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School of Psychology
Postdoctoral Research Fellow
Full time, Fixed term for 3 years
Salary range: starting at £32,004 and rising to £38,183 per annum
Expected start date 01/03/2017

Applications are invited for a 3 year Postdoctoral Research Fellow to work with Dr David Reby on a BBSRC funded project studying "How dogs hear us: human voice perception by domestic dogs". The research will involve preparing, conducting and publishing the results of behavioural experiments investigating how dogs perceive and respond to the different components of human vocal signals. The research work will involve testing privately owned domestic dogs, as well as shelter, police or assistance dogs. It is expected that the successful applicant will have a strong theoretical and practical background in animal behaviour and animal cognition and be competent and comfortable working with domestic dogs. Excellent interpersonal skills to liaise with dog owners or trainers are essential and experience in the areas of bioacoustics and/or speech sciences is a distinct advantage.

Informal enquiries may be made to David Reby (reby@sussex.ac.uk). Further information about the School of Psychology can be found at www.sussex.ac.uk/psychology, and an overview of PI's research activity is available at https://www.researchgate.net/profile/David_Reby

Closing date for applications: 7 November 2016

For full details and how to apply see www.sussex.ac.uk/jobs

The University of Sussex is committed to equality of opportunity

Senior leadership and management

The Vice-Chancellor (Professor Adam Tickell) is the senior academic officer and, as Chief Executive, is responsible to the University Council for management of the University. He is supported by an executive group which includes the three Pro-Vice-Chancellors, the Registrar and Secretary, the Director of Finance and the Director of Human Resources. The Heads of the Schools of Studies at Sussex report to the Pro-Vice-Chancellors.

The Registrar and Secretary heads the Professional Services of the University. In addition, under the University Statutes, the Registrar and Secretary is Secretary to the University Council. The Director of Finance reports to the Vice-Chancellor. The Director of ITS reports to the Registrar and Secretary, and the Librarian reports to one of the Pro-Vice-Chancellors.

The School of Psychology at the University of Sussex comprises over 50 academic staff and over 80 research students, and has received over £14M in grant income in the last 5 years. The School provides a high quality and vibrant research environment for both staff and for research students, with its strong emphasis on multidisciplinary collaborations and an outstanding international reputation. Sussex’s Psychology submission achieved an outstanding REF 2014 result: ranked 10th out of 82 Psychology schools and departments in the UK.
4. Job Description

CORE JOB DESCRIPTION

Job Title: Research Fellow
Grade: Research Fellow I, Grade 7
School: Psychology
Location: Pevensey 1
Responsible to: Principal Investigator through to Head of School
Direct reports: n/a
Key contacts: Members of research group, members of faculty within the School and University.

Role description: Research Fellow I is an early career-grade research position. Post-holders will be expected to contribute to the work of the research team, and also to develop their research skills with support from more experienced members of staff.

PRINCIPAL ACCOUNTABILITIES

1. To engage in individual and/or collaborative research activity resulting in high-quality publications; and to develop research funding and knowledge exchange income individually or in collaboration with others, as appropriate, depending on the size and scope of the bid.

2. To contribute to School teaching activities if required.
KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Research, Scholarship & Enterprise

1.1 Develop research objectives and proposals for own or joint research, at acceptable levels, with assistance if required.

1.2 Conduct research projects individually and in collaboration with others.

1.3 Analyse and interpret research findings and draw conclusions on the outcomes.

1.4 Produce high-quality research outputs for publication in monographs or recognised high-quality journals, or performance/exhibition, as appropriate, and contribute to the School’s REF submission at acceptable levels of volume and academic excellence.

1.5 Contribute to the preparation of proposals and applications to external bodies, for example for funding purposes.

1.6 Individually or with colleagues, explore opportunities for enterprise activity, knowledge exchange income and/or consultancy, where permissible.

1.7 Build internal contacts and participate in internal networks and relevant external networks in order to form relationships and collaborations.

1.8 Continually update knowledge and understanding in field or specialism, and engage in continuous professional development.

2. Teaching & Student Support

2.1 Undertake teaching duties, if required.

2.2 Assist in the assessment of student knowledge and supervision of student projects if required.

2.3 Assist in the development of student research skills, for example as part of a postgraduate supervision team.

3. Contribution to School & University

3.1 Attend and contribute to relevant School and project meetings.

3.2 Undertake additional duties, as required by the Principal Investigator and/or Head of School.
4. **Role-specific duties**

4.1 Recruiting privately owned domestic dogs, as well as shelter, police or assistance dogs.
4.2 Preparing acoustic (natural and synthesised) stimuli for playback experiments to domestic dogs.
4.3 Conducting behavioural (playback) experiments investigating how dogs perceive and respond to the different components of human vocal signals (on campus and off campus).
4.4 Analysing behavioural responses of domestic dogs.
4.5 Managing datasets.
4.6 Conducting statistical analyses.
4.7 Disseminating results to non-academic beneficiaries.
4.8 Adhering to ethical standards.

This Job Description sets out current duties of the post that may vary from time to time without changing the general character of the post or level of responsibility entailed.

**INDICATIVE PERFORMANCE CRITERIA**

- A PhD or equivalent scholarly or relevant professional activity
- Pursuing a line of independent research within a research group.
- Publishing research (either from a recently completed PhD or new original research).
- Other forms of externally recognised professional practice of creative output of a standing equivalent to regular publication of original research.
- Initiating, developing or participating in links between the University and external bodies such as business and industry, the professions, community organisations and policy-makers.
- Evidence of successful engagement in teaching or supervision.

**PERSON SPECIFICATION**

**ESSENTIAL CRITERIA**

1. Normally educated to doctoral level, or other equivalent qualification, or appropriate level of experience, as appropriate to the discipline (see role-specific criteria below).

2. Evidence of engagement in high-quality research activity.
3. Excellent presentation skills, with the ability to communicate effectively, both orally and in writing, with students, colleagues and external audiences.

4. Ability to work individually on own initiative and without close supervision, and as part of a team.

5. Ability to exercise a degree of innovation and creative problem-solving.

6. Excellent organisational and administrative skills.

7. Ability to prioritise and meet deadlines.

8. Excellent IT skills.

**ESSENTIAL ROLE-SPECIFIC CRITERIA**

1. Ability to work with domestic dogs
2. Ability to conduct acoustic recordings and analyses
3. Ability to conduct systematic behavioural experiments
4. Ability to manage and analyse quantitative data sets
5. Knowledge of literature on animal behaviour
6. PhD in Psychology or the Biological Sciences with a significant research component in animal behaviour.
7. Driving license valid in the UK and willingness to travel in local area
8. Excellent interpersonal skills

**DESIRABLE CRITERIA**

1. Emerging track record of high-quality publications in reputable journals and other appropriate media of similar standing.

2. Experience of generating research or knowledge exchange income.

3. Experience of conducting behavioural research on companion animals

4. Experience of conducting research on vocal communication

5. Knowledge of literature on speech production, acoustics and perception

6. PhD in Psychology or the Biological Sciences with a significant research component in companion animal behaviour and human-animal interactions or speech sciences.