

Diploma Student Position

AG Wissensaustausch / Knowledge Exchange

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Are you interested in doing your diploma in the area of Educational Psychology? An American post-doctoral researcher (Krista DeLeeuw, Ph.D.) at the Institut für Wissensmedien is looking for a bilingual student to assist in an on-going research project, which could be used as the basis for your diploma.

The project concerns the perceptual and working memory processes involved in learning from multimedia (that is, learning from text and pictures). As a researcher working closely with Dr. DeLeeuw on this project, you would be involved in collecting data using eye tracking technology, interacting with participants in the study, and creating/translating German language materials.

Specifically, this project is a series of studies that investigate the contribution of perceptual load and working memory load on the overall “cognitive load” that a learner experiences during learning from multimedia. Theories of multimedia learning and cognitive load have tended to focus on working memory load and to ignore perceptual load. However, by borrowing a paradigm from the field of visual selective attention, we are able to distinguish between the contributions of each of these types of load. Previous research has shown that people tend to be better at ignoring distractors when perceptual load is high, but worse at ignoring them when working memory load is high (for a review, see Lavie, 2005). In this series of studies, we will be using eye tracking to assess how much people are affected by distractors that are presented on the computer screen along with the instructional lesson. Currently, there are three experiments planned that will each investigate different commonly used manipulations of cognitive load in multimedia learning.

If you are interested, please contact Krista DeLeeuw at k.deleeuw@iwm-kmrc.de