

PROJECT: CulpeperTrinity

TITLE: Shakespeare: The 'foreign' words

SUPERVISOR(S): Prof. Jonathan Culpeper

DATE(S): Project will run one day a week during term two

JOB DESCRIPTION: This project focuses on the words in Shakespeare's works that were distinctly 'foreign', typically from Latin and French, but also Italian, Spanish, Dutch and so on. For example, the French characters speak a kind of 'Franglais', which provides the audience some humour (especially when they are inadvertently rude), but also hints at xenophobia. In this project, you will work with your supervisor on describing those words. Were those words used by other English writers of that time? Were they in fact pretty much already adopted as part of the 'English' lexicon? What did they mean? In carrying out this investigation, you will focus on the individual words used. 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, it would be helpful to have:

- 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: AthanasopoulosTrinity

TITLE: Language, Cognition and Neuroscience in the lab.

SUPERVISOR(S): Prof Panos Athanasopoulos, Dr Patrick Rebuschat, Dr Aina Casaponsa

DATE(S): Projects will run in term 2, 2018

JOB DESCRIPTION: The post provides you with a unique opportunity to work in the new electroencephalography (EEG) lab at LAEL. We run projects in the intersection between Language, Cognition and Neuroscience. For instance, we are currently studying how our brain learns a novel language, how a novel language alters our perception of the world, how the bilingual brain processes objects with different terminologies, how words are organized in our minds (the mental lexicon). You will work as part of a vibrant team of researchers and your main duties are likely to include:

- Provide assistance in setting up behavioural and EEG experiments, e.g. by creating stimuli, tasks, etc.
- Recruit and test participants (behaviourally and in our EEG lab)
- Enter participants' information in the database, code and analyse data

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

- Interest in language and thought and their neural correlates, and how to run psycholinguistic experiments
- Good time-management skills
- 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: Full training in data acquisition techniques will be provided.

PROJECT: GillenTrinity

TITLE: The Edwardian Postcard project

SUPERVISOR(S): Dr Julia Gillen

DATE(S): One day a week in term 2.

JOB DESCRIPTION: The Edwardian Postcard project collects and studies postcards from the first decade of the twentieth century, when they were the social media platform of the day. People could combine a short message with an attractive image and send it, cheaply, so that it would arrive within hours.

The project's work has proved to be very successful in connecting with members of the public. During term 1 we are developing a new web interface to enable people to donate scans and participate in research activities including transcription and categorisation. You will be working on this Citizen Humanities project, with initial training and supervision. This would be suitable for somebody interested in developing their profile in professional communications. Your work will include:

- monitoring the quality of inputs;
- responding to enquiries and proactively communicating with members of the public through the site, email and by phone;
- publicising the project through existing social media ie. Facebook and Twitter as well as setting up and running a new Instagram account;
- drafting posts and short articles for specified audiences beyond the project
- compiling a report with quantitative and qualitative elements at the end of term.

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

- Good communication skills in writing and by phone;
- Experience of social media communications;
- Good self organisation and time-management skills;
- An interest in developing professional communication skills.

PROJECT: PottsTrinity

TITLE: Exploring the digital media practices of international students

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

DATE(S): January-March, 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.

PROJECT: LeemannTrinity

TITLE: Analyzing Big Data for forensic speaker identification

SUPERVISORS: Adrian Leemann, Sam Kirkham, Claire Nance

DATES: Project will run in term 2, 2018

JOB DESCRIPTION: This post is linked to a project where we analyze data from the English Dialects App corpus – audio recordings from more than 3000 speakers from across the UK. The purpose of this project is to explore how phonetic features (e.g. the vowel in ‘cup’ or intonation such as ‘uptalk’) are distributed across different sectors of the population – which is one of the most under-researched areas in phonetics. Our findings will directly feed into research on speaker identification: experts who do forensic casework (e.g. analyzing threat calls) typically need population distributions of acoustic features to narrow down the set of potential perpetrators involved in the crime.

You will work alongside the main researchers, and your main duties are likely to include:

- Intellectual contribution to the project (particularly in its planning stages)
- Coding and analyzing data
- Potential contribution to the write-up of a research article

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

- An interest in phonetics, speech sciences – working with a cutting-edge corpus
- An interest in learning new data analysis skills
- Good communication skills and the ability of working in a team