

HiWi position at the Center for Computational and Theoretical Biology

Seeking a motivated student for a theory project: On the Evolutionary Origins of Tragic Art

Background: Our research group in Theoretical Biology seeks a student to assist in the initial phase of exploring the evolutionary origins of tragic art and its appreciation with a strong focus on mathematical and theoretical models (collaboration with Prof. Böckler-Raettig, Institute for Psychology). We seek to investigate how emotionally evocative art may enhance social cohesion and cooperation via mathematics.

We offer: We offer a dynamic and international research group located at the CCTB, Hubland Nord - Theoretical Biology (<https://tecoevo.github.io/>). The position is in-person in Würzburg, and the candidate will be involved in attending our group meetings, talks and one-on-one discussions to experience the full workings of being part of a research environment in theoretical biology.

Tasks: The tasks of the HiWi would involve developing a structured outline for the project based on provided materials and an independent exploration of relevant literature. The main aim will be to generate a comprehensive report about the state-of-the-art. The work will involve writing, referencing and graphing on a Mac computer (will be provided).

Prerequisites: Background in psychology or related fields (e.g., cognitive science, cultural studies) with a strong interest in theory, or, a background in mathematical and theoretical studies with a strong interest in cultural and social psychology is preferred. The following skills are desirable but not necessary to have to begin with. Training will be provided as required.

- ability to grasp the gist of scientific manuscripts and summarise critically main points
- bibliography management skills
- LaTeX for typesetting the report
- Keen interest in the topics of social and evolutionary psychology and mathematics
- Good command of English

Start, Duration, Time commitment, Salary: The project **starts from 01.02.25** or earlier as per discussion. The position is limited to one year. The weekly time commitment is flexible and variable after an initial training. Salary as per the standard rates.

Contact: Please send a single PDF of not more than two pages (including a CV and a motivation statement) via email to chaitanya.gokhale@uni-wuerzburg.de with the email title "HiWi Tragic Art project" by the **31st of Dec 2024**. Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis until the position is filled.