

**Postdoc Position: *Noisy Cognition as a Unified Driver of Decisions***

***Project and position***

RISLαβ at the Economics Department at Ghent University (Belgium) has an open position for a postdoc on a project (funded by the *Research Foundation Flanders*) entitled “Noisy Cognition as a Unified Driver of Decisions” (joint with Ryan Oprea, UC Berkeley). The project consists in theoretically and empirically examining the cognitive drivers of individual decision-making across various contexts. A key deliverable is furthermore a large-scale empirical study examining common elements in decisions across different contexts (risk, uncertainty, time; gains, losses, and mixed domain choices).

The position entails applying Bayesian techniques to develop stochastic models of decision making, and to the collection and analysis of field and laboratory data to test those models (see <https://www.ferdinandvieider.com/> for examples of past and current projects). The exact remit is flexible: theory building and expansion, behavioural empirical experiments, and process tracing experiment are all part of the position. There is thus some flexibility in terms of preferred focus in terms of methods, as well as the opportunity to contribute to shaping the research agenda more widely.

The position is initially funded for 3 years, and comes with a competitive salary, social security (health insurance and pension contributions), travel and computer equipment resources, and other benefits. The postdoc will join a vibrant research group at Ghent University, and will be part of an active international research network.

***Profile***

Candidates should hold a PhD degree in a quantitative discipline, such as economics or quantitative/mathematical psychology, cognitive neuroscience, or a related discipline. Previous experience with theoretical modelling and/or empirical work on individual choice data is an asset, and a good understanding of the decision-making literature (both historical and recent) is mandatory. Familiarity with statistical coding is a must, with emphasis on conceptual understanding over physical coding. Knowledge and understanding of Bayesian statistics is highly desirable.

The position is research focused. The working language is English. Beyond project work, there is room within the position to finish prior work, and to develop and drive forward new own ideas to establish an independent profile. The position is located at the department of economics, but the outlook is inter-disciplinary. The precise time allocation between project work and own ideas is subject to discussion.

***Application procedure and deadline***

Applications should be sent as one pdf-document to Prof. Ferdinand Vieider ([ferdinand.vieider@ugent.be](mailto:ferdinand.vieider@ugent.be)) with reference “Postdoc Noisy Cognition”, and should include a motivation letter and a CV. The motivation letter should in particular detail your interest in the project topic, as well as reasons why you think you are suitable for the position. It should also briefly outline potential future research directions you want to take on your own.

Reference letters are not required at the initial stage of the application, but candidates should indicate two letter-writers who can be contacted in case they get selected for an interview. If you do already wish to provide reference letters, these should be sent directly to [ferdinand.vieider@ugent.be](mailto:ferdinand.vieider@ugent.be).

For more information, contact Prof. Ferdinand Vieider at [ferdinand.vieider@ugent.be](mailto:ferdinand.vieider@ugent.be). ***Applications will be considered as they arrive, and until the position is filled.*** The starting date is flexible and subject to discussion.