Research assistant position (part-time, 45-60%) at USI Università della Svizzera italiana, Faculty of Communication, Culture and Society, within the research project “Data-sharing skills in corpus-based research on talk-in-interaction”

USI Università della Svizzera italiana 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 of Argumentation, Linguistics and Semiotics (IALS) and the Institute of Italian Studies (ISI), which are part of USI’s Faculty of Communication, Culture and Society, invite applications for a research assistant position (45-60% depending on the candidate’s degree, 18 months).

Research project
The research assistant will contribute to the project “Data-sharing skills in corpus-based research on talk-in-interaction” (short title: CHORD-Talk), which is part of the Open Research Data (ORD) program currently promoted by SwissUniversities and involves USI (leading house, coordinator: Johanna Miecznikowski) and the universities of Basel (Lorenza Mondada and Martin Luginbühl), Lausanne (Jérôme Jacquin) and Neuchâtel (Simona Pekarek). Audio-video recorded and transcribed corpora of spoken language in interaction are collected by a diversity of disciplines in the social sciences and the humanities. They are particularly complex and offer several challenges to ORD practices. The project aims at identifying the conditions that must be fulfilled in order to prepare and treat audio-video corpora of spoken language in interaction as ORD in a meaningful way. The project team members will analyse and assess existing ORD practices related to audio-video interactional data by reviewing the relevant literature, critically reflecting on their own practices, and organising workshops with international experts from leading data-hosting institutions. The team will explore possibilities to improve ORD practices, with a particular focus on researchers’ data-sharing skills and on the Swiss situation. It will engage with the concerned disciplines and communities, e.g. in the fields of interactional linguistics, conversation analysis and dialogue-oriented argumentation studies, and evaluate procedures to disseminate relevant knowledge in these communities in the future.

Place of work
The main workplace is the Institute of Italian Studies at USI Università della Svizzera italiana, located in Lugano, Switzerland. A presence in USI at regular intervals is required, combined with remote working depending on the candidate’s preferences. Some project activities take place at the partner universities and availability to travel is therefore required.

The research assistant position
The position is offered part-time and for 18 months. The research assistant will help coordinate and document the work of the project team, contribute to organising workshops, and help
managing the project’s web and social media presence. He or she will conduct a literature review on ORD practices in the fields concerned by the project, test and describe corpus linguistic and publishing tools, and co-author a scientific publication on these topics. The position is an excellent opportunity for learning and for networking on a national and international scale.

**Profile**
Ideal candidates fulfill the following requirements:

- A Master’s or PhD degree (or equivalent degree) in linguistics, sociolinguistics, applied linguistics, computational linguistics, communication sciences, philology, social sciences or related disciplines.
- Proven ability to review and comment on the scientific literature in a selected field, to apply scientific methods in a research on a selected topic and to develop a coherent and persuasive line of reasoning.
- Knowledge of key theoretical and methodological concepts in the fields of interactional linguistics and conversation analysis. High personal interest in spoken language, social interaction, and scientific communication.
- Motivation to learn about scientific methods in the fields concerned by the project and to critically reflect on the ethical, methodological, and theoretical implications of data sharing in these fields.
- Proven ability to use a variety of digital tools in creative problem solving. Programming skills are an advantage.
- Fluency and good reading and writing skills in English; fluency and good reading skills in French or German or both. Knowledge of Italian will be considered an added value.
- Ability to work in a team.

**Contract terms**
The position is offered from April 1st, 2023, to September 30th, 2024 (18 months).

**Application**
Applications should contain:

- a letter in which the applicant describes his/her motivation to apply,
- a complete CV,
- copies of relevant diplomas, certificates as well as the full transcript of records that prove the candidate’s eligibility for the offered position,
- a digital version of a research work (Master thesis or other scientific publication), accompanied by a short summary in English (1 page maximum).
- A support letter written by the Master thesis supervisor (or another professor who knows the candidate well) is equally welcome.

Please send your application in electronic form in a single pdf file to Prof. Johanna Miecznikowski (johanna.miecznikowskifuenfschilling@usi.ch), who is also ready to answer any question you might have concerning the offered position.

The application deadline is February 15th, 2023.

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. As an institution that values diversity, USI particularly encourages applications from women and from all individuals from underrepresented groups.

Lugano, January 20, 2023