



Conducting research for a changing society: This is what drives us at Forschungszentrum Jülich. As a member of the Helmholtz Association, we aim to tackle the grand societal challenges of our time and conduct research into the possibilities of a digitized society, a climate-friendly energy system, and a resource-efficient economy. Work together with around 7,500 employees in one of Europe's biggest research centres and help us to shape change!

The aim of our research at the Institute for Advanced Simulation – Civil Safety Research (IAS-7) is to better understand complex dynamics in crowds and thus make large gatherings safer and more comfortable. As psychologists, we study social interactions that enable joint movement in large groups. We are now launching a new research project that uses eye tracking to investigate coordination and communication in crowds. To do so, we will conduct laboratory experiments involving large groups. We are currently seeking a PhD student to join our interdisciplinary team and contribute to this research

Join us preferably by November 1st 2025 for an exciting

PhD Position – Social Psychology / Crowd Psychology

Your Job:

This project involves laboratory experiments with three different crowd settings: a) a large group waiting in close proximity, b) a queue, and c) a crowd moving through a bottleneck. Using eye tracking, we will study how people coordinate and interact within these settings. The project is carried out in collaboration with partners at RWTH Aachen University and the University of Rennes, France. It is also part of a broader psychological research network focusing on eye tracking.

Your tasks will include:

- Planning and conducting laboratory experiments
- Analyzing experimental data with a focus on eye tracking
- Collaborating closely with partners from computer science (IAS-7, RWTH)
- Presenting your work at psychological and interdisciplinary conferences
- Publishing your findings in scientific journals
- Participating workshops on eye tracking within the research network
- Attending project meetings in Aachen and Rennes, France

Your Profile:

- A completed university degree (master's or equivalent) in psychology or a related

We look forward to receiving your application until 14.08.2025 via our

Online-Recruitment-System!

Questions about the vacancy?

Get in touch with us by using **our contact form.**

Please note that for technical reasons we cannot accept applications via email.
www.fz-juelich.de

field of study

- A genuine interest in complex social interactions
- Enjoy working in a team, on projects, and within the interdisciplinary environment of IAS-7
- Excellent communication skills, including in intercultural contexts
- Very good English skills
- Note: Prior experience with eye tracking or literature in the field of crowd psychology is not required. Instead, we value scientific curiosity.
- Enthusiasm for innovative questions and enjoyment of independently developing research methods

Our Offer:

We work on the very latest issues that impact our society and are offering you the opportunity to actively help in shaping change! We offer ideal conditions for you to complete your doctoral degree:

- A highly motivated working group as well as an international and interdisciplinary working environment at one of Europe's largest research institutions
- Opportunity to participate in (international) conferences and project meetings
- Continuous mentoring from your scientific supervisor
- Flexible work arrangements, e.g. working from home
- 30 days of annual leave and provision for days off between public holidays and weekends (e.g. between Christmas and New Year)
- A large research campus with green spaces, offering the best possible means for networking with colleagues and pursuing sports alongside work
- Opportunity to develop your strengths, e.g. through a comprehensive training programme; a structured programme including continuing professional development and networking opportunities specifically designed for Jülich's doctoral researchers by the Jülich Center for Doctoral Researchers and Supervisors (JuDocS): <https://go.fzj.de/JuDocs>

In addition to exciting tasks and a collaborative working atmosphere at Jülich, we have a lot more to offer: <https://go.fzj.de/benefits>

The position is for a fixed term of 3 years. Pay in line with 75% of pay group 13 of the Collective Agreement for the Public Service (TVöD-Bund) and additionally 60 % of a monthly salary as special payment („Christmas bonus“). The monthly salaries in euro can be found on the BMI website: <https://go.fzj.de/bmi.tvued.entgelt> Further information on doctoral degrees at Forschungszentrum Jülich (including its various branch offices) is available at <https://www.fz-juelich.de/en/careers/phd>

We welcome applications from people with diverse backgrounds, e.g. in terms of age, gender, disability, sexual orientation / identity, and social, ethnic and religious origin. A diverse and inclusive working environment with equal opportunities in which everyone can realize their potential is important to us.

Further information on diversity and equal opportunities: <https://go.fzj.de/equality>