

Post-doc position at the Institute of Argumentation, Linguistics and Semiotics, Faculty of Communication, Culture and Society, 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 of Argumentation, Linguistics and Semiotics (IALS) represents a lively research environment for conducting research in argumentation studies. Interaction with several researchers specializing on argumentation in different contexts, as well as interdisciplinary interactions with colleagues inside and outside the Faculty of communication, culture and society is an asset for a scholar working in argumentation studies.

The Institute invites applications for a post-doc position (50%) in argumentation studies. The successful candidate will contribute to the research activities of IALS working on argumentation in public controversies.

The Position

The candidate will be fully integrated in the research seminars and activities at IALS. S/he will also have the opportunity to collaborate with colleagues from other institutes at the Faculty of communication, culture and society take part in courses taken from the PhD Program in Applied Linguistics *Managing languages, arguments and narratives in the datafied society*.

In particular, s/he will contribute to developing research on **argumentative public controversies** surrounding the environmental and social sustainability of the fashion field, in line with one of the main research streams developed at the IALS under the responsibility of Prof. Sara Greco. The successful candidate is expected to work proactively and independently but in the context of a collaborative relationship with Prof. Greco and other colleagues.

Building on previous research on argumentation in conflictual settings, this research stream considers argumentation in polylogical public controversies with an empirical perspective combining argumentation, discourse analysis and linguistic tools. Notably, analyzing argumentation empirically in this field implies considering different types of datasets, including public documents and social media. The following publication can be consulted for more details on this research stream: [Link \(open access\)](#). The empirical work of analysis in this area goes hand in hand with the development of theoretical concepts in argumentation, such as different types of argument schemes, the concepts of *reframing* and *issue*, to name but a few.

The successful candidate will collaborate with international colleagues in the framework of the Cost Action program APPLY – European Network for Argumentation and Public Policy Analysis (<https://publicpolicyargument.eu/>), where Prof. Greco is leader of the Empirical Working Group.

Research. First, the selected candidate will publish in relevant high-profile journals present papers at scientific conferences in the field of argumentation studies, discourse analysis, linguistics, communication and related fields in line with the research stream described above. Second, s/he is also expected to proactively contribute to acquire competitive funds – individually and in collaboration with Prof. Greco and other members of the institute.

Teaching. The candidate will have a teaching load of 4.5 ECTS credits per year at USI, in line with the needs of the Institute and Faculty.

Candidates' profile

Ideal candidates should satisfy the following requirements:

- A PhD title in argumentation, discourse analysis, linguistics, applied linguistics, computational linguistics, rhetoric, communication sciences, or related disciplines. Previous publications and evidence of previous funding acquired by the candidate will be considered as an important added value.
- High personal interest in the empirical analysis of discourse, dialogue and argumentation. Proven attitude for a fine-grained analysis of discourse and language. An interest for exploring the topic of sustainability in the fashion field from a viewpoint of argumentation.
- It is important that the candidate is passionate about learning dialogically and collaborating with Prof. Greco, colleagues at the IALS, at the Faculty, in Switzerland and abroad.
- It is also important that the candidate is available to tutor PhD students and Master students, as required.
- Skills (or willingness to acquire skills) of scrupulous manual annotation of data. Open-mindedness about methods of empirical analysis and argument mining, which are currently developed at IALS; full availability to learn to use tools for annotation (e.g. INCEpTION).
- Fluency in English is necessary. Some knowledge of Italian (at least at a basic level) is important for some of the tutoring/teaching activities. Knowledge of another national language will be considered as an added value.
- Interest for teaching. Previous experience will be considered as an added value.

Contract terms

This 50% position is funded by USI. Gross salary for the first year amounts to CHF 40'000.-. The position will be renewable for a second year.

Workplace is USI Università della Svizzera italiana, located in Lugano, Switzerland. Availability to travel to other parts of Switzerland and abroad (for purposes of collaboration and research) is required.

Preferred starting date is **October 1st, 2021**. However, the position will be kept open until a suitable candidate has been found.

The Application

Applications should contain: (1) a letter in which the applicants describe their research interests and the motivation to apply to this specific position, (2) a complete CV, (3) copies of PhD diploma, (4) an electronic version of the PhD dissertation and, if available, a PDF of ONE other scientific publication. A support letter written by the PhD supervisor (or another Professor who knows the candidate well) is equally welcome.

Please send your application in electronic form or requests for further information to Prof. Sara Greco (sara.greco@usi.ch). **Applications received before August 15, 2021, will be given priority.** Interviews will be held (online) in the week commencing on August 23, 2021. However, applications will be received until the position is filled.

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

Lugano, June 18, 2021