

Call for Postdoctoral Research Fellow (Full-time, Fixed-term Project Researcher) at the Center for Human Nature, Artificial Intelligence, and Neuroscience (CHAIN), Hokkaido University, in Hokkaido, Japan

We invite applications for a postdoctoral research position at the Center for Human Nature, Artificial Intelligence, and Neuroscience (CHAIN), Hokkaido University, Japan, with an anticipated start date of July 1st, 2022, or as soon as possible thereafter. The successful applicant will be appointed as a Postdoctoral Fellow in CHAIN.

The appointed postdoctoral fellow will work with Dr. Keisuke Suzuki on the CREST project "Cognitive Feelings that Mediate Between Perception and Emotion" (PI: Yukie Nagai, Period: Oct 2021 - Mar 2027). Cognitive feeling is a feeling directed toward perceptual information processing, such as the sense of knowing, the sense of confidence, the sense of reality, etc. The research team will conduct cognitive psychological experiments to elicit mechanisms of cognitive feeling using virtual reality technologies and neuro-physiological measurements.

The postdoctoral fellow will belong to CHAIN, a research and education center for interdisciplinary studies in the humanities, social sciences, neuroscience, and artificial intelligence in Hokkaido University, and is expected to interact with faculty members, researchers, and students in the center. Women and members of other underrepresented groups are particularly encouraged to apply.

Job description

This is a full-time research position. The postdoctoral fellow will engage in collaborative research with Dr. Keisuke Suzuki for the CREST project, "Cognitive Feelings that Mediate Between Perception and Emotion" (PI: Yukie Nagai, Period: Oct 2021 - Mar 2027). The researcher will design and conduct cognitive psychological experiments using virtual reality equipment and physiological measurement. Research targets include the sense of confidence, the sense of presence, the sense of reality, to the sense of body ownership and the sense of agency. Besides their research duties, they are expected to support project management, for example by taking the lead in organizing project-related events.

For specific research details, please refer to the CREST project website and Dr Suzuki's past projects on his website.

CREST 'Cognitive Feelings that Mediate Between Perception and Emotion' website

<https://cognitive-feeling.jp>

Keisuke Suzuki - Projects

<https://sites.google.com/view/keisukesuzuki/projects>

Qualifications

The ideal applicant will have the skills to design and conduct experiments that

contribute to the CREST project both independently and in collaboration with Dr. Suzuki. They are expected to demonstrate the following qualities and characteristics:

1. A PhD by the time of the appointment in areas related to cognitive psychology, cognitive neuroscience, or other related fields of research.
2. English communication skills: ability to write and speak in English for conference presentation and paper writing (Communication in Japanese is not necessary).
3. A demonstrated ability and strong interest to develop and engage in interdisciplinary research projects across philosophy, psychology, cognitive and computational neuroscience, computational psychiatry, machine learning, artificial intelligence, and robotics as a member of CHAIN.
4. Experience and competence in one or both of the following two types:
 - Type 1: A degree in psychology or equivalent and have knowledge and experiences in designing and conducting psychological experiments using behavioral and/or physiological measurement, as well as statistical analysis on obtained data.
 - Type 2: Experience in implementing virtual reality (VR) systems and/or conducting psychological experiments using virtual reality systems, or someone who has good programming skills and has strong willingness to develop experimental systems using virtual reality.

For both Type 1 and Type 2, knowledge and experience in one or more of the following areas is desirable: implementation of virtual reality systems, computational modeling, theoretical and computational neuroscience, machine learning.

Application materials

Submit the following materials, **compiled in a single ZIP file**, via email at ksk [at] chain.hokudai.ac.jp to complete your application:

1. Curriculum Vitae*
2. Summary of past research accomplishments (1-2 pages)
3. Two most important publications relevant to the project.
4. Research plan (e.g., original research ideas/plans based on the applicant's strengths in line with the "cognitive feeling" project, or a proposal of collaborative research with Co-I, Dr. Suzuki) (1-2 pages).
5. Two references (Names and contact details)

Use common fonts such as Times New Roman in black and size 12 points. Submit each publication (3) in a separate PDF file. **Compile all the rest (1, 2, 4, and 5) in a single PDF file.** This makes four PDF files in total, which **must then be compiled in a single ZIP file.**

The subject line of the email must read "Application (Post-doc)." You will receive a confirmation email shortly after making a submission. Please contact us

immediately if you did not receive one within 3 business days. Shortlisted applicants may be invited to take an online interview. Personal information obtained through these materials will only be used within this selection process.

*Applicants who have been employed by Hokkaido University after April 1, 2013 (in any position, including Part-time Lecturer, Teaching Assistant, Teaching Fellow, Research Assistant and Short-term Support Assistant, etc.) should provide full details of their employment history in the CV.

Application deadline

We don't have a specific submission deadline; however, the call ends as soon as a candidate is found.

Appointment terms

This is a full-time research position with an anticipated start date of July 1st, 2022. Upon employment, an employment contract until the end of the fiscal year will be signed, which is then renewed on a yearly basis up to 31 March, 2027 at the maximum.

The salary will be paid under the annual-salary scheme and the discretionary labor system. The annual salary is determined in accordance with the internal regulations of Hokkaido University (The monthly basic salary is within the range of 300,000 JPY to 460,000 JPY taking into consideration the applicant's expertise and experiences.)

Upon employment, one will be enrolled in Health Insurance, Employee Pension, Workers' Accident Compensation Insurance and Employment Insurance. One probationary period applies. Questions about the position should be addressed to Keisuke Suzuki (ksk [at] chain.hokudai.ac.jp).

Workplace Policy

As a measure to prevent passive smoking, smoking is only permitted within designated areas.

Further information

CREST project "Cognitive Feelings that Mediate Between Perception and Emotion" <https://cognitive-feeling.jp/en/home/>

CHAIN Website: www.chain.hokudai.ac.jp/?lang=en

Keisuke Suzuki <https://sites.google.com/view/keisukesuzuki/>

Center for Human Nature, Artificial Intelligence, and Neuroscience (CHAIN)
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Hokkaido 060-0812 Japan

Application submission: E-mail for application: ksk [at] chain.hokudai.ac.jp

Inquiries: E-mail for inquiry: ksk [at] chain.hokudai.ac.jp