



LUDWIG-  
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MÜNCHEN



## Open position for LMU-CSC scholarship candidates 2019

**Department/Institute:** General and Experimental Psychology, Psychology Department

**Subject area:** Neuro-cognitive Psychology

**Name of Supervisor:** Prof. Dr. Hermann J. Müller, PD Dr. Zhuanghua Shi

**Number of open positions:** 1

**Project title:** *Distractor probability cueing: learning to minimize attentional capture in visual task environments*

**Project description:**

Often in everyday life, our attention is distracted, or ‘captured’, by salient stimuli that are completely irrelevant with regard to the action goals we pursue. Attentional capture is a major cause of action slips (such as when, as a result, we overlook some critical ‘target’ event), which can have grave consequences (e.g., accidents). The project is designed to study the mechanisms underlying attentional capture, in particular whether we can learn from experience where in the visual world and when distractors are likely to appear and, thus, develop effective (executive) strategies to minimize their interference. This work constitutes a new turn in attention research, complementing previous work on the probabilistic cueing of target locations. The project will build on prior work of the Chair demonstrating the operation of distractor location probability cueing in visual search. The aim is to behaviorally characterize the (development of) spatial and temporal distractor probability cueing and the memory mechanisms involved, and how distractor cueing interacts with target cueing to guide search performance; further, to understand the underlying brain mechanisms using a combination of EEG and fMRI methodologies.

We are looking for a highly motivated candidate who has an excellent M.Sc. degree, or equivalent, in the field of experimental psychology, behavioral & cognitive neuroscience, or related field. Good knowledge of English (both verbal communication and writing), interest – and ideally some experience – in multi-disciplinary research are highly desirable.

Applicants should first contact the international office for formal evaluation. The complete application, including a cover letter detailing the applicant’s research experience and interests, a CV and two academic references, should be sent by email in a single PDF document to Dr. Zhuanghua Shi (shi@psy.lmu.de).

**Language requirements:** The candidates should have a good command of English. Our institute and research group is composed of international scientists, with English as the main language of communication.

**Academic requirements:** The candidate should have an excellent Master’s degree in Psychology, cognitive neuroscience or related fields. The ideal candidate would also have knowledge and experience in behavioral & cognitive neuroscience and computational skills (such as R, Python).

**Contact:**

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