



The **University of Mannheim (Germany)** is offering a full-time position as

Postdoctoral Research and Teaching Fellow for 3+3 years (m/f/d)

starting between August 1st and October 1st, 2024, depending on the applicant's convenience.

Humans possess an unparalleled capacity to learn socially from others with extraordinary fidelity. This capacity has given rise to complex, cumulative culture. And cumulative culture, in turn, has been essential for the success humans have enjoyed in recent evolutionary history. Unsurprisingly, then, **social learning** receives centre-stage attention in evolutionary anthropology and related evolutionary sciences. Important, but unanswered questions include: What social learning strategies do people employ in everyday life? Moreover, do **individuals differ** in the social learning strategies they use? And if they do, what explains those differences, both at the proximate and the ultimate level? Does strategy-use, for example, differ as a function of learners' demographics, their life-history strategies, basic personality traits, the cultural context, or historical/generational trends?

With funding from the **European Research Council** (ERC Consolidator Grant), our interdisciplinary research group at the Department of Psychology, University of Mannheim seeks to elucidate these and other fundamental questions on the nature of social learning in collaboration with Dr. Alex Mesoudi (Human Behaviour and Cultural Evolution Group, University of Exeter, Cornwall Campus), Dr. Wilhelm Hofmann (Chair of Social Psychology, University of Bochum), and Dr. Daniel Haun (Department of Comparative Cultural Psychology, Max Plack Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology).

Your tasks include:

- Collaboration with members of the ERC project on social learning, especially social learning in everyday life via **experience sampling** methodology (together with Dr. Haun and Dr. Hofmann) and **personality differences** in the use of social learning strategies (together with Dr. Cenni and Dr. Mesoudi).
- Teaching seminars (in English or German language) in the area of social and/or personality psychology (broadly defined!). The successful job-candidate can chose the topics for teaching themselves. Examples are courses on "social learning," "cultural evolution," "sociobiology," "evolutionary social psychology/anthropology," "(behavioural) genetics of

The **University of Mannheim** is one of the leading universities in Germany with approximately 12,000 students in five schools. Particularly in business and economics as well as in the social sciences the university ranks among the top institutions both at national and international level. More than 2,600 employees profit from an exciting work environment with numerous benefits.

At the Chair for Cross-Cultural Social and Personality Psychology we currently carry out an interdisciplinary and international research project on the **evolution of personality differences in social learning strategies**. The project is funded by the European Research Council (ERC Consolidator Grant) and is conducted in collaboration with evolutionary anthropologists and biologists from the Human Behaviour and Cultural Evolution Group at the University of Exeter, Cornwall Campus, as well as psychologists and evolutionary anthropologists from the University of Bochum and the Max Plack Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology.

Key information

Start: Between August 1st and October 1st, 2024, depending on the applicant's convenience

Term: In accordance with German law (WissZeitVG), the position is temporary and initially limited to a period of three years with an option for extension to six years

Remuneration bracket: E 13 TV-L BW

Weekly hours: 39.5 hours, the position is generally suitable for job sharing

Application deadline:
April 15th, 2024

social behaviour," or "evolutionary genetics of personality."

- (Co-)Supervision of theses at the Bachelor's, Master's, and PhD level

Your profile:

- **PhD in evolutionary anthropology** or related evolutionary sciences, such as behavioural ecology, evolutionary biology, or evolutionary psychology.
- Keen interests in **social learning, experience sampling** methodology/ ambulatory assessment, and **personality** and, ideally, expertise in (some of) those areas.

What we offer:

- A 3-year temporary position with the option for extension to 6 years, in accordance with German law (WissZeitVG).
- Interdisciplinary and international research environment, involving scholars from the University of Mannheim (Germany), the University of Exeter (England), the University of Copenhagen (Denmark), the University of Bochum (Germany), and the Max Plack Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology (Germany).
- Substantial funds from the European Research Council and the University of Mannheim to carry out highest quality research.
- Possibility to acquire a "habilitation" (German 2nd doctorate), if desired by the successful candidate.



Outstanding research
culture



Innovative academic
working environment



Open science

Applicants with disabilities are given preferential consideration in the event of equal qualification. The University of Mannheim is committed to increasing the quota of women in academia and thus encourages women with relevant qualifications to apply.

If you are interested in applying, please send your application documents (cover/motivation letter, CV, certificates) via e-mail or mail **by April 15th, 2024 at the latest:**

University of Mannheim
Chair for Cross-Cultural Social and Personality Psychology
Dr. Jochen Gebauer
A5, 6
68159 Mannheim
Germany
Jochen.Gebauer@uni-mannheim.de

If you have any questions about the position, please contact
Jochen Gebauer at

Jochen.Gebauer@uni-mannheim.de

Data protection

Please find detailed information on the collection of personal data from the data subject according to Article 13 GDPR on the university's homepage:
www.uni-mannheim.de/datenschutz-bei-bewerbungen.

Submitted application documents will only be returned if you enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope. Otherwise, they will be destroyed in accordance with current data protection law after the application procedure has ended. Electronic applications will be deleted accordingly..

If you apply by e-mail, please note that protection of confidential data cannot be guaranteed as unauthorized third parties might gain access to unencrypted e-mails during transmission.