

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 Human Brain Plasticity with focus on
Diffusion Tensor Imaging, Resting State, and Cortical Thickness Analyses (Ref # 2015-2).**

The position is part of an interdisciplinary department for social neuroscience investigating the foundations of human social behavior, and more specifically the neural, developmental, hormonal mechanisms 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 analyses of DTI, resting state, and structural MRI brain data obtained during a large-scale one-year longitudinal mental training study, the *ReSource* Project (www.resource-project.org). The *ReSource* Project investigates the effects of attentional, affective, and cognitive mental training on different functional and structural brain networks, stress- and health-related markers, subjective well-being as well as social and cognitive functioning and behavior. In this multi-method and interdisciplinary study, more than 90 measures have been assessed in more than 300 participants over four measurement time points.

Job description and requirements

- Research interest in longitudinal structural and functional brain changes after mental training with a focus on DTI, cortical thickness, and resting state analyses
- Interest in contemplative secular training programs such as the *ReSource* Project (www.resource-project.org)
- Interest in interdisciplinary collaboration with other researchers working in the context of the *ReSource* Project in the social neuroscience department on measures including functional fMRI tasks on pain, empathy, Theory of Mind, emotion regulation and attention, behavioral paradigms from psychology (including social cognition, game theory, cognitive functioning etc.) and bio-psychology (including TSST, diurnal cortisol profiles, immune markers, etc.).

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 structural brain analyses (preferentially cortical thickness analyses), graph-theoretical network modeling, resting state analyses, DTI, MATLAB, FSL, and other relevant methodological tools.

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

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