Post Title: Research Fellow in Cognitive Neuroscience
School/department: Engineering and Informatics, Sackler Centre for Consciousness Science
Hours: Full time or part time hours considered up to a maximum of 1.0 FTE
Requests for flexible working options will be considered (subject to business need).
Contract: The contract is fixed term for 15 months until 31 March 2023. However, it is our intention to seek funding to continue this project beyond 2022, and if this is successful, the contract may be extended.
Reference: 6685
Salary: starting at £34,304 to £40,927 per annum, pro rata if part time
Placed on: 8 November 2021
Closing date: 1 December 2021. Applications must be received by midnight of the closing date.
Expected start date: As soon as possible

This advert was recently posted on 01 October 2021 – Previous Applicants need not apply.

The Sackler Centre for Consciousness Science is seeking applications from a highly motivated post-doctoral research scientist to join Dreamachine - a ground-breaking new creative programme commissioned for UNBOXED, a collection of large-scale public engagement projects taking place across the UK next year.
http://www.unboxed2022.uk
www.dreamachine.world

With a strong background in cognitive neuroscience or a similar discipline, programming and data management, you will work as part of a multidisciplinary team, including members of the Sackler Centre and collaborators at the University of Glasgow, to develop an interactive suite of online experiments investigating individual differences in perception. This project has the potential to engage millions of people within the U.K.

Since 2010, The Sackler Centre for Consciousness Science has pioneered the multidisciplinary study of the biological basis of conscious experience. The Centre bridges four Schools at the University of Sussex: Informatics and Engineering, Psychology, Philosophy, and Brighton and Sussex Medical School (BSMS) and is internationally renowned as a beacon of excellence for consciousness science, its clinical application, and engagement and outreach within and beyond academia.

Please contact Dr. D. Schwartzman: D.Schwartzman@sussex.ac.uk for informal enquiries.

The University is committed to equality and valuing diversity, and applications are particularly welcomed from women and black and minority ethnic candidates, who are under-represented in academic posts in Science, Technology, Engineering, Medicine and Mathematics (STEmM) at Sussex.

Please note that this position may be subject to ATAS clearance if you require visa.
sponsoring. For full details and how to apply see our vacancies page.

The University of Sussex values the diversity of its staff and students and we welcome applicants from all backgrounds.

2. The School / Division

Please find further information regarding the school/division at http://www.sussex.ac.uk/sackler/

3. Job Description

Job Description for the post of: Research Fellow in Cognitive Neuroscience

Department: Engineering and Informatics
Section/Unit/School: Sackler Centre, Informatics
Location: Chichester 1
Grade: 7.1
Responsible to: Prof. Anil Seth (Co-Director) and Dr. David Schwartzman (Lab Manager)
Responsible for: n/a

Role Description
The successful candidate will join the scientific team at Sussex led by Prof. Anil Seth and Dr. David Schwartzman, with close collaborative links with Prof. Fiona Macpherson at Glasgow University. The candidate will also be part of the wider Dreamachine team (www.dreamachine.world), which includes Turner Prize-winning artists Assemble, Grammy-nominated composer Jon Hopkins, along with a sound designer, digital producer, a technologist and a director. Together we are developing a live experience that promises to be a once-in-a-lifetime immersive experience exploring the wonder of the human mind through architecture, neuroscience, technology, light and sound.

Alongside the live experience, audiences across the UK will be invited to take part as active co-collaborators in one of the largest scientific research studies on perception ever undertaken that will investigate individual differences in perceptual diversity. As part of this project, you will take a leading role in the development, deployment and analysis of an interactive digital platform that will shed new light on the diversity of the nation’s inner worlds.

The successful candidate will have:

- a strong programming and data management background, ideally with experience of developing and deploying online experiments.
- a prior strong academic background in cognitive neuroscience or a similar discipline.
- experience of research examining individual differences in perceptual abilities.
- knowledge of statistical methods for the cognitive neurosciences.
- a strong interest in the neuroscience of consciousness and philosophy of perception.

4. 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. Experience of designing, developing/programming, and deploying online experiments and/or surveys.

2. Experience of research in visual psychophysics, ideally examining individual differences in perceptual abilities.

3. Advanced knowledge of statistical methods for the cognitive neurosciences.

4. Ability to work to deadlines imposed by the larger remit of the project.

DESIRABLE CRITERIA

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

2. Experience of contributing to art-science and/or public engagement projects.

3. Experience of designing, running and analysing experiments examining subjective reports, for example visual imagery.
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 Conceptualise and conduct experimental studies that investigate perceptual diversity across large population samples.
4.2 Collect data in various experiments in a variety of experimental contexts including, but not limited to, behavioural and online experiments.

4.3 Manage data storage, data protection (GDPR) and annotation.

4.4 Prepare and manage relevant ethics applications.

4.5 Carry out analysis of collected data using both off-the-shelf and custom-designed software packages.

4.6 Prepare, in collaboration with the Principal Investigators and other group members, manuscripts for publication describing the research conducted.

4.7 Prepare, in collaboration with the Principal Investigators and other group members, reports and other documentation as required for the UNBOXED project.

4.8 Carry out the above duties in the context of tight timelines and deadlines associated with the project, and in full collaboration with Glasgow University.

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, arts organisation and the cultural sector, the professions, community organisations and policy-makers.
- Evidence of successful engagement in teaching or supervision.