
2 fully funded Ph.D. student positions at the Institute for Communication Technologies, Faculty of Communication Sciences at USI Università della Svizzera italiana

Università della Svizzera italiana (USI) is a young and lively university, a hub of opportunity open to the world where students are offered a quality interdisciplinary education in which they can be fully engaged and take center stage, and where our researchers can count on having the space to freely pursue their initiative.

Established in 1996, USI is in constant evolution, always taking on new challenges while remaining true to its three guiding principles: quality, openness and responsibility.

The Institute for Communication Technologies (ITC) studies the mutual interactions between information technologies and human communication processes. The positions will be situated in the institute's area of research that is dedicated to networked photography, online communication, digital (visual) culture, ethics for the digital age, and creative and visual research methods.

The Institute for Communication Technologies invites applications for two fully funded Ph.D. positions in Communication Sciences for conducting research in the project entitled "Visualisierte Beziehungen – Funktionen und Problemfelder. Eine repertoire-orientierte Untersuchung visueller und bildbezogener Kommunikation in Paar- und Freundschaftsdyaden in der Schweiz". ["Visualized relationships – functions and problems. A repertoire-oriented investigation of visual and image-related communication among couples and friends in Switzerland"]. The project description in German and English language can be found here <https://search.usi.ch/en/projects/1029/visualized-relationships-functions-and-problems>.

The Project

The project is funded by the Swiss National Science Foundation (SNF) for a duration of 39 months, starting on September 1, 2018.

The research project will investigate the role of visual communication in close social relationships in Switzerland. Therefore, the communication repertoires and routines of couples and close friends will be studied with an in-depth qualitative approach that combines verbal interviews with visual methods. Visual communication will be examined in relation to non-visual practices of online and face-to-face communication. Two key research objectives are: (1) to explore the role and importance of visual and image-related practices in the communication repertoires scrutinizing both, social functions and potentially problematic uses, and (2) to explore which rules and norms of visual everyday communication are established within these relationships.

The Ph.D. Position

The doctoral students will be enrolled in the [Ph.D. program in Communication Sciences](#). The doctoral students will work under the scientific supervision of the project leader prof. Dr. [Katharina Lobinger](#). The successful candidates will be offered the possibility to work in a dynamic research team and in a multidisciplinary and international scientific environment.

Candidates' profile

Ideal candidates should satisfy the following requirements:

- A Master's degree in Media and Communication or in closely related fields, finished prior to appointment
- Expertise in qualitative research methods in the social sciences (especially qualitative interviews, content analysis), preferably also with knowledge of relevant methodological software, such as NVivo
- Interest in visual communication and online communication and their uses in everyday life
- Good skills in oral and written English (official language of the Ph.D. program)
- Good oral and writing skills in one (but preferably in two) national Swiss languages (German, French, Italian, Romansh)
- Ability to work independently and to plan and direct own work
- Excellent communication skills and ability to collaborate in teams
- High motivation for research tasks

Admission to the Ph.D. program is highly competitive. Admission decisions are based on the candidate's background, interests, attitude and potential for academic achievement. Successful enrolment in the Ph.D. program and the position as doctoral researcher are not compatible with a further professional activity.

The successful candidates will work as research assistants at the Institute of Communication Technologies, and will have the possibility to interact with an international network of collaborators. Workplace is USI Università della Svizzera italiana, located in Lugano, Switzerland.

The Application

Applications should contain (1) a letter in which the applicants describe their research interests and the motivation to apply, (2) a CV, (3) copies of relevant diplomas, certificates as well as the full transcript of records that prove the candidates' eligibility for doctoral studies in Communication Sciences, and (4) the names of two academic references that can be contacted for further information.

Please send your application or requests for further information to Prof. Dr. Katharina Lobinger (katharina.lobinger@usi.ch) with the subject "Ph.D. SNF".

Applications received before June 15, 2018, will be given priority.

USI strives to be an equal opportunity and family friendly employer and is further responsive to the needs of dual career couples. We guarantee that the selection process will give equal opportunities to female and male researchers

Lugano, May 2, 2018

