



University of Stuttgart
Germany

We are seeking to fill a position of a

**Postdoctoral Researcher (f/m/d) in Computational Literary Studies
(Pay Group 13 TV-L, 100%)**

The position is limited to three years. The anticipated starting date is 01 October 2024.

The position is part of the project LitAttention – What Short Fiction Knows About Attention and Attention Politics, funded by the European Research Council (ERC). LitAttention combines approaches from cognitive literary studies, computational linguistics/digital humanities, and educational psychology to investigate ‘literary attention’. The project will (a) examine the connection between developments in short fiction and changing theories of attention; (b) explore literary techniques and linguistic devices that guide readers’ attention; (c) assess the value of short fiction today, especially for education, and (d) develop methodological and conceptual frameworks for examining literary attention. LitAttention is based at the Department of English Literatures and Cultures and integrated into a strong interdisciplinary community, including the Stuttgart Research Centre for Text Studies (SRCTS), the Institute for Natural Language Processing (IMS), and the Center for Reflected Text Analytics (CRETA).

Your tasks

The successful candidate will contribute to the identification of text properties that elicit attention. They will be responsible for developing and applying computational models that help identify and explain patterns of attention (and distraction) in short fiction. As part of the LitAttention team, they will be involved in the organisation of project events, public outreach activities, presentations at international conferences, and project publications.

Required qualifications

- PhD in Computational Literary Studies, Digital Humanities, Computational Linguistics, or an adjacent field, and willingness to engage in interdisciplinary research
- Experience with corpus-based analysis of — ideally literary — texts (operationalization, annotation, evaluation) and computational modelling from conception to implementation
- Excellent language skills (written and spoken) in English; proficiency in German is welcome but not required
- Proven organisational and administrative skills
- Familiarity with narrative theory and/or cognitive approaches in linguistics or literary studies is a plus

What we offer

- The opportunity to join a highly motivated, dynamic, and supportive team
- An international, stimulating work environment, strongly committed to interdisciplinary research
- Flexible working hours in a family-friendly environment
- A fixed-term contract (limited to three years) in salary group TV-L 13 (the pay scale grouping will be determined by the university’s central administration)
- Mentoring that emphasises professional and scientific growth
- Internal training and coaching opportunities
- Numerous additional benefits offered by the University of Stuttgart (<https://www.beschaefigte.uni-stuttgart.de/en/>)



Funded by
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Please email your application to nel@ilw.uni-stuttgart.de by **10 June 2024**. In your application, please include the reference number **LitAttention_CLS**. Please include the following documents (as one single PDF file): cover letter including a short description of your past and current research interests as well as your expertise in the required area, academic CV, publication list, copies of academic certificates and transcript of records, an abstract of your PhD thesis (or equivalent) (3 pages max.), and the names and contact details of two academic referees. Please also submit a PDF document of your PhD thesis (or equivalent). If you have not yet completed your PhD thesis (or equivalent), please submit finalised chapters/papers and a letter of recommendation from your supervisor, which includes the expected date of completion of your degree.

If you have any questions about the position, please contact Prof Dr Sibylle Baumbach, sibylle.baumbach@ilw.uni-stuttgart.de.

The University of Stuttgart is a certified ‘family-friendly university’ and offers a wide range of services to support early-career researchers (<https://www.uni-stuttgart.de/en/research/early-career-researchers/>) and to enhance social equity (<https://www.uni-stuttgart.de/en/university/profile/equality-diversity/>).

The University of Stuttgart is an equal opportunity employer (<https://www.uni-stuttgart.de/en/university/employer/>). Women who apply will be given preferential consideration in areas in which they are underrepresented. Applications from severely disabled candidates with equivalent qualifications will be given priority.