

The multimodal discourse organization of dance: a theoretical and empirical study (2 fixed-term positions)

We are seeking candidates to fill two fixed-term positions (0.65 and 1.0 full-time) as researchers at the University of Bremen, beginning 1.4.2021 and running for 2 years, payment according to the regular German TVL-13 tariff (official job announcement numbers: A18/21, A19/21). Please note that for all legal issues, it is the German versions of these announcements that are binding.

The positions to be filled are anchored in the field of multimodality research in the group of Prof. John Bateman at Bremen. The successful candidates will work in a third party funded research project on the development of a multimodal discourse semantics of communicative movement, especially dance. The project is situated in the Bremen research group on multimodality in language and media, which has an excellent international network. The group maintains numerous contacts with relevant research institutions all over the world. Cooperative work at home and abroad on a diversity of questions on language- and media-relevant multimodality is a central concern for us. Research in Bremen focuses primarily on the development of a general theory of multimodality and its empirical foundations.

The particular work of the successful candidates will include empirical studies and theory building in collaboration with our partner in the UK (Dr Arianna Maiorani, University of Loughborough). The overall project aims at elaborating an empirically well-founded discourse semantics of classical ballet that could support a form of multimodal translation between movements and natural language. Recordings (including 3D body-tracking) of dance sequences specifically designed for the project will form the primary data.

The task for the positions in detail are:

- Collaboration in the third-party funded project "Kinesemiotics";
- Carrying out and evaluating empirical studies on dance in collaboration with the British cooperation partners;
- Participation in the preparation of project reports and the organisation of project meetings;
- Organising lectures, colloquia and other academic and public events to present the project results;
- Contributing to the development of international research contacts;
- Contributing to the publication of project results.

Recruitment requirements:

- Above-average qualifications (at masters or doctorate level) in the intersection of multimodal linguistics, empirical methods (corpus-related and/or experimental), semiotics, media communication, text linguistics and/or discourse linguistics.
- Above-average performance in the field of scientific publications and international conferences,
- knowledge concerning the application of linguistic models, especially functional as well as formal discourse semantics, to visual and new media (such as film, comics, websites, computer games) or the willingness to develop a research focus in these contexts,
- excellent language skills (written as well as oral) in English and German (at least level C1 - Common Framework of Reference for Languages - CEFR),

- Experience with dance and/or other forms of body-based communication as well as experience in empirical methods such as eye-tracking would be advantageous.

For any questions concerning the projects and conditions of employment, please contact John Bateman (bateman@uni-bremen.de). Applications, including CV and short statement of interest, should be sent directly (in electronic form) to Ms Sonja Kettler (skettler@uni-bremen.de) by 15. February 2021, noting the official position numbers given above.