



ASHOKA
UNIVERSITY

JOB DESCRIPTION

The development of intersensory perception in at-risk infants is a project funded by the Cognitive Science Research Initiative grant by DST, Govt of India. The project taken up as part of the Child Development Lab Studies at the Department of Psychology, Ashoka University by Dr.Madhavi Maganti and Dr.Arati Maria, Head, Department of Neonatology, Dr.RML hospital, Delhi, investigates the development of intersensory perception in at-risk infants. Specifically, we examine if intersensory perceptual processes are attenuated in at-risk (term & preterms) infants due to compromised neurosensory systems? How do caregivers adapt their communication to match their at-risk infant's perceptual abilities? Do these infants catch-up with their healthy not-at-risk counterparts? The overarching goal is to identify early antecedents of childhood risk and reduce the time to intervention and thereby improve neurodevelopmental outcomes in at-risk infants and toddlers.

To investigate these questions, we are hiring research staff at the level of project associate or a post-doc to be able to coordinate and conduct research at the Infant lab located at the Department of Neonatology, Dr.RML hospital. The research staff will support the development of protocols that integrate naturalistic observations from parent-child interactions and eye tracking data from infant paradigms like intermodal preferential looking paradigms and also coordinate the process of data collection and data analyses. The fellow/associate will also provide supervision to UG and Phd students to support ongoing data collection.

The specific research tasks will include:

- 1) Selecting subjects from a pool of patients from the Department of Neonatology at Dr.RML hospital and obtain consent from potential subjects as well as developing a strong rapport with the subjects;
- 2) Execution of the research study which includes:
 - a. Preparing observation forms and tools, maintaining subject records/details and data entry;
 - b. Conducting naturalist / behavioural observations of parent-child interactions.
 - c. Preparation of stimuli for testing the perceptual abilities in at-risk infants using the intermodal preferential looking paradigm.
 - d. Using Tobii eyetracker
 - e. Administering cognitive, linguistic, social, or emotional assessments (such as the Bayley's scale etc.);
 - f. Laboratory equipment maintenance and safe keeping;
 - g. Data analysis and manuscript and grant drafting; and
 - h. Subject follow-up and outreach
 - i. Coordinating with the research office.
- 3) Intervention design, implementation and assessment.

Candidates must have a PhD in Psychology or Cognitive Science with good writing and analytical skills. Experience with data analyses and programming abilities is important along with knowledge of microanalytic coding, using Tobii eye tracker and familiarity with infant studies and fluency in Hindi is desirable. Fellowships are at current DST levels of support for researchers.

Please send a CV, statement of research interests, representative publications, and three letters of recommendation electronically in PDF format to: Madhavi Maganti, Project Investigator, Intersensory project. Email: madhavi.maganti@ashoka.edu.in.