

Postdoctoral Research Associate (m/f/d)

(Salary level E 13 TV-L, 100 %)

The Comparative BioCognition Research Group (Prof. Dr. Simone Pika) of the Institute of Cognitive Science at Osnabrück University is seeking to appoint a Postdoctoral Research Associate to commence work on 01.01.2027 for a period of 3 years.

The position allows for further scientific qualification (habilitation).

Your duties:

The position involves participation in the research and teaching activities of the Comparative BioCognition group at Osnabrueck University in the domain of nonhuman animals' trust and the evolutionary trajectory of trust and involved cognition. The core work will be on behavioural interactions of mother-infant and infant-infant dyads of chimpanzees and bonobos in the wild, and the role of demographic and social factors. The selected candidate will analyse video footage of behavioural interactions of East African chimpanzees and bonobos and develop his/her own research questions within the scope of the broader focus on the evolution of trust to foster scientific growth. This position will be under the supervision of Prof. Dr. Simone Pika.

Requirements:

- A PhD degree in Biology, Evolutionary Anthropology, Psychology, Cognitive Science or related fields and a strong background in animal behaviour, cognition or trust
- Experience in behavioural analyses or analysis of social factors and eagerness for developing his/her skills in the other
- Expertise in coding and annotation of large datasets using ELAN, Boris or related coding software
- Salient expertise in conducting statistical analyses using programmes like R, LMM's and GLMM's or Bayesian Statistics
- Very good written and spoken skills in English, good written and spoken skills in German

Desired qualifications:

The ideal candidate has

- strong team working skills, affinity to collaborative work and the ability to work in an intercultural environment

Successful applicants would have a good record of scientific publications in high-quality journals and enjoy mentoring junior researchers and working in an international team.

We Offer:

The position offers the opportunity to publish first author papers, contribute to related projects as a co-author, work in an international team and present the work at international conferences.

The position is available on a full-time or part-time basis.

Osnabrück University is a family-friendly University and is committed to helping working parents balance their family and working lives. Osnabrück University is committed to equal opportunities, diversity, and the professional equality of the genders. We promote a culture of science and work that enables fair opportunities and a discrimination-free environment for learning, teaching, and working. In doing so, we strive for fair representation of all social groups among our staff and work to counteract underrepresentation.

Applications from people with severe disabilities and those treated as equivalent under applicable law will be given preferential consideration where candidates are equally qualified.

Please submit your application with the usual supporting documentation (proof of diploma, CV and cover letter) by e-mail in a single PDF file to Prof. Dr. Simone Pika (spika@uos.de) with a cc to office@ikw.uni-osnabrueck.de no later than **September 16, 2026**.

For further information regarding this vacancy, please contact Prof. Dr. Simone Pika (spika@uos.de).