

DOCTORAL STUDENT

Post :	Doctoral student
Thesis topic:	Development of a neuropsychological battery for survivors of intimate partner violence.
Position Assignment and Location :	Clermont-Ferrand – Université Clermont Auvergne – LAPSCO (France)
Start date:	September 1st, 2024
Duration of Contract:	36 months

The interviews for selected candidates will take place between May 20-24, 2024

JOB DESCRIPTION

The Laboratory of Social and Cognitive Psychology (LAPSCO-UMR UCA-CNRS 6024) at the University of Clermont Auvergne (based in Clermont-Ferrand) is offering funding for a doctoral student in the field of neuropsychology starting in September 2024. The doctoral student will conduct research within LAPSCO as part of the BELIEVE-FR project (<https://believebattery.wixsite.com/believe-fr-project>), funded by the French National Research Agency (ANR), under the supervision of Julia Daugherty and Pascal Hugué. Collaboration with Miguel Perez-García's research team (University of Granada) is planned during the thesis.

Research contract theme: Globally, one in three women has experienced physical and/or sexual violence from an intimate partner. Intimate partner violence against women has been associated with a multitude of mental, physical, and socio-economic consequences. One of the most frequently overlooked consequences is brain injury (BI). In the context of intimate partner violence, BI can include traumatic brain injuries caused by direct head impacts, or hypoxic or ischemic injuries (strangulation being the underlying causal mechanism).

One primary factor contributing to the inadequacy of research and outreach to women experiencing brain injury (BI) in cases of intimate partner violence stems from the absence of a comprehensive and accessible neuropsychological assessment specifically designed for victims of such violence. Currently, survivors of intimate partner violence are evaluated by professionals from different fields, whose approaches are often limited to their own areas of expertise (for example, clinical psychologists assess psychopathology, psychologists focus on psychological trauma, and neurologists often consider them as "brain injury patients"). Although each perspective is necessary, the disparate nature of services and assessments hinders a comprehensive understanding of consequences. In response to the need for a single tool capable of assessing consequences across different domains of expertise, the Believe project proposes the world's first free and clinically validated neuropsychological battery for measuring these variables (the Believe Battery). The Believe Battery not only includes an extensive list of neurocognitive tests, but also includes a brief screening for BI, as well as measures for the type/severity of violence, psychopathology, and overall health. Additionally, the Believe Battery is computerized and free, enabling overall cost reduction and standardization of the administration, scoring, and interpretation procedure.

The BELIEVE-FR project aims to adapt the battery to the French context (the battery is currently available in Spanish, Portuguese, and English), to examine the prevalence, potential mechanisms, characteristics, and neuropsychological consequences of BI in women survivors of intimate partner violence in France. As part of this project, the doctoral student's work will involve testing (via the neuropsychological battery) women survivors of intimate partner violence as well as women who have not experienced intimate partner violence to validate the battery and establish reference scores. He or she will also contribute to data analysis, publication, and dissemination.

MAIN ACTIVITIES :

- Conduct scientific literature reviews on the subject
- Manage online data collection at the national level
- Communicate with various project partners, including associations where data will be collected, as well as international research partners. These exchanges will aim to establish contacts for potentially collecting data from victims of intimate partner violence as well as women who have not experienced this type of violence
- Recruit participants and conduct neuropsychological assessments as well as interviews on brain injuries in person, both with women victims of intimate partner violence and with women who have not experienced this type of violence

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- Contribute to the training of undergraduate and master's students in neuropsychological assessment for data collection
- Synthesize these results for scientific publications targeting international journals

REQUIRED SKILLS:

Knowledge:

- Basic knowledge of neuropsychological assessment tools
- Basic theoretical knowledge in cognitive assessment (for example, recognizing the importance of a controlled testing environment and considering social variables that may influence performance)
- Basic skills in interpreting test results and applying fundamental diagnostic criteria (for example, by comparing them to reference or normative scores)
- Keen awareness of ethical considerations in research involving victims of intimate partner violence and individuals with brain injuries

Operational Skills:

- Proficiency in basic statistics and statistical software (e.g., Jamovi, SPSS), with additional training planned during the doctoral program
- Ability to conduct comprehensive literature reviews and synthesize information from various fields (e.g., neuropsychology, clinical psychology)
- Administer neuropsychological and/or psychological assessments
- Collect, code, and manage data from a tablet: This includes adhering to standardized data collection procedures and establishing robust data storage and backup systems
- Write scientific papers and ensure their dissemination
- Team work

Behavioral Skills:

- Autonomy
- Organizational skills
- Rigor/Reliability

PREREQUISITES FOR EDUCATION/TRAINING:

- Candidates holding a master's degree in neuropsychology, psychology, clinical psychology, or cognitive neuroscience (or similar field) should demonstrate an interest in studying intercultural neuropsychological assessments, brain injuries, and intimate partner violence. Expertise in cognitive assessments, as well as experience working with victims of intimate partner violence, would be additional assets. The candidate must be fluent in French. Proficiency in English/Spanish/Arabic is desired but not obligatory. International applications are welcome.

SPECIFICITIES / JOB CONSTRAINTS:

- Salary: €2,200 gross monthly
- Employment contract: 37.5 hours per week
- Participation in public transportation costs
- Contribution to health insurance of €15/month
- Flexible working hours: <https://www.uca.fr/universite/travailler-a-luca/services-aux-personnels>
- Leisure, sports, and cultural offers for all employees (<https://class.uca.fr/>)
- Access to a staff training program
- Possibility of access, subject to conditions, to nearby parking spaces
- Sustainable mobility package for using a bicycle for commuting

At UCA, inclusion and diversity are important values. This is why we particularly welcome applications from people with disabilities.

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TO APPLY:

The application package must include the following elements, grouped into a single PDF file and in the specified order:

- A detailed CV,
- Master's diploma/grades,
- The names of at least two references to contact
- Two letters of recommendation
- A cover letter specifying the following two points:
 - 1) Research interests and previous experiences (mandatory response; maximum 800 words),
 - 2) Propose a research question concerning brain injuries and neuropsychological sequelae in female survivors of intimate partner violence and explain its relevance to the literature (maximum 400 words).

Applications (as well as any requests for additional information) should be sent to the *President of the University of Clermont Auvergne* by email to recrutement.drh@uca.fr no later than **May 9, 2024**.

WORK ENVIRONMENT:

The University of Clermont Auvergne (UCA) stands out for its dynamic community of over 36,000 students, 2,000 faculty members and researchers, and 1,500 technical and administrative staff. Recognized for its academic excellence, UCA is a regional university with a national and international reputation, owing to its rich history, strong connections with its socio-economic and cultural environment, and wide range of research and teaching disciplines. In 2022, UCA was ranked in the top 17 French universities with a label of excellence, focusing on the thematic of designing sustainable lifestyles and production models.

The Laboratory of Social and Cognitive Psychology (located at the Carnot site of UCA; Clermont-Ferrand) brings together 42 permanent researchers and nearly 95 staff in total, including doctoral and post-doctoral researchers. Its main objective is the study of behaviors and cognitive processes, ranging from their brain bases to their regulation under the influence of the social environment. It has significant implications in fields such as education, industry, and health. Supported by two CNRS institutes (INSB and INSHS), LAPSCO is a partner in two International Research Centers (Innovative Systems and Services for Transport and Production, and Natural Catastrophic Risks and Socio-Economic Vulnerability), and is also involved as a partner and/or coordinator in several projects funded by ANR or Europe.