Warszawa, 20.12.2017 roku

**Independent researcher position**

 WPs/36/2017/AD

**1. EMPLOYER/CONTRACTOR**

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| Faculty of Psychology Warsaw University / Wydział Psychologii Uniwersytetu Warszawskiegoul. Stawki 5/7, 00-183 Warszawa |
| REGON 24000001258NIP: 525-001-12-66fax (22) 635-79-91[www.psych.uw.edu.pl](http://www.psych.uw.edu.pl)e-mail: sekog@psych.uw.edu.pl | Contact person /Osoba do kontaktów w sprawie zapytania:  Joanna Rączaszek-LeonardiJoanna.leonardi@gmail.comraczasze@psych.uw.edu.pl |

**2. POSITION DESCRIPTION**

The position is within a Polish-German collaborative grant, realized within Beethoven framework. Short description of the project below:

**Early semantic development: Linking language development to emerging participation in**

**social events (EASE).**

The main goal of the project you will be joining is to contribute to the theory of early language development

within the emerging embodied, distributed and situated approach to cognition. Many existing approaches search for the learning mechanisms for language mainly in the individual mind of a child and focus mostly on word learning as mapping of labels to their referents. In contrast, and in addition, to such dominant approaches, our work is set within the emerging approach, in which language is seen as tightly integrated with other cognitive and social skills

and inextricably immersed in action. Therefore, we strive to redefine language acquisition in terms of an extended set of mechanisms. Congruently with earlier, functionalist theories of language, a child thus learns the controlling power that utterances have in interactions with other people rather than simple correspondences to external objects.

A series of studies has already been conducted and the results are available in the following publications:

Nomikou, I., Leonardi G., Rohlfing K, Rączaszek-Leonardi, J. (2016). Constructing interaction: the development of gaze dynamics. Infant and Child Development, 25, 3, 277–295, DOI: 10.1002/icd.1975, (IF=1,14), MNiSW 25.

Leonardi, G., Nomikou, I., Rohlfing, K. J. & Rączaszek-Leonardi, J. (2016). Vocal interactions at the dawn of communication: The emergence of mutuality and complementarity in mother-infant interaction.  In: *Proceedings of the IEEE ICDL-EpiRob*, Cergy-Pontoise, pp. 288-293.

Rączaszek-Leonardi, J. (2017). Time Scales for Understanding the Agency of Infants and Caregivers: In: N. J. Enfield and Paul Kockelman (eds.). *Distributed Agency: The Sharing of Intention, Cause, and Accountability*, Oxford University Press: N.Y. DOI:10.1093/acprof:oso/9780190457204.003.0017

Nomikou, I., Leonardi, G., Radkowska, A., Rączaszek-Leonardi, J. & Rohlfing, K. (2017). Taking up an active role: Emerging participation in early mother-infant interaction during peek-a-boo routines, Frontiers in Psychology, Cognitive Science. doi: 10.3389/fpsyg.2017.01656

**We seek an independent investigator for 6 months, starting 1 February 2018**

**Form of employment**: **Contract for specific work**

**Working hours: 36/week**

Presently we seek a collaborator with a PhD to join the team in the task of elaborating the theoretical approach to language within the dynamical, ecological and semiotic framework, along the lines proposed in the above publications and in Rączaszek-Leonardi, Nomikou, Rohfing and Deacon (in press/2018). We seek an independent thinker with a knack for qualitative and quantitative analysis of mother-infant interaction (on the basis of video data). The task is to i) search for developmental trajectories of particular utterances or other signs in the available longitudinal corpora we have access to (a 5-months long corpus of everyday interactions and a 10-month long corpus of structured games Rohlfing and Szufnarowska, 2011), ii) propose novel methods of analyses and test the hypotheses stemming from the framework as well as iii) formulate novel proposals.

Requirements:

* Familiarity with recent theoretical debates on language development. Interest and experience in language acquisition studies and/or early social development, interest in embodied and distributed cognition research.
* Experience with microanalysis of video-recorded interactions data (conversational analysis methodology or similar)
* Experience with ELAN & Praat software
* Statistical methods (preferably in R) used in developmental research
* Dynamical analyses (e.g. recurrence quantification analysis, complexity matching)

Duties:

* Collaboration in development of the theoretical framework for early linguistic development
* Qualitative and quantitative analysis of video-corpora for examples of parental language use and infants’ responses
* Collaboration on designing novel analyses using the corpora and on proposing coding schemes
* Supervision of coding in Praat and ELAN
* Helping in the organization of seminars and conferences

Advantages, opportunities, salary:

You will work in a small research group spanning two laboratories. You will be based at the Faculty of Psychology, University of Warsaw (with other 3 project members) with constant collaboration with Paderborn University (another 3 project members). We also collaborate with Portsmouth University (1 project member). You will have a large degree of independence and, in addition to the work within the project, will be able to pursue your research interests, with access to rich data on mother-infant interaction. You will have opportunities to author and co-author research papers.

Salary is 7400PLN/month (about 4400PLN/month after tax)

**3**. **Job period: 1.02.2018 – 31.01.2019**

**4. APPLICATION DOCUMENTS**

**If interested please send us**:

1. **CV, samples of publications**
2. **Motivation letter with the description of your research experience and research plans**

**By e-mail to:**

**raczasze@psych.uw.edu.pl** **or** **joanna.leonardi@gmail.com**

**Please send us your application by**: **05.01.2017**

**5. APPLICATION EVALUATION**

**i) Only the applications which include documents listed in 4 above will be evaluated**

**ii) SELECITON CITERIA**

1. Potential scientific input to the project: 40%
2. Previous research experience: 30%
3. Publication record: 30%

**Selected candidates may be asked for a interview (in person or via Skype) within 14 days from the application deadline.**

6. **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

**i) In order to realize the tasks a commission agreement or contract for specific work will be signed between the selected Investigator and the University**.

**ii) The employer reserves the right to negotiate the agreement with pre-selected best applicants**

**iii) The employer / contractor reserves the right not to select any investigator**