Z A S —— Pariser Straße 1 — 10719 Berlin

Call for

Postdoc (m/w/d) in Sociophonetics, Language Variation and Sound Change in full time für 2 years (plus a 1 year extension subject to approval)

Leibniz-Zentrum
Allgemeine Sprachwissenschaft

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Announcement of a

Postdoctoral Position (m/f/d) in Sociophonetics, Language Variation, and Sound Change

in the PLAPPER Project at the Leibniz-Centre General Linguistics in Berlin

The Leibniz-Centre General Linguistics (ZAS) is one of three non-university research institutes of the Leibniz Association in Berlin (located in Wilmersdorf [U-Bahn Spichernstraße]) under the joint umbrella of the Center of Humanities Berlin (GWZ). ZAS currently has around 60 employees and is funded by federal and state funds as well as third-party grants.

For the analysis of speech and perception data, the externally funded project supported by the Leibniz Association on the topic *Empirical insights into the interaction between socioeconomic status, demographic factors, and linguistic variation* is seeking a full-time postdoctoral researcher in experimental linguistics/(socio-)phonetics with programming skills (R/Praat/Matlab) and experience in statistical analysis and modeling of language and perception data.

The postdoc position is part of the interdisciplinary research project PLAPPER, which integrates linguistic, sociodemographic, and economic data. The position is based at the Leibniz Centre General Linguistics (ZAS) and closely networked with partners at the German Institute for Economic Research (DIW Berlin) and Friedrich Schiller University Jena.

The focus of the position is on investigating sociodemographic factors that promote or inhibit sound change, analyzing large-scale linguistic and panel data (PLAPPER + Socio-Economic Panel), and contributing to data integration and infrastructure development. In addition, further development of automated procedures for data processing and annotation is desirable. Co-organization of workshops and academic events is also expected. Close collaboration with project leaders and doctoral researchers at DIW and FSU Jena, as well as with national and international project partners, is explicitly encouraged. Very good written and spoken English is

essential for publications in relevant peer-reviewed international journals and for presentations at international conferences.

Qualifications:
Required qualifications include a completed PhD in experimental linguistics (especially phonetics, sociolinguistics) or a related discipline with a strong linguistic focus, solid knowledge of acoustic phonetics or sociophonetics, good knowledge of German and quantitative data analysis and statistical modeling in R (multivariate methods such as PCA, regressions), and ideally experience with large datasets (corpus/panel data) and relevant software (R, Python, Praat). A high capacity for independent scientific work, strong interdisciplinary collaboration skills, organizational competence, communication skills, and general teamwork ability are also desired.

The position is located in ZAS's Research Area 1: *Laboratory Phonology* and is initially limited to 24 months, full-time (39 hours/week, German public service pay scale TVöD Bund E13). There is the possibility of a one-year extension subject to approval by the Leibniz Association. The position is intended to start on February 1, 2027. The place of work is Berlin. We offer participation in a highly innovative, interdisciplinary project at the interface of linguistics, economics, and social sciences, close networking with national and international experts, and the opportunity to develop a profile in data-driven, combined linguistic and social research.

Application deadline: October 26th, 2026, 6 pm Berlin Time

If you are interested, please send us an email with your application documents (cover letter, CV, proof of qualifications) as a single PDF to:

jannedy@leibniz-zas.de

ZAS is certified under the "berufundfamilie" audit for providing family-friendly working conditions. ZAS strives to strengthen gender balance and diversity of staff in all areas and at all academic levels. Individuals from groups traditionally underrepresented in German academic and science-supporting positions are particularly encouraged to apply. We particularly welcome applications from people with disabilities.