

Postdoc Researcher: Emotion communication in parent-infant interaction
McGill University

The McGill Infant Speech Perception lab and the Neuropragmatics and Emotion lab at McGill University are searching for a creative scientist to help spearhead a SSHRC-funded research project on the role of affect in infant development. This postdoctoral researcher will collaborate on a full-time basis with Dr. Linda Polka and Dr. Marc Pell to understand how infants process affective messages. The core project involves recording parent-infant interactions sessions and gathering requisite perceptual and facial movement data (using Baby FaceReader) to index affective messages. This is an opportunity to play a key role in generating a unique set of research materials and developing new testing methods to explore the broader role of affect in infant development. The chosen candidate will play a leading role in experimental design and setup, participant testing, data analyses, trainee supervision, and study oversight and will participate actively in the dissemination of the research (preparation of journal articles, conference presentations).

Qualifications: PhD in Psychology (or related field) with interest in developing research expertise in caregiver-infant interaction, human facial expressive behavior and/or face processing; 2) strong leadership, technical, and written communication skills in English 3) previous experience involving developmental populations and/or conducting facial movement analysis (e.g., FACS) is an asset.

This position does not involve classroom teaching, but the candidate will help to provide research training through organized workshops (e.g., to members of the Centre for Research on Brain, Language and Music) and by co-supervising undergraduate and/or graduate research trainees working on the project.

This 2-year position offers independence as well as important opportunities for collaboration in the school and as a member of the McGill Centre for Research on Brain, Language and Music (www.crblm.ca). Starting date is flexible but projected for September 1, 2022.

Candidates should provide a CV demonstrating evidence of research productivity, a one page statement of outlining their research expertise and intent, and names of two individuals who would be willing to provide a letter of recommendation (with their contact information).

McGill University is situated in the heart of Montréal, Canada, a vibrant city and the metropolis of Québec. Language, and neuroscience are both strategic research priorities at McGill which has gained an enviable reputation in this domain. For information about postdoctoral studies at McGill, see www.mcgill.ca/gps/postdocs

Inquiries should be sent directly to Dr. Linda Polka (linda.polka@mcgill.ca).