

Job description: PhD Position

DC4 – Title of IRP4:

Stereotyped language related to gender, race and ethnicity in digital dictionaries and thesauri

Researcher profile: Doctoral candidate.

Research fields: Applied Linguistics, Gender Linguistics, Contrastive Linguistics

Type of contract: Temporary.

Job status: Full-time.

Duration: 36 months.

Application deadline: 8 July 2026, 11:59 pm (CEST)

Envisaged job starting date: 1 November 2026.

How to apply:

See application process and application form on the project website: www.multilawa.eu, cf. <Recruitment>, <https://www.multilawa.eu/recruitment-for-applying/general-information/>

Hiring organisation and offer posting contact details

Organisation: Université de Lorraine, Nancy

Number of positions available: 1.

Country: France.

Address of the organisation: Université de Lorraine, 34 Cours Léopold, 54000 Nancy, France

Workstation address: Laboratoire de recherche Analyse et Traitement Informatique de la Langue Française | [ATILF](http://atilf.cnrs.fr) (CNRS & Université de Lorraine/UMR 7118) 44 Avenue de la Libération, 54000 Nancy, France

This PhD position is part of a double-degree programme. Upon completion, candidates will be awarded **one joint doctoral degree**, on two PhD diplomas, following research stays at both institutions: **Université de Lorraine** (diploma conferred by **Université de Lorraine**) and the **University of Copenhagen** (diploma conferred by the **University of Copenhagen**).

Offer description

In brief:

We are looking for 1 Doctoral Candidate (DC) to join our project at multiple sites in the EU with a master's degree (or equivalent) in a relevant field with appropriate background for the doctoral project, such as a **Master of Arts, Master of Translation, Master of Education**, or a **Master of Science** in Linguistics or a closely related discipline.

MultiLawa:

The MultiLawa initiative is an interdisciplinary research programme that promotes the concept of **Multilingual Language Awareness** as it investigates Language Awareness in multilingual contexts, zooming in on Critical Language Awareness, Metalinguistic Awareness, and Practical Language Awareness. Adopting a broad understanding of Language Awareness as a general, socially embedded competence, the project addresses major language-related challenges in a rapidly digitalising society and contributes to the development of sustainable, inclusive, and pluri-/multilingual ecosystems across Europe.

MultiLawa capitalises on the diverse expertise of its 26 interacting partners and can rely on a solid and highly experienced **multi-stakeholder partnership**. Thanks to the exceptional collaboration between 10 universities in 8 European countries and 16 associated partners, the DC will benefit from an international, interdisciplinary and intersectoral training, including in-depth training in key research skills in the fields of (Applied) Linguistics, Digital Linguistics and Language Technologies, Gender Linguistics, Interactional Linguistics, Sociolinguistics, Lexicography, Terminology, LSP, Didactics and Language Policy and transferable skills (e.g. Open Science, Intellectual Property Rights, Ethics, Scientific Presentation, etc.).

The consortium will train 14 DCs as **plurilingual ambassadors of plurilingualism** in research excellence by using both **English** and **German** for internal communication during the training events and to achieve the respective research objectives in their multilingual Individual Research Project.

Scientific context of the Individual Research Project IRP4:

IRP4 is embedded in **Work Package 1 (WP1)** ‘Multilingual communication and resources in the Digital Age: discourses, practices, stereotypes’. WP1 investigates how the concepts of Language Awareness and pluri-/multilingualism are discursively constructed, ideologically framed, and technologically mediated in digital contexts across various societal fields (e.g., media, education, industry, politics). It will provide a research-based catalogue of arguments and language ideologies, with particular attention to issues of linguistic justice, gender fairness, and inclusion.

In this context, IRP4 focuses on identifying and analysing stereotypical language patterns and existing biases —particularly related to gender, race and ethnicity—in digital dictionaries and thesauri.

Recruiting University: Université de Lorraine (UL), Nancy, France

Partner University for the Joint Doctorate: University of Copenhagen (UCPH), Denmark

Objectives:

In the 21st century, stereotypical language is still widespread, accumulated in dictionaries, reinforcing stereotypes in easy online access. IRP4 aims therefore to:

- 1) analyse the representation of gender, race and ethnicity in digital (corpus-based) mono-/multilingual dictionaries and user interfaces (e.g. word thesaurus) to uncover fairness harms and discrimination against diverse demographic groups in lexical entries in terms of definitions, “typical” examples, collocations and synonyms;

- 2) raise users' and developers' Critical Language Awareness of stereotypical representations arising, among others, from biased internal datasets, e.g. digital corpora mainly relying on newspaper texts (collocations such as woman+raped/abused; Syrian+criminal/terrorist/arrested);
- 3) disclose outdated role models that are perpetuated in new technologies;
- 4) establish a set of measures to confront biases and stereotypical representations in digital resources aimed at civil society, e.g., by optimising underlying datasets with associated partners.

Expected Results:

- A comprehensive picture of gender, race and ethnicity's stereotypes rooted in digital mono- and multilingual dictionaries;
- List of data sources that allow a non-biased representation;
- Reduce fairness harms in widely used online dictionaries and user-interfaces

Secondments:

- Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences and Humanities, Berlin (Germany), 3 months
- Ordbogen A/S, Odense (Denmark), 3 months

Special selection criteria for the IRP4:

Languages: English, German at level B2 (written and spoken); additional language skills, especially in French or Danish, are desirable.

Methodology/Digital skills: Basics in corpus linguistics.

For further information contact the co-supervisors of IRP4:

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