Università
della
Svizzera
italiana

Faculty of Informatics

PhD position within SNSF project BEST "Beyond Screen readers and Alt Text - Designing Multisensory Alternative to Text for Different Reading Abilities"

We are pleased to announce a doctoral positions in HCI at the Faculty of Informatics, Università della Svizzera italiana, USI, Lugano, within the SNSF funded Muses project.

Muses is part of a larger project, BEST, that explores how technology can support different forms of reading and sense making of text and multimedia content. Reading is a complex process that includes seeing the character (accessibility via visibility), being able to distinctly identify each character from the other (recognition via legibility) and finally making sense of the characters as a group (interpretation via readability). The aim of our project is to provide useful and usable assistive tools for people with different reading abilities for a rewarding reading experience. We take inspiration from works on screen readers as these are widely available to help users make sense of written text and images, and we move on considering how this paradigm could be further expanded to provide a multisensory reading experience.

Muses (Multisensory story-telling) will involve adults with mild cognitive disabilities as visitors in a museum, a non formal context, together with their care givers and educators. They will take an active role in collaborative critical design. The objective of this sub-project is to develop tools for supporting reading before, during and after the visit, to suit individual needs and preferences.

Successful candidates will be supervised by Dr Monica Landoni. The exact start date for the positions is negotiable: it can be as soon as September 2019. The project will last 4 years.

Candidates should have a background in computer science, cognitive psychology or learning sciences. Preferred qualifications include excellent academic record, strong organizational skills, experience with user study design and in coding across platforms.

How to apply: All interested applicants should contact Monica Landoni directly at monica.landoni@usi.ch to signal their desire to apply or seek additional information. Review of applications will begin immediately and continue until the positions are filled. More information about joining our doctoral school can be found at https://www.inf.usi.ch/en/study-informatics/phd-doctoral-studies.