

Postdoctoral Scholar as a Humboldt Research Fellow



LaLa Lab

Learning to Adapt, Learning with Agency Lab



Alexander von
HUMBOLDT
STIFTUNG

Overview of the position:

At LaLa Lab (**Learning to Adapt, Learning with Agency Lab**) in the Department of Computer Science at Saarland University (<https://lala.cs.uni-saarland.de/>), we are looking for a Postdoctoral Scholar who will conduct independent research within the research areas of Human-Computer Interaction (HCI), the Learning Sciences, and Educational/Cognitive Psychology/Cognitive Science. **This position is supported by the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation (through the Henriette Herz Scouting Program), which will offer the candidate the prestigious [Humboldt Research Fellowship](#) (the candidate will be automatically granted the fellowship without the formal competitive application process). Therefore, it is targeted to recruit international talents who live outside of Germany (German citizens are not eligible).**

In this cycle of recruitment, we are particularly interested in candidates with a strong statistical background who can apply advanced modeling techniques to analyze experimental data on AI-based learning platforms (e.g., with a background in psychology, machine learning, data science, cognitive science). Bonus if you are familiar with or interested in computational modeling of learner behaviors, analyzing complex educational data, and/or machine learning techniques. That being said, we are also very open to candidates with strong backgrounds in other areas of expertise that are relevant to the lab's work.

The postdoc will not only benefit from the opportunity/possibility of conducting fully-independent research within the areas of interest in the lab (so you may propose your own research idea) but will also gain the experience of becoming a lab PI by managing research money of your own (provided by the Foundation) and supervising junior scientists. In addition, the Fellow will receive additional support from the Foundation, including a variety of networking events in Germany, a research grant of approximately ~20,000 Euro, free language courses, family allowance, initial financial support for moving to Germany, and subsidy toward the cost of medical insurance (see more below).

At the LaLa Lab, chaired by Prof. Dr. Tomohiro Nagashima, we conduct interdisciplinary research at the intersection of the learning sciences, HCI, and educational psychology to 1) better understand how humans learn and 2) to better support human learning processes using AI-based technologies. We engage with community stakeholders to co-design advanced technologies (e.g., AI-based tutoring systems), and address meaningful learning

activities within and outside of formal education. Learn more about the lab:

<https://lala.cs.uni-saarland.de/> Among others, core directions of our research include:

- designing effective learner-AI interactions in STEM using fallible AI,
- supporting children's and students' adaptive expertise and self-regulated learning (choice making/decision making) using multimodal learning analytics
- promoting student' decision-making agency/control in learning with AI in math
- Implementing trustworthy AI in a broader space of human learning in the society
- co-designing tech with and for kids and parents, and
- supporting cognitive, metacognitive, affective, and motivational learning experiences using AI-based learning technology.

In addition to the work in the lab, Saarland Informatics Campus offers a vibrant and international community of researchers in computer science and relevant areas, making it one of the major hubs of CS research in Europe: <https://saarland-informatics-campus.de/en/> Fellows are encouraged to make connections with researchers in this community and to find collaboration opportunities (and we support your networking in Europe).

So far, two Humboldt Fellows have joined the lab, and the third fellow will be expected to collaborate with them as well. The two fellows are [Dr. Bingyi Han](#) and [Dr. Krithik Ranjan](#).

Work duration:

24 months. Once you are selected, the official review by the Foundation takes about 2-4 weeks. At the moment we are looking for someone who can start at around the end of 2026 - first half of 2027. However, the start date can be flexibly arranged, depending on the candidate's preference. So if you are willing to join sometime between Nov 2026 - sometime in 2027, you are welcomed to apply/sign up on the interest form (see the bottom).

Workplace/Department:

Department of Computer Science, Saarland University, Saarland Informatics Campus, Germany

Eligibility and your qualifications:

- A doctoral degree in Psychology, Cognitive Science, the Learning Sciences, Computer Science, Human-Computer Interaction, Data Science, or in a related field
- Strong experimental design and advanced statistical analysis skills (e.g., mixed-effects models, multilevel modeling), AND/OR
- Experience or strong interest in computational modeling of learning
- At least one peer-reviewed full-paper publication at top conferences or high-ranked journal within their field as a first author
- Availability (no remote work from other countries is possible)
- No German citizenship
- No postdoctoral research stays nor completed degrees in Germany
- No previous applications nor sponsorship in any of the Alexander von Foundation's programs

- Proficiency in one or more of the following skills: advanced statistical analyses (and use of common stats software, e.g., R/RStudio), experimental design, software development, prototype design, or design research
- Excellent command of spoken and written English (work language is English)

Your responsibilities:

- Leading 1-2 research projects within LaLa Lab (at least one of them will be the candidate's own project idea)
- Conducting empirical research (design research or experimental research) with community stakeholders, such as school teachers/students and parents
- Mentoring PhD, master's and undergrad students in Computer Science, HCI, Psychology, or Education (PhD students, research assistants, and/or thesis-writing students)
- Developing technology for their own project (if relevant and if they have the skills)
- Leading conference and journal publications, conference presentations, and grant proposal writings
- Contributing to the lab-wide activities, such as strategic planning, social activities, lab meetings
- (if desired, optional) Teaching a small class with other members of the lab

What we can offer you:

- All of the benefits offered under the [Humboldt Research Fellowship](#), which includes:
 - Non-taxable fellowship of 3,000 EUR/month (the amount is very similar to standard postdoc salary (take-home amount) in Germany)
 - Family allowance for partners (276 EUR per month)
 - Subsidy towards the cost of medical insurance (70 EUR/month and per person)
 - Lump-sum child allowance for single parents
 - Free German language courses (if desired)
 - Initial mobility allowance (that is enough to cover flight tickets)
 - ~20,000EUR research money to cover research costs (that fellows can freely use for research activities and traveling)
 - Many networking and social/travel opportunities offered by the Foundation (e.g., annual conference, study trips)
- In addition, we also offer:
 - A shared office with other postdocs/PhD researchers
 - A working environment and schedule allowing you to balance work, coursework, and other responsibilities that you may have
 - Necessary equipment
 - An inclusive, interdisciplinary, and diverse lab environment that respects each others' ideas, needs, and preferences
 - Remote work (work from home) is possible

Application instruction:

Please complete this form (<https://forms.gle/r5wjqoNFi4V6qiw39>) to submit your application by October 14th, 2026. It asks you to submit your CV, motivation letter, research proposal, and max. 2 relevant publications.

Please also read my interview on how I select fellows:

<https://saarland-informatics-campus.de/en/piece-of-news/tomohiro-nagashima-on-the-henriette-herz-fellowship-lala-lab-and-ai-in-education/>

**If you are unable to upload any of the documents (e.g., because you don't use google services), please send all the required materials to me directly:
nagashima[at]cs.uni-saarland.de*