2. Cover letter stating the motivation to become a PhD student in the lab (and indicating preference for Project 1 or 2);
3. Names and contact details (email) of 2 persons that may provide a reference;



4. Scan of their Master's degree diploma or official confirmation of completed degree (if the diploma is not yet available). If the candidate has not completed their Master's degree, then please provide a statement on expected defense/degree completion date.
5. Confirmation of English language skills at B2 level (see information on how to confirm it at: <https://www.gssr.edu.pl/admissions/documents-checklist/>)

Further information can be obtained from the project PI prof. Przemysław Tomalski - ptomalski@psych.pan.pl

Please submit all document via email to 2 addresses: ptomalski@psych.pan.pl (prof. Tomalski) and sekretariat@psych.pan.pl by **20th March 2024 (until 12.00 pm, noon)**. Please entitle your email: „PhD student competition – Tomalski-2023 – First name and surname”.

The competition will involve 2 stages. In the first stage the committee will evaluate submitted documentation and decide on candidates invited to the interview (stage 2). Interviews (online via teleconferencing) will be held on 25th - 27th March 2024. The competition will be concluded by 30th March 2024 and the results will be announced on the IP PAN website (psych.pan.pl).

Please note an additional requirement of the GSSR grad school for candidates who do not hold a degree in psychology – they need to pass an additional exam (date TBA) based on set readings. [List of readings here](#).

Please add the following statement on data protection to your cover letter:

I agree to the processing of personal data provided in this document for realising the recruitment process pursuant to the Personal Data Protection Act of 10 May 2018 (Journal of Laws 2018, item 1000) and in agreement with Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 April 2016 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data, and repealing Directive 95/46/EC (General Data Protection Regulation).

Data protection clauses (in Polish). Administratorem Pani/a danych osobowych jest Instytut Psychologii Polskiej Akademii Nauk z siedzibą w Warszawie (00-378) przy ul. Jaracza 1. W sprawach związanych z Pani/a danymi proszę kontaktować się z Inspektorem Ochrony Danych, adres e-mail; sekretariat@psych.pan.pl. Dane osobowe przetwarzane są w celu rekrutacji na stanowisko określone w ogłoszeniu prowadzonej przez Instytut Psychologii PAN, na podstawie art. 6 ust. 1 lit. a i b RODO. Dane będą przechowywane w czasie niezbędnym do zrealizowania rekrutacji, maksymalnie przez okres do 30. września 2023. Osobie, której dane dotyczą przysługuje prawo dostępu do swoich danych, ich sprostowania, usunięcia, ograniczenia przetwarzania, wniesienia sprzeciwu wobec ich przetwarzania, prawo do przenoszenia danych, a także prawo wniesienia skargi do organu nadzorczego. Podanie danych jest dobrowolne, ale niezbędne do realizacji wskazanego celu. Dane osobowe nie będą przekazywane do państwa trzeciego. Pozyskane dane osobowe przekazywane będą tylko organom lub podmiotom publicznym uprawnionym do uzyskania danych na podstawie obowiązujących przepisów.

