Programming and Linguistics Research Opportunity

The Interdisciplinary Affective Science Laboratory is looking for someone with programming experience who can help us develop a custom GUI to collect experimental data on word similarity.

In our experiment, we present participants with a number of linguistic stimuli (words or 2-to-3 word phrases), and ask them to arrange the stimuli based on their meaning: those that are more similar in meaning should be closer together, those that are less similar in meaning should be further apart. We collect the pairwise distances between all the stimuli to create a dissimilarity matrix. There is no time limit and there are no correct or incorrect responses.

We need a program in which we can easily specify per participant a) the number of stimuli, b) the stimulus list, and c) the location of the stimuli (i.e., randomly assign them to predefined areas on the screen). Participants should be able to drag and drop each stimulus as many times as they need; ideally, they would also be able to select and move multiple stimuli at the same time. After participants indicate they have finished their arrangement, the program should generate the list of pairwise distances (e.g., to a .csv file) as well as a screen capture of the final arrangement (e.g., to a .jpg file).

This project is for an ongoing study and as such has some urgency to it. Though we cannot offer monetary compensation for your time, you'll have the opportunity to collaborate with researchers in a world-class affective science laboratory, and you would receive acknowledgements for your contributions on any resulting papers or presentations of the data collected using the task. We are also open to discussing additional opportunities for collaboration within the lab.

If you are interested or have additional questions, please do not hesitate to contact Katie Hoemann, the graduate student in charge of this task, at khoemann@gmail.com.