The University of Mannheim (Germany) is offering a full-time position as Postdoctoral Research and Teaching Fellow (male/female/non-binary) (E 13 TV-L BW) starting on August 1st, 2023 or later, depending on the applicant’s convenience (October 1st the latest).

Well-adjusted people typically think more favorably of themselves than objective indicators warrant. For example, the average IQ in the population is 100, but most people estimate their IQ to be considerably higher. It has been proposed that a communal life orientation curtails such self-enhancement effects and reduces even narcissism. A communal life orientation includes close relationships, collectivism, religiosity, and mind-body practices.

However, a communal life orientation is not necessarily antithetical to self-enhancement. Instead, such an orientation may shift self-enhancement away from the agentic domain (e.g., overestimating one’s intelligence) to the communal domain (e.g., overestimating one’s value as a friend). Consistent with this possibility, collectivists, religious individuals, and mind-body practitioners self-enhance considerably in the communal domain. There is even a form of narcissist, the communal narcissist, who regard themselves as “the best friend someone can have” and someone who is “an amazing listener.” We seek to employ a talented postdoctoral researcher, who is interested in developing further this line of research on communal self-enhancement in close collaboration with Prof. Jochen Gebauer (University of Mannheim, Germany) and Prof. Constantine Sedikides (University of Southampton, United Kingdom).

Your tasks include:

Conducting research on communal self-enhancement, such as…

- self-enhancement and close relationships
- self-enhancement and collectivism
- self-enhancement and religiosity
- self-enhancement and mind-body practices
- communal narcissism

(Co-)Supervision of theses at the...

- Bachelor’s level

With approximately 2,630 staff members and 12,000 students, the University of Mannheim is an academic higher education institution with an outstanding reputation in research and teaching.

In particular, the fields of Economics and Social Sciences, which are traditionally very strong at the University of Mannheim, rank among the top institutions both at national and international level. A special characteristic of the university is the high degree of networking among its five schools.

The University of Mannheim traditionally hosts one of the largest research groups on social psychology. At the Chair for Cross-Cultural Social and Personality Psychology we are interested in theory building in the areas of social, personality, and cross-cultural psychology and we seek to empirically test our own theories and ideas with complementary and divergent methods, spanning from experiments to latent longitudinal designs. A particular focus of our research lies on the self-concept.

Key information

Start: August 1st, 2023 or later, depending on the applicant’s convenience (October 1st the latest)

Term: In accordance with German law (WissZeitVG), the position is temporary and initially limited to a period of three years with an option for extension to six years

Remuneration bracket: E 13 TV-L BW

Weekly hours: 39.5 hours, the position is generally suitable for job sharing

Application deadline: 15 Mai 2023

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Teaching seminars (in English or German language) in the area of social and/or personality psychology, such as…

- the self
- self-enhancement
- narcissism

Your profile:

- PhD in (social and/or personality) psychology
- Passion for research on (communal) self-enhancement
- Strong academic writing skills
- Interest in a wide variety of sophisticated methods (experiments, longitudinal studies, multilevel studies, Bayesian analyses, etc.)

What we offer:

- 3-year postdoctoral research and teaching fellowship with optional extension to 6 years.
- Extensive expertise on communal self-enhancement (Profs. J. Gebauer & C. Sedikides).
- An active, congenial research team.
- Substantial funds from the European Research Council (ERC Consolidator Grant) and the University of Mannheim to carry out research of the highest quality.

Outstanding research culture  Innovative academic working environment  Positive working atmosphere

Applicants with disabilities are given preferential consideration in the event of equal qualification. The University of Mannheim is committed to increasing the quota of women in academia and thus encourages women with relevant qualifications to apply.

If you are interested in applying, please send your application documents via e-mail or mail by 15.05.2023 at the latest:

Prof. Dr. Jochen Gebauer  
University of Mannheim  
A5, 6  
68159 Mannheim  
Germany  
Jochen.Gebauer@uni-mannheim.de

Data protection

Please find detailed information on the collection of personal data from the data subject according to Article 13 GDPR on the university’s homepage: www.uni-mannheim.de/datenschutz-bei-bewerbungen.

Submitted application documents will only be returned if you enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope. Otherwise, they will be destroyed in accordance with current data protection law after the application procedure has ended. Electronic applications will be deleted accordingly.

If you apply by e-mail, please note that protection of confidential data cannot be guaranteed as unauthorized third parties might gain access to unencrypted e-mails during transmission.
If you have any questions about the position, please contact Jochen Gebauer at Jochen.Gebauer@uni-mannheim.de