

The Institute of Argumentation, Linguistics and Semiotics of the Università della Svizzera italiana invites applications for a

### **PhD position (100%, 3 years)**

Within the project: "Analysing children's implicit argumentation", funded by the Swiss National Science Foundation and developed in collaboration with the Institute of Psychology and Education of the University of Neuchâtel, which is opening a parallel PhD position.

#### **The research project**

The selected candidate will participate in a markedly interdisciplinary research project (argumentation - psychology and education) devoted to the study of implicit in adult-children argumentative discussions. The project is jointly led by Professors Anne-Nelly Perret-Clermont and Antonio Iannaccone of the University of Neuchâtel and Professors Sara Greco and Andrea Rocci of the Università della Svizzera italiana, Lugano. The PhD candidate will develop his or her dissertation while participating in the theoretical and methodological framework of the FNS research project, to which he or she will also contribute. The project "Analysing children's implicit argumentation" constitutes an advance in an interdisciplinary research stream initiated with the project Argumentum ([www.argumentum.ch](http://www.argumentum.ch)) as well as the doctoral program Argupolis. Such research is one of the core research streams at the IALS institute ([www.ials.com.usi.ch](http://www.ials.com.usi.ch)).

#### **Place of work**

Lugano. Availability to travel to Neuchâtel for the purposes of this research project is required.

#### **Requirements**

A master (or equivalent title) in communication sciences, argumentation, language sciences, social sciences, education, psychology, speech therapy or related disciplines. Fluency in English and French is required. Italian will be considered an added value; in any case, the selected candidate will be required to learn Italian during the project.

Proven interest for the analysis of discourse, and possibly argumentation. Attitude for a fine-grained analysis of implicit in discourse. Inclination towards interdisciplinary work, in particular the study of argumentation in adult-children discussions and interest for the psychological and educational background of this research project, including the development of thinking and argumentation skills in children.

Motivation to engage in the elaboration of a PhD dissertation. Ability to work in team.

#### **Job description**

The PhD candidate will participate in all phases of the research project. He or she will have the task of setting up a personal collection of data for his or her dissertation, while at the same time participating in the collection of data by his or her colleagues, with the aim of pursuing the common goals of the project. The PhD candidate will write a

dissertation related to the research topic of the project. He or she will collaborate in the organization of scientific activities related to the project, which will take place at the two partner universities. It is expected that he or she will regularly collaborate with the project members as well as with other researchers at the IALS.

The PhD candidate is also asked to present papers at scientific conferences, and possibly produce publications for scientific journals.

### **Salary**

The project is financed by the Swiss National Science Foundation and the PhD student will be receiving a salary according to the SNF policies: [http://www.snf.ch/SiteCollectionDocuments/allg\\_doktorierende\\_f.pdf](http://www.snf.ch/SiteCollectionDocuments/allg_doktorierende_f.pdf)

### **Starting date**

1<sup>st</sup> January 2015.

### **Application**

Applications must include: a motivation letter, a complete CV, copies of university titles, an electronic version of a research work (Master thesis or other scientific publication). The latter must be accompanied by a short summary in English (1 page maximum). A support letter written by the Master thesis supervisor (or another Professor who knows the candidate well) is equally welcome.

Applications must be sent to Sara Greco in electronic format ([sara.greco@usi.ch](mailto:sara.greco@usi.ch)). For further information about this position, please write to [sara.greco@usi.ch](mailto:sara.greco@usi.ch) or Andrea Rocci ([andrea.rocci@usi.ch](mailto:andrea.rocci@usi.ch)).

### **Deadline for applications**

The deadline for applications is **November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2014** but applications will be received until the position is filled.