

## **Call for applications: PhD position in Cognitive Psychology, University of Lausanne**

The Faculty of Social and Political Sciences (SSP) of the University of Lausanne invites applications for a PhD position in cognitive psychology.

Starting date: 1<sup>st</sup> of February, 2016

Duration: Up to 3 years (1 year + 2)

Salary: 47'000 Swiss francs (approx. 43'000 euros, 32'000 GBP) per year (before taxes)

Working environment: The Lausanne-Geopolis campus, beautifully located on the lakeside ([http://www.unil.ch/central/page2439\\_en.html](http://www.unil.ch/central/page2439_en.html))

### *Description:*

The PhD candidate will work within the framework of a project on "Experiencing the impossible and its effect on beliefs and cognition", funded by the Swiss National Science Foundation, under the supervision of Christine Mohr (University of Lausanne - Switzerland) and in collaboration with Gustav Kuhn (Goldsmith, University of London, UK).

This project follows a pre-existing collaboration in which the two researchers try to understand how the experience of an anomalous event (paranormal, magical experiences) can enhance adults' magical beliefs, induce cognitive biases that have been associated with trait-like magical beliefs, and lead to transient or long-lasting changes in such cognitive biases (Mohr, Koutrakis & Kuhn, 2015; Human Frontiers). This line of research goes beyond simply describing personality and behavioural correlates of magical beliefs. It uses experimental designs that allow us to explore the causes of belief formation. Participants are exposed to magic tricks that will induce anomalistic experiences that have supernatural connotations (e.g. mind reading, spoon bending), or are simply viewed as conjuring demonstrations. We will explore how these different types of experiences change people's cognitive biases and magical beliefs.

The appointed applicant will develop her/his specific research programmes and conduct empirical research in the area of the above-mentioned project, mainly in Switzerland, but also in London. Research facilities include a fully equipped experimental lab and participation in the activities of the Cognitive Psychology laboratory.

### *Requirements:*

- A completed Masters degree in Cognitive Psychology, or related disciplines
- A solid background in experimental cognitive psychology
- A solid background in research methods, statistics and data analysis
- Advanced in English and ideally also in French
- Ability to work with experimental run systems would be a plus.

***Deadline for application: October the 23<sup>th</sup>, 2015***

Please send a curriculum vitae, a motivation letter and a recommendation letter to Professor Christine Mohr, by email ([mailto: christine.mohr@unil.ch](mailto:christine.mohr@unil.ch)).