

Seeking Candidates for a Postdoctoral Position at Université Laval

We are seeking a full-time postdoctoral fellow for a position on a study targeting **verbal productions** in people with **schizophrenia spectrum disorders** (SSD). Our lab benefits from a large and unique verbal dataset acquired while participants with SSD and healthy controls performed a collaborative task (based on the referential communication paradigm) with an interaction partner. Initial results revealed that people with SSD made it harder to perform the task with them and that their verbal productions were judged less interesting. The next steps for which we are seeking a postdoctoral fellow aim to better understand the linguistic underpinnings for these difficulties, including an analysis of the reference choices (the terms used to refer to the characters during the referential communication task) as well as the implementation of natural language processing (NLP) analyses. The successful applicant will be expected to run the analyses, taking task conditions into account, and to publish/present the findings. There will also be opportunities to develop new projects and/or to collaborate on other ongoing projects in the lab as well as with the wider Discourse in Psychosis consortium.

The postdoctoral fellow will be under the direct supervision of Dr. Amélie M. Achim (Université Laval) and will be co-supervised by Dr. Lena Palaniyappan (McGill university). The supervisors are building a program of research across the two sites, with the long term goal of building a speech bank for psychiatric research across Quebec.

This postdoctoral position offers ample opportunities for advanced training including in building mentorship experience, improving writing skills, building new collaborations with our local and international collaborators, regular conference attendance, etc. The overall goal is to prepare the trainee for an independent position in the academia and beyond.

Requirements:

- Completed PhD degree in a relevant field (ex: psychology, linguistics, psychiatry, neuroscience, etc.).
- Strong record of scholarly activities
- Strong critical thinking and problem-solving skills
- Strong statistical skills
- Experience in mental health research
- Fluency in both French and English would be a strong asset
- Prior experience with NLP or programming would also be a strong asset

Location of work: VITAM – Sustainable health research center in Quebec City, with the possibility for short stays in Montreal in the lab of the co-supervisor.

Work schedule: 35h/week, with a flexible start date.

Salary : According to Université Laval's guidelines. Successful applicants will also receive mentoring for external fellowships from major granting agencies to enhance salary support.

Please send your CV and motivation letter to amelie.achim@fmed.ulaval.ca