

The research groups of

Dr. Yulia Oganian ([Human Verbal Communication Laboratory](#), Tübingen) and

Prof. Dr. Christoph Korn ([Decision Neuroscience of Human Interactions](#), Heidelberg)
invite applications for

2 PhD positions (65 % TVL-13)

with a starting date in April 2024.

The positions are part of the collaborative project [“Neutral by Choice”](#) on neurocognitive and philosophical models for states of indecision in [perceptual decision making \(PhD1\)](#) and [social interactions \(PhD2\)](#). The individuals working on this project will be responsible for experimental design, data collection, analysis, and dissemination of research outcomes, with opportunities to develop an individual research profile. As part of this project, newly funded by the [Heidelberg Academy of Sciences](#), the candidates will closely interact with both research groups as well as with Dr. [Verena Wagner](#) (Philosophy Department, University Konstanz).

We seek highly motivated candidates that are passionate about interdisciplinary research into human cognition, aim to develop their theoretical thinking as well as their data analytic abilities, and strive to conduct rigorous research. Candidates should bring with them the curiosity to engage in scientific discussions beyond the boundaries of their respective projects. We are strongly committed to open science, including sharing of data/code and preregistration. We believe in maintaining a diverse and inclusive research team and are supportive of members’ personal and professional development.

Candidates for these positions should have a background in cognitive science, psychology, neuroscience, psycholinguistics, or a related discipline (and hold an MA/MSc in their field by the time the position commences). Prior experience with scientific coding (MATLAB, python, or R) is expected. Prior experience in philosophy of mind, computational linguistics, cognitive modelling, or electrophysiology/fMRI are advantageous but not a prerequisite.

PhD 1 will be based in Tübingen, with primary supervision by Dr. Oganian, and will join the local graduate school ([GTC Neurosciences Tübingen](#)). We study auditory cognition, speech perception, and verbal communication. We are interested in the role of general sensory, and language networks in these cognitive functions. We use behavioral psychophysics, intracranial and scalp electrophysiology (i/M/EEG), and advanced computational methods to map those signals onto cognitive processes.

PhD 2 will be based in Heidelberg, with primary supervision by Dr. Korn. The Decision Neuroscience of Human Interactions Laboratory develops neuro-computational models of social decision-making and learning processes. We are particularly interested in how these social processes go awry in psychiatric conditions, such as personality disorders. We combine computational modeling of behavioral data, model-based and multivariate analyses of fMRI and pupil data.

Successful candidates will work together in this project, with the aim to identify the behavioral and neural correlates for different states of indecision, as proposed in recent theoretical developments. Candidates will develop their projects in parallel, with regular interactions and workshops with all project members. They will have the opportunity to train in all the methods used by their primary research laboratory, including research design, data acquisition and analysis, as well as gain insight in their scientific methodologies employed by other project members. Candidates will be employed directly by the

Heidelberg Academy of Science and can participate in its events, in addition to scientific activities of vibrant neuroscientific research communities at the respective locations.

For informal inquiries, please do not hesitate to contact Yulia Oganian at yulia.oganian@uni-tuebingen.de or Christoph Korn, at christoph.korn@med.uni-heidelberg.de.

To apply, please fill out this [questionnaire](#). Review of applications will commence on **Jan 8, 2023**. Applications will be considered until the position is filled.

We offer remuneration in accordance with TV-L, in addition to all the customary benefits granted to employees working in Public Services. Severely handicapped persons with equal qualifications are given preferential consideration. The Universities of Tübingen and Heidelberg are anxious to increase their quota of female scientific staff, and therefore encourages women to apply for these positions. The Administration of the University Hospital is responsible for all employment matters. Personnel appointments will be made pursuant to the fundamental stipulations of the legal statutes for universities in Germany. Before taking up employment, proof of sufficient vaccination against measles or immunity against measles in accordance with § 23a in conjunction with § 20 Para. 9 of the Infection Protection Act must be provided (scope of application birth cohorts as of 01.01.1971). Interview expenses are not covered.