



UNIVERSITY
OF COLOGNE

Faculty of Arts and Humanities

Research Fellow in Iconicity in Co-singing Gesture (f/m/x)

Institute of Musicology

We are one of the largest and oldest universities in Europe and one of the most important employers in our region. Our broad range of subjects, the dynamic development of our main research areas and our central location in Cologne make us attractive for students and researchers from around the world. We offer a wide range of career opportunities in science, technology, and administration.

We are seeking a Research Fellow for the project "Iconicity in co-singing gesture: the foundations of gesture-vocalization resemblance in beatboxing" under the direction of Professor Dr Lara Pearson. The project examines the mechanisms underlying gestural iconicity in beatbox performance and is part of the ViCom DFG Priority Program. Consequently, the successful candidate will benefit from regular meetings and collaborations with other visual communication projects within this overarching framework.

YOUR TASKS

- » Contribute to the development of the project's theoretical framework and methodological approaches
- » Record video, kinematic, surface electromyography (EMG), and audio data of beatbox performances at the University of Cologne
- » Apply computer vision methods for pose tracking from video
- » Analyse kinematic, EMG, and audio data using statistical methods, and work as part of a team to publish the results
- » Contribute to the development of tools for the automated annotation of acoustic and gesture events
- » Assist the PI in the organization of scientific workshops and academic/public outreach

YOUR PROFILE

- » Completed Master's degree in human movement science, cognitive science and AI, gesture studies, cognitive linguistics, voice studies, computational musicology or a related discipline
- » Programming skills (Python, R, Matlab, or comparable coding language)
- » Experience with or willingness to acquire skills in computer vision approaches for pose tracking from video, EMG recording and analysis, vocal recording and analysis, time-series analysis, statistical modelling
- » Excellent English communication and writing skills

WE OFFER

- » A stimulating research environment
- » Opportunity to pursue a doctorate on the topics covered in the project
- » A diverse working environment with equal opportunities
- » Support in balancing work and family life
- » Extensive advanced training opportunities
- » Occupational health management offers
- » Flexible working time models
- » Opportunity to work remotely

The University of Cologne promotes equal opportunities and diversity. Women will be considered preferentially in accordance with the Equal Opportunities Act of North Rhine-Westphalia (Landesgleichstellungsgesetz – LGG NRW). We also expressly welcome applications from all suitable candidates regardless of their gender, nationality, ethnic and social origin, religion, disability, age, sexual orientation and identity.

The position is available from 1 April 2026 on a part-time basis (25,89 hours per week). The position is to be filled for a fixed term until 31 March 2029. If the applicant meets the relevant wage requirements and personal qualifications, the salary is based on remuneration group 13 TV-L of the pay scale for the German public sector.

Please apply online with proof of the required qualifications (without a photo) under <https://jobportal.uni-koeln.de>. The reference number is Wiss2512-05. The application deadline is 12 January 2026.

For further inquiries, please contact Professor Dr Lara Pearson (lara.pearson@uni-koeln.de) and take a look at our [FAQs](#).



HR EXCELLENCE IN RESEARCH



Foto: Thomas Jösel