PROJECT: CulpeperSprint1

TITLE: Shakespeare: The technical words

SUPERVISOR(S): Prof. Jonathan Culpeper

DATE(S): Project will run for four weeks during June or July

JOB DESCRIPTION: This project focuses on the language of medicine, the law, food, or plants in Shakespeare's works (just one of these areas!). To take the example of medical language, what did it mean in Shakespeare's time to be diagnosed as "choleric", and what exactly was a "urinal"? In this project, you will work with your supervisor in exploring what such words meant in the context of Shakespeare's works and also those of his contemporaries. The basic move here will be to take words from one of the Arden dictionaries of technical words in Shakespeare (see: http://www.bloomsbury.com/uk/search?q=shakespeare%20dictionaries&Gid=1&pg=1) and give them the corpus-based treatment. More specifically, you will:

- engage with lexicography, Shakespeare and corpus methods;
- analyse data from both Shakespeare and his contemporaries;
- work with your supervisor in interpreting the data and entering it into a database.

PERSON SPECIFICATION: Full training in methods will be provided, so you do not need to have extensive knowledge of any particular area. However, you will need:

- strong ability to work independently and as part of a team; and
- an interest in (or at least sympathy with!) corpus-methods.

NOTES: This project is part of the Encyclopaedia of Shakespeare's Language project (http://wp.lancs.ac.uk/shakespearelang/).

PROJECT: BrezinaSprint

TITLE: #LancsBox: Visualization of linguistic data and materials development

SUPERVISOR(S): Dr. Vaclav Brezina, Dr. Dana Gablasova and Dr. Matt Timperley

DATE(S): Project will run in June or July 2018

JOB DESCRIPTION: Lancaster University has a long tradition of corpus linguistic research. #LancsBox (http://corpora.lancs.ac.uk/lancsbox/) is one of the new cutting-edge corpus linguistic tools developed at Lancaster University; it offers a number of functionalities for language analysis and data visualization.

The main aim of this project is to make the tool accessible to a wide range of users including students and experienced researchers. For this, we will be preparing data and mini-studies demonstrating the use of different #LancsBox functionalities. Some of the materials will also appear on the highly successful online course on Corpus Linguistics (CL MOOC) that has so far attracted over 20,000 participants worldwide.

The role will involve:

- Using corpus techniques (collocations, concordances, keywords);
- Writing clear descriptions and explanations;
- Being creative and using visualization tools in MS Office (e.g. Word, PowerPoint);
- Reporting back on activities undertaken in various forms, e.g. via presentation, in meetings, by email, etc.

Where necessary, training will be provided.

PERSON SPECIFICATION: Our ideal candidate will…

- Have an interest in corpus methods and innovation;
- Have good communication skills and the ability to work in a team;
- Like teaching and producing teaching materials;
- Have a good level of computer literacy, and knowledge of social media;
- Have a strong ability to work independently and as part of a team.

PROJECT: CasaponsaSprint

TITLE: Does learning a new language change how we see the world?

SUPERVISOR(S): Dr Aina Casaponsa & Prof Panos Athanasopoulos

DATE(S): Project will run in June or July 2018

JOB DESCRIPTION: The post is linked to the British Academy grant 'Neuroscientific investigation of object categorization in bilinguals'. The purpose of this project is to study the neural correlates of object perception that arise from differences in terminology across languages (e.g., taza in Spanish refers to both 'cup' and 'mug' in English). We will record the brain activity of bilingual participants in our new Electroencephalography (EEG) lab whilst they process objects that have different terms in their two languages. You will work alongside the main researchers, and your main duties are likely to include:

- Recruit and test participants (in our EEG lab)
- Code and analyse data
- Present results to other members of the research group

PERSON SPECIFICATION: The ideal candidate would have the following characteristics:

- Interest in learning how to run psycholinguistic experiments using brain activity recording tools (EEG)
- Excellent ability to recruit and test participants in a timely and efficient manner
- Good teamwork and collaborative skills
- A background in cognitive linguistics, psycholinguistics, or psychology is desirable but not essential
- Knowledge or interest in learning basic statistical analysis (e.g., ANOVAs, t-test)

NOTES: Data collection should take place before August 2018. Full training in brain activity acquisition techniques will be provided.

PROJECT: RebuschatSprint

TITLE: The bilingual brain: Studying the neural basis of language learning

SUPERVISOR(S): Patrick Rebuschat, Aina Casaponsa

DATE(S): Project will run in June 2018

JOB DESCRIPTION: This project provides you with a unique opportunity to work at the intersection of experimental psycholinguistics and cognitive neuroscience. The purpose of the experiment is to study how our brain learns a novel language by using electroencephalography (EEG). For this purpose, we have participants learning a new language in our new EEG lab while we monitor their brains' electrophysiological responses. This is part of a larger project with colleagues in Lancaster Psychology (Padraic Monaghan) and Bangor Psychology (Guillaume Thierry). Your main duties are likely to include:

- Provide assistance in setting up the EEG experiment, e.g. by creating stimuli, tasks, etc.
- Recruit and test subjects (in our EEG lab)
- Code and analyse data
- Present results to other members of the research group

PERSON SPECIFICATION: The ideal candidate would have the following characteristics:

- Interest in learning how to run cognitive neuroscience experiments
- Excellent ability to recruit participants
- Excellent ability to test participants in a timely and efficient manner
- Good time-management skills
- A background in psycholinguistics or psychology is desirable but not essential

NOTES: Data collection should take place before August 2018.

PROEJCT: CulpeperSprint2

TITLE: Shakespeare: The neologisms and 'once only' words

SUPERVISOR(S): Prof. Jonathan Culpeper

DATE(S): Project will run for four weeks during June or July

JOB DESCRIPTION: This project focuses on two groups of words. One group consists of words that were supposedly coined by Shakespeare. According to the Oxford English Dictionary, Shakespeare is responsible for about 1,500 neologisms. Preliminary work suggests this is an exaggeration. You will continue this work. The other group consists of words that occur once only in Shakespeare (so-called hapax legomena). Some scholars think such words are particularly reflective of an author's style. You will work on establishing the meanings and uses of these words. More specifically, you will:

- engage with lexicography, Shakespeare and corpus methods;
- analyse data from both Shakespeare and his contemporaries;
- work with your supervisor in interpreting the data and entering it into a database.

PERSON SPECIFICATION: Full training in methods will be provided, so you do not need to have extensive knowledge of any particular area. However, you will need:

- strong ability to work independently and as part of a team; and
- an interest in (or at least sympathy with!) corpus-methods.

NOTES: This project is part of the Encyclopaedia of Shakespeare's Language project (http://wp.lancs.ac.uk/shakespearelang/).

PROJECT: PottsSprint

TITLE: Exploring the digital media practices of international students

SUPERVISOR(S): Dr Diane Potts and Dr Johnny Unger

DATE(S): June or July 2018

JOB DESCRIPTION: As an intern on this project, you will contribute to an ongoing research project, "The evolution of international graduate students' use of digitally mediated communication". The aim of the project is to explore how international students use social media and other digital platforms as part of their social, intellectual and political activities, and to investigate whether and how this changes over the course of their degree programmes. The research involves regular, but infrequent data collection from a small group of participants. Your duties could therefore include (after receiving relevant training):

- Providing assistance in setting up interviews and managing recording equipment
- Transcribing interviews
- Processing data (e.g. cataloguing/digitally filing screenshots or visual data, converting written diaries into a consistent format)
- Coding/analysing data
- Sharing your views on and interpretations of the data and analyses with your supervisors based on your own experience of using digital media

PERSON SPECIFICATION: The ideal candidate would have the following characteristics:

- An interest in qualitative analysis and social aspects of language use
- Attention to detail and diligence in carrying out work to a high standard
- Willingness to learn about transcription and qualitative data analysis
- Some experience of taking classes in discourse analysis, workplace language, language in education or related topics would be an advantage
- Capacity and desire to work independently and to contribute personal insights to the analysis.