Leibniz Gemeinschaft

Leibniz-Zentrum Allgemeine Sprachwissenschaft

PhD position in project THEVHY

The Leibniz-Centre General Linguistics (ZAS) invites applications for a PhD research position in the project THEVHY within the DFG priority program 2573 *Re:DIS* (Rethinking Disinformation) for a period of 3 years and a percentage of 65% (25.35 h/week) in payment group E13 according to TVÖD-Bund starting between 01.12.2026 and 01.4.2027. The project PIs are Dr. Takanobu Nakamura and Prof. Dr. Uli Sauerland.

The Leibniz-Centre General Linguistics (ZAS) and the GWZ

The Leibniz-Centre General Linguistics (ZAS) is a non-university research institute of the state of Berlin, which is jointly funded by the federal and state governments; it is administered by the association Geisteswissenschaftliche Zentren Berlin e.V. (GWZ). At the ZAS, the human capacity for language and its expression through individual languages is explored. The aim is to gain a better understanding of this central human ability and its biological, cognitive and social factors. By exploring the structures of language, how they are acquired, and how they are processed, this knowledge can be applied to fields such as speech diagnostics or speech technology. The GWZ - Geisteswissenschaftliche Zentren Berlin e.V. is an association of three renowned research institutions of the Leibniz Association. The GWZ includes the Leibniz-Centre General Linguistics (ZAS), the Leibniz Center for Literary and Cultural Research (ZfL) and the Leibniz Zentrum Moderner Orient (ZMO).

Job description

The project overall seeks to determine grammatical properties of epistemic and evidential expressions of five Indo-European languages, Turkish and Japanese. The PhD candidate will focus on a subset of these languages and carry out suitable experiments (esp. internet-based comprehension and production studies) and text-based analyses (esp. translation mining) and contribute to integrating and publishing the results. A dissertation project related to the project will be supported. The project is hosted in the research-intensive environment of the Semantics-Pragmatics Department of the ZAS.

Your tasks

- Design and carry out internet-based data-collection experiments
- Analyze collected data linguistically and statistically
- Discuss project progress with the project team in regular meetings
- Supervise the project undergraduate student assistant during joint work
- Prepare research publications, chapters, summaries, and reports

- Participate and actively contribute to the Re:DIS program and its annual meetings
- Disseminate findings in the scientific community and the media

Your profile

- M.A. in linguistics or a related field
- Interest in and extendable knowledge of linguistic theory and computational linguistics
- Desire to specialize in formal and cross-linguistic semantics research
- Foundations in programming and statistical languages such as Python and/or R
- Organized and self-motivated professional
- Strong communication, team work and writing skills

What you can expect

- A varied job in a leading research institution
- Active, professional thesis supervision by experienced researchers
- A modern, well-equipped workplace in a new building in Berlin-Wilmersdorf (next to U-Bahnhof Spichernstraße)
- Self-organized work in an international team
- Room for personal initiative and professional development opportunities
- Embedding within the priority program Re:DIS with access to training resources and support networks across Germany
- Remuneration in accordance with the collective agreement for the public service (TVöD Bund), including the usual benefits (30 vacation days, plus the option of VBLU, subsidised company ticket)
- Financial support for conference and training school participation
- An attractive working environment with friendly colleagues in an internationally networked organization and a committed, helpful team with a wide range of training opportunities.

If you are interested, please send your application documents (cover letter, curriculum vitae, certificates and proof of academic degrees/grades) as a PDF by 20.10.2026 to Uli Sauerland (sauerland@leibniz-zas.de).

The application for the position requires the consent of the purpose-related storage / processing of personal data (Art. 13 GDPR) for the selection of applicants (https://www.gwz-berlin.de/kontakt/datenschutz/).

The ZAS is certified for ensuring family-friendly working conditions by the audit workandfamily (berufundfamilie)". The ZAS strives to strengthen gender balance and diversity of staff in all working areas and at all scientific levels. Members of groups traditionally underrepresented in German academic positions as well as in science support positions are particularly encouraged to apply. We particularly welcome applications from people with disabilities.

In addition, the ZAS strives to implement the principles of Open Science.