

At the University of Göttingen -Public Law Foundation-, Graduiertenkolleg 2906 Neugier, there is a position as

**PhD position in Statistical Physics or Computational Neuroscience on Curiosity [C3] (all genders welcome)**  
**Entgeltgruppe 13 TV-L/100%**

to be filled. Starting date is 8/1/2024. The position is limited to 7/31/2027.

As part of a new research network that has been established at the Georg-August-University of Göttingen - *Research Training Group (RTG) 2906 Curiosity* -, we advertise here a PhD position for an initial period of three years, with a very strong possibility of extension for a further year (this position is not suitable for part-time employment). The project is expected to commence on August 1st, 2024.

Across thirteen new projects, scientists in RTG 2906 will investigate the neuropsychological, biological and computational underpinnings of curiosity. The training network comprises a highly interdisciplinary consortium of psychologists and biologists as well as systems neuroscientists and physicists, who will work together to answer three broad research questions: (A) *When* are we curious? (B) *Why* are we curious? and (C) *How* are we curious? The PhD position advertised here will explore **how and under which conditions should neural networks change their learning strategies for curious learning?** The PhD researcher will work together with the group of Prof. **Viola Priesemann** jointly at the University Göttingen and the Max Planck Institute for Dynamics and Self-Organization.

**Your profile:**

- M.Sc. degree (or equivalent), preferably in Physics, or in Neuroscience, Engineering, Data Science, Mathematics, Machine Learning
- Programming or analytical skills
- Proficiency in English; German language skills are not required

**What we offer:**

- Enrolment in a training programme suited to individual needs and goals, as well as regular retreats, and summer schools
- Ample funding for conferences and external laboratory visits
- Structured supervision by an interdisciplinary Thesis Advisory Committee
- A highly interdisciplinary and collaborative, team-oriented research environment
- High performance computing infrastructure
- The opportunity to participate in teaching

RTG 2906 is based in Göttingen, a university town with 28,000 students across all disciplines. The Göttingen Campus has its overarching research foci in living networks, sustainability, and dynamics of change, and includes four Max-Planck Institutes, the German Primate Center, the Campus Institute for Data Science, and the Campus Institute for Dynamics of Biological Networks. The thirteen doctoral projects that all start in August 2024 are spread across these Göttingen Campus institutes. The group of Viola Priesemann is located at the Max Planck Institute for Dynamics and Self-Organization, with close ties to the University of Göttingen, and the Cluster of Excellence Multiscale Bioimaging.

**How to apply:**

Detailed information on the application process, the research project and the training programme are available on the RTG webpage (<https://www.uni-goettingen.de/rtg2906>). As part of the online application process, you will be asked to upload a motivation letter and copies of your degree and language certificates.

- For questions about the group and the position, please visit our website ([www.viola-priesemann.de](http://www.viola-priesemann.de)), and contact Prof. Viola Priesemann ([application.priesemann@ds.mpg.de](mailto:application.priesemann@ds.mpg.de))
- If you have any questions about the application process, you can write to [rtg2906@uni-goettingen.de](mailto:rtg2906@uni-goettingen.de)

The University of Göttingen is an equal opportunities employer and places particular emphasis on fostering career opportunities for women. Qualified women are therefore strongly encouraged to apply in fields in which they are underrepresented. The university has committed itself to being a family-friendly institution and supports their employees in balancing work and family life. The University is particularly committed to the professional participation of severely disabled employees and therefore welcomes applications from severely disabled people. In the case of equal qualifications, applications from people with severe disabilities will be given preference. A disability or equality is to be included in the application in order to protect the interests of the applicant.

Please upload your application in one pdf file including the usual documents until 5/20/2024 on the application portal of the university using this link: <http://obp.uni-goettingen.de/de-de/OBF/Index/74484>. For more information get in touch with Nivedita Mani directly via E-Mail: Nivedita.Mani@psych.uni-goettingen.de, Tel. +49-551-39-23617 .

**Please note:**

With submission of your application, you accept the processing of your applicant data in terms of data-protection law. Further information on the legal basis and data usage is provided in the [Information General Data Protection Regulation \(GDPR\)](#)

