

The Max Planck Institute for Human Cognitive and Brain Sciences in Leipzig, Germany,
Department of Social Neuroscience led by Prof. Tania Singer
invites applications for a

Postdoctoral Position in Developmental Psychology and Neuroscience (Ref # 2015-1).

The position is part of an interdisciplinary social neuroscience department investigating the foundations of human social behavior, and more specifically the neural, developmental, hormonal mechanism underlying social cognition, social decision making, and social emotions such as compassion and empathy and their plasticity.

The successful candidate will be primarily involved in the conductance and analyses of behavioral and MRI data with children and adolescents regarding the question of plasticity of the social brain and behavior.

More specifically, the position will focus on performing intervention programs in schools and in the lab to investigate trainability of social emotions and social cognition as well as social decision making and cooperation in children and adolescents. The research will be inspired by contemplative approaches and the ongoing *ReSource* Project performed in adults at the Department of Social Neuroscience (www.resource-project.org) and use a multi-method approach including a variation of behavioral-, hormonal, MRI, and autonomic measures.

Job description and requirements

- Research interest and experience in the human development of socio-affective and socio-cognitive skills, social decision making and cooperation, plasticity as well as cognitive control and emotion regulation.
- Perform intervention research in the lab and in classroom environments in Berlin and Leipzig.
- Usage and analyses of a wide range of methods such as structural and functional MRI, behavioral testing as well as hormonal analyses (e.g., cortisol).
- Interest for contemplative approaches around secular training programs focusing on mindfulness, compassion, attention, and perspective taking on self and others (see the *ReSource* Project).
- Interdisciplinary collaboration within the group in the social neuroscience department with experts in social- and affective neurosciences (including DTI, resting state, cortical thickness and functional fMRI), behavioral psychology (including social cognition, game theory, cognitive functioning etc.) and bio-psychology (including TSST, diurnal cortisol profiles)

The successful candidate has finished their PhD and may already have held a postdoctoral position, and they show evidence of high scholarly promise in the form of publications and other academic achievements. He/she has expertise in developmental psychology and has experience MRI, behavioral psychology, and possibly also with game-theoretical paradigms.

The Max Planck Institute (<http://www.cbs.mpg.de>) offers an international research environment, with English being the language spoken in the laboratory. It offers an excellent infrastructure (e.g., three human 3T and one 7T MRI, rt-fMRI, TMS/tDCS, MEG, behavioral laboratory, stress laboratory, etc.). The department also has additional behavioral laboratory space in Berlin, which is located just an hour by train to the north of Leipzig.

For further details, see <http://www.cbs.mpg.de/depts/singer/vacant> or contact Prof. Dr. Tania Singer (singer@cbs.mpg.de).

Applications (including a CV, list of publications, statement of research interests, and contact information of 3 referees) should be sent as a single PDF file, with your name as the file name, to Tania Singer (singer@cbs.mpg.de) and Sandra Zurborg (zurborg@cbs.mpg.de). Review of applications will continue until the position is filled. Shortlisted candidates will be invited to the MPI in Leipzig, Germany.

The Max Planck Society is an equal opportunity employer and explicitly encourages women and handicapped individuals to apply.

Contact

Prof. Dr Tania Singer

singer@cbs.mpg.de

Sandra Zurborg, PhD

zurborg@cbs.mpg.de Tel.: +49 341 9940-2561

Max Planck Institute for Human Cognitive and Brain Sciences
Stephanstrasse 1a, 04103 Leipzig, Germany

<http://www.cbs.mpg.de/singer>