

Job ID: ISF054DOC223

The Acoustics Research Institute ([ARI](#)) of the Austrian Academy of Sciences ([OeAW](#)), Austria's leading non-university research facility, undertakes top-level research in auditory cognitive neuroscience, psychoacoustics and experimental audiology, phonetics, bioacoustics, physical and computational acoustics, mathematics and signal processing as well as machine learning in acoustics. The close interaction of the working groups allows innovative research approaches through the synergistic effects of multidisciplinary research. The institute is offering a

## PHD STUDENT POSITION (F/M/X)

(part-time, 30h per week)

The position is assigned to an FWF stand-alone project led by Priv.Do. Dr. Angela Stoeger, (<http://www.angelastoeger.com>) on cheetah vocal communication. The project will focus on the chirping calls that are unusually high and confusingly resemble bird chirps in sound quality and structure. The chirp is used to maintain vocal contact and summon affiliated individuals. There are two intriguing aspects about the chirp: (1) it represents an upward outlier in respect to the *acoustic allometric hypothesis* and (2) it is unusual for a species in an open habitat to use such a high-pitched call as contact-call.

The hypothesis that we intent to test is whether the high-pitched bird-like call represent a form of acoustic crypsis employed as a defense mechanism against eavesdropping competitors, and / or to avoid detection by prey. To tackle this research, you will perform acoustic analysis of cheetah calls, propagation experiments and playback experiments with prey and predator species (i.e. lions) in South Africa.

### Your tasks:

- Conduct acoustic and video analysis
- Design and conduct playback experiments in South Africa
- Communication of scientific results in scientific publications and at scientific meetings
- No teaching duties

### Your profile:

- Master's degree (or equivalent) in a discipline related behavioural/cognitive biology
- Profound knowledge of written and oral English
- Skills on acoustic recording and acoustic analysis preferred
- Experience in field work in remote areas

The position is limited to three years. The starting date is flexible between September and November 2023. The successful candidate will be enrolled in the Vienna Doctoral School in Cognition, Behavior and Neuroscience (<https://vds-cobene.univie.ac.at>).

The annual gross salary is € 34.606,85, according to the academy's collective agreement. Candidates should send a CV, copies of relevant certificates, and a brief statement describing motivation, personal qualification, and research interests by e-mail to Angela Stoeger ([angela.stoeger-horwath@oeaw.ac.at](mailto:angela.stoeger-horwath@oeaw.ac.at)), **no later than June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2023**. She also can be contacted for informal inquiries and questions. The first round of evaluation will start in the July 2023.

*The Austrian Academy of Sciences (OeAW) pursues a non-discriminatory employment policy and values equal opportunities, as well as diversity. Individuals from underrepresented groups are particularly encouraged to apply.*