Call for applications
Master's students (m,f,d)

Master thesis: Meta-analysis of hemispheric language dominance in Autism Spectrum Disorder

BACKGROUND

While language processing typically occurs mostly in the left hemisphere for most people, some individuals show a right-hemispheric dominance instead. Several theories have linked neurodevelopmental and psychiatric disorders with a higher prevalence of right-hemisphere language dominance (Ocklenburg et al., 2024). However, the extent to which empirical research supports such theories remains unclear. This projects aims to evaluate the existing evidence and identify gaps in the literature through a formal meta-analysis of primary research on hemispheric language dominance in Autism Spectrum Disorder. This study will be conducted by the Research Group Cognition and Plasticity at MPI CBS, under the direct supervision of Dr. Robin Gerrits, and in collaboration with Prof. Marietta Papadatou-Pastou from the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens.

TASKS

- Conduct a systematic review of studies on hemispheric language specialization in ASD.
- Extract key data from relevant studies and assess the studies' methodological rigor.
- Apply meta-analytical methods to synthesize results across studies.

BENEFITS

- Engage in all stages of the research process as an active member of our international team.
- Further develop statistical and programming expertise through hands-on experience in data analysis and meta-analytic techniques.
- Opportunity to observe empirical studies conducted by the Research Group Cognition and Plasticity (e.g., TMS and fMRI).

REQUIREMENTS

- Highly motivated Master's students who would like to write their final Master's thesis (in English) at the MPI CBS in Leipzig.
- Enrolled in a Master's program in Cognitive Neuroscience, Neuropsychology, or equivalent.
- Strong interest in brain hemispheric specialization and the neural basis of developmental or psychiatric disorders.
- Prior experience in statistical analysis and basic programming experience in R.
- Detail-oriented, organized, and capable of working independently.
- Able to start between August and October 2025.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE

Send your CV, a brief motivational statement, and academic transcripts (English) to Dr. Robin Gerrits:

gerrits@cbs.mpg.de