Call for the reception of expressions of interest

Contact Person / Scientist in charge
- Name and Surname: Dr. Albert Costa
- E-mail: albert.costa@upf.edu

Department / Institute / Centre
- Name: CBC- Center for Brain and Cognition
- Address: Ramon Trias Fargas, 25-27 3rd.floor
- Province: Barcelona

Brief description of the institution
UPF is the youngest public university in Catalonia (founded in 1990). UPF is the top Spanish university in the World University Rankings of the Times Higher Education (THE) and ranks 13th worldwide in the 100 under 50 ranking of the same source). "HR Excellence in Research". UPF was the first university in Spain in formally adhering to the Charter and Code and is strongly committed to promoting transparency, accessibility, equity and excellence in researcher recruitment.

The Information and Communication Technologies Engineering (ETIC) at Universitat Pompeu Fabra was created in 1999 with the mission to become one of the leading European university departments in the broad range of fields created around the convergence of ICT with biomedical and cognitive sciences, computation and networks. The ETIC has since its beginnings emphasized scientific excellence and internationalisation as core aspects of its activities. In fact, it is the only Spanish ICT department that has been awarded the “Maria de Maeztu” excellence by the Spanish government for the quality and relevance of its pioneering scientific research, and as the top IT research concentration in Spain. The ETIC also hosts the Center for Brain and Cognition (CBC).

Brief description of the Centre/ Research Group
The Center for Brain and Cognition at ETIC currently hosts six independent research groups, with over 90 researchers and staff. The CBC conducts leading-edge interdisciplinary research in the cognitive neurosciences. It hosts world-leading research on topics such as early bilingual language acquisition, biologically plausible models of cognitive phenomena, probabilistic reasoning, bilingual language production, and multisensory perception. It has access to a broad variety of techniques from behavioural experiments with humans of all ages to computational modelling to brain imaging. The Center hosts scientists from diverse backgrounds, including philosophers, linguists, psychologists, biologists, physicists and computer scientists.

The SPB group, headed by Dr. Albert Costa, forms part of the Center of Brain and Cognition in the Department of Technology of the Universitat Pompeu Fabra.

We are interested in the cognitive and brain basis of the speech production process, with a special emphasis on bilingual speech production.
More in particular our research can be divided in the following areas of investigation:

- Brain Basis of Bilingualism: Language Control in Bilingual Speakers
- Costs and Benefits associated with bilingualism
- Sentence comprehension in a second language
- Understanding accented speech
- Producing language in different modalities
- Alignment in Bilingual Dialogue
- Speech production and language control in bilinguals with neurodegenerative diseases
- Memory for faces and names in patients with Alzheimer’s disease.

Our investigation includes behavioural methodologies as well as physiological measurements.

**Project description**

Recent research has revealed that the use of a foreign language has an impact on people’s decisions, preferences and choices (1). Indeed, as compare to a native language context, foreign language contexts seem to reduce certain biases such as loss aversion, risk aversion, and ambiguity aversion among others. This project aims to further explore this foreign language effect on decision making. The project will involve using various experimental techniques ranging from questionnaire based studies to others in which psychophysiological measures will be obtained.

**Candidate profile**

The candidate should have a background on psychology or economics. Knowledge in the field of reasoning and decision making would be welcome. High command in English is needed. Knowledge of Spanish would be also considered.

**Research Area**

- Social Sciences and Humanities (SOC)
- Economic Sciences (ECO)
- Life Sciences (LIF)

**Applications:** please send the CV and 2 letters of reference.