



Trinity College Dublin

Coláiste na Tríonóide, Baile Átha Cliath

The University of Dublin

Post Specification

Post Title:	Research Fellow in Decision Neuroscience (x 2)
Post Status:	Specific Purpose Contract – Full-time or Part-time
Research Group / Department / School:	Trinity College Institute of Neuroscience, Trinity College Dublin, the University of Dublin
Location:	Lloyd Institute, Trinity College Dublin, the University of Dublin College Green, Dublin 2, Ireland
Reports to:	Prof. Konstantinos Tsetsos
Salary:	Appointment will be made on the [Post-doctoral Researcher PD1 or PD2 or Researcher fellow] at a point in line with Government Pay Policy [€47,405 to €68,478 per annum], appointment will be made no higher than point [2]
Hours of Work:	37.5 per week
Closing Date:	12 Noon (GMT), [30 January 2026]

Post Summary

We invite applications for two postdoctoral positions at the Institute of Neuroscience & School of Psychology, Trinity College Dublin. Successful applicants will engage in experimental, analytical, and computational research at the intersection of human decision neuroscience and cognitive computational neuroscience.

These positions are funded by the European Research Council (ERC) Consolidator Grant “The Dynamics of Attribute Weighting in Multiattribute Choice” (DYNATT) awarded to Prof. Konstantinos Tsetsos. The project aims to describe the neural and computational mechanisms underlying preference variability. In particular, the project will describe how the human brain shapes, maintains and revises preferences for different attributes. We will utilise magnetencephalography (OPM-MEG) to decode preferences for different attributes at the level of single multiattribute decisions. This will enable us to chart the temporal dynamics of multiattribute preferences across successive decisions and that way identify the underlying mechanisms that shape these dynamics.

The project sits at the intersection of decision science and cognitive neuroscience. It aims to offer mechanistic insights into when, how, and why preferences change. Beyond advancing theory, these insights have the potential to inform clinical research on pathological preference variability or persistence (e.g., in addiction); and to guide policy making, by for example probing how stable or plastic specific consumer tradeoffs (e.g., between monetary and environmental attributes) are.

The postdoctoral researchers will be based in the Irrationality lab

(<https://www.ktsetsoslab.net>), a cognitive & decision neuroscience group led by Prof.

Konstantinos Tsetsos. The lab pioneers the computational modelling of human decision-making grounded in neurophysiological data. Our overarching goal is to explain behavioural regularities in human choice (including puzzling effects, such as preference reversals) at the level of neural mechanisms.

Standard Duties and Responsibilities of the Post

- Design, program, and run human decision-making experiments, with a focus on multiattribute choice paradigms aligned with the DYNATT ERC project.
- Collect, preprocess, and analyse neurophysiological data, in particular OPM-MEG (and where relevant EEG/MRI) to decode attribute preferences at high temporal resolution.
- Develop, implement, and evaluate computational models of decision-making, applying constraints from time-resolved neurophysiological data.
- Contribute to the theoretical development of research programme by linking behavioural, neural, and computational findings to decision-theoretic constructs such as preferences, noise, and attribute weighting.
- Interpret results and integrate them with the broader literature in decision neuroscience, cognitive neuroscience, and judgment and decision-making.
- Prepare scientific manuscripts for peer-reviewed journals and contribute to high-impact publications arising from the ERC project.
- Present research findings at internal lab meetings, departmental seminars, international conferences, and collaborative events.
- Collaborate with internal and external partners, including researchers at TCIN, the School of Psychology, and international collaborators.
- Contribute to the maintenance and development of analysis pipelines, code repositories, and computational tools used across the project.
- Support supervision and mentoring of junior lab members, including PhD and MSc students working on related aspects of the project.
- Engage in the broader research environment of the Irrationality Lab and Trinity College Institute of Neuroscience, contributing to an interdisciplinary and collaborative scientific culture.

Funding Information

ERC

Person Specification

Qualifications

A PhD (completed or close to the completion) in cognitive science, psychology, neuroscience, computer science, or a related discipline.

Knowledge & Experience (Essential & Desirable)

Essential:

- Broad familiarity with the judgment & decision-making literature.
- Excellent oral and written communication skills.
- Experience in writing and publishing peer reviewed scientific papers.

Desirable:

- Expertise in dynamical systems theory, applied to neuroscience and beyond.
- Familiarity with systems neuroscience literature and methods.
- Familiarity with decision theory and biophysical modelling.

Skills & Competencies

- Excellent programming and quantitative skills.
- Experience with E/MEG experimentation and analysis techniques.
- Neural decoding and multivariate pattern analysis skills.
- Expertise in building computational models of cognition.

Application Procedure

Applicants should submit a full Curriculum Vitae to include the names and contact details of 2 referees (including email addresses), a cover letter up to one page describing research vision, skills, career goals and 2 samples of their work.

Further Information for Applicants

URL Link to Area	www.tcd.ie
URL Link to Human Resources	https://www.tcd.ie/hr/

Trinity College Dublin, the University of Dublin

Trinity is Ireland's leading university and is ranked 98th in the world (QS World University Rankings 2023). Founded in 1592, the University is steeped in history with a reputation for excellence in education, research and innovation.

Located on an iconic campus in the heart of Dublin's city centre, Trinity has 18,000 undergraduate and postgraduate students across our three faculties – Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences; Engineering, Mathematics and Science; and Health Sciences.

Trinity is ranked as the 17th most international university in the world (Times Higher Education Rankings 2020) and has students and staff from over 120 countries.

The pursuit of excellence through research and scholarship is at the heart of a Trinity education, and our researchers have an outstanding publication record and strong record of grant success. Trinity has developed 19 broad-based multidisciplinary research themes that cut across disciplines and facilitate world-leading research and collaboration within the University and with colleagues around the world. Trinity is also home to 5 leading flagship research institutes:

- Trinity Biomedical Sciences Institute (TBSI)
- Trinity College Institute of Neuroscience (TCIN)
- Trinity Translational Medical Institute (TTMI)
- Trinity Long Room Hub Arts and Humanities Research Institute (TLRH)
- Centre for Research on Adaptive Nanostructures and Nanodevices (CRANN)

Trinity is 1st in Europe for Producing Entrepreneurs for the 7th year in a row and Europe's only representative in the world's top-50 universities (Pitchbook 2021-2022).

Trinity is home to the famous Old Library and to the historic Book of Kells as well as other internationally significant holdings in manuscripts, maps and early printed material. The Trinity Library is a legal deposit library, granting the University the right to claim a copy of

every book published in Ireland and the UK. At present, the Library's holdings span approximately 6.5 million printed items, 400,000 e-books and 150,000 e-journals. With over 120,000 alumni, Trinity's tradition of independent intellectual inquiry has produced some of the world's finest, most original minds including the writers Oscar Wilde and Samuel Beckett (Nobel laureates), the mathematician William Rowan Hamilton and the physicist Ernest Walton (Nobel laureate), the political thinker Edmund Burke, and the former President of Ireland Mary Robinson. This tradition finds expression today in a campus culture of scholarship, innovation, creativity, entrepreneurship and dedication to societal reform.

Rankings

Trinity College Dublin is the top ranked university in Ireland. Using the QS methodology we are ranked 98th in the world and using the Times Higher Education World University Ranking methodology we are 146th in the World.

- Trinity College Dublin is Ireland's No.1 University (QS World University Ranking 2023, Times Higher Education Rankings 2022)
- Trinity is ranked 98th in the World (QS World University Ranking 2023)
- Trinity is ranked No.1 in Europe for Producing Entrepreneurs for the 7th year in a row Pitchbook 2021-2022

Full details are available at: www.tcd.ie/research/about/rankings.

The Selection Process in Trinity

The Selection Committee (Interview Panel) may include members of the Academic and Administrative community together with External Assessor(s) who are expert in the area. Applications will be acknowledged by email. If you do not receive confirmation of receipt within 1 day of submitting your application online, please contact the named hiring lead on the job specification immediately and prior to the closing date/time.

Given the degree of co-ordination and planning to have a Selection Committee available on the specified date, the University regrets that it may not be in a position to offer alternate selection dates. Where candidates are unavailable, reserves may be drawn from a shortlist.

Outcomes of interviews are notified in writing to candidates and are issued no later than 5 working days following the selection day.

In some instances the Selection Committee may avail of telephone or video conferencing. The University's selection methods may consist of any or all of the following: Interviews, Presentations, Psychometric Testing, References and Situational Exercises.

It is the policy of the University to conduct pre-employment medical screening/full pre-employment medicals. Information supplied by candidates in their application (Cover Letter and CV) will be used to shortlist for interview.

Applications from non-EEA citizens are welcomed. However, eligibility is determined by the Department of Business, Enterprise and Innovation and further information on the Highly Skills Eligible Occupations List is set out in Schedule 3 of the Regulations

<https://dbei.gov.ie/en/What-We-Do/Workplace-and-Skills/Employment-Permits/Employment-Permit-Eligibility/Highly-Skilled-Eligible-Occupations-List/> and the Ineligible Categories of Employment are set out in Schedule 4 of the Regulations <https://dbei.gov.ie/en/What-We-Do/Workplace-and-Skills/Employment-Permits/Employment-Permit-Eligibility/Ineligible-Categories-of-Employment/> . Non-EEA

candidates should note that the onus is on them to secure a visa to travel to Ireland prior to interview. Non-EEA candidates should also be aware that even if successful at interview, an appointment to the post is contingent on the securing of an employment permit.

Equal Opportunities Policy

Trinity is an equal opportunities employer and is committed to employment policies, procedures and practices which do not discriminate on grounds such as gender, civil status, family status, age, disability, race, religious belief, sexual orientation or membership of the travelling community. On that basis we encourage and welcome talented people from all backgrounds to join our staff community. Trinity's Diversity Statement can be viewed in full at <https://www.tcd.ie/diversity-inclusion/diversity-statement>.

Pension Entitlements

This is a pensionable position, and the provisions of the Public Service Superannuation (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2004 will apply in relation to retirement age for pension purposes. Details of the relevant Pension Scheme will be provided to the successful applicant.

Applicants should note that they will be required to complete a Pre-Employment Declaration to confirm whether or not they have previously availed of an Irish Public Service Scheme of incentivised early retirement or enhanced redundancy payment. Applicants will also be required to declare any entitlements to a Public Service pension benefit (in payment or preserved) from any other Irish Public Service employment.

Applicants formerly employed by the Irish Public Service that may previously have availed of an Irish Public Service Scheme of Incentivised early retirement or enhanced redundancy payment should ensure that they are not precluded from re-engagement in the Irish Public Service under the terms of such Schemes. Such queries should be directed to an applicant's former Irish Public Service Employer in the first instance.

Application Procedure

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Applicants should submit a full Curriculum Vitae to include the names and contact details of 2 referees (including email addresses), a cover letter up to one page describing research vision, skills, career goals and 2 samples of their work to:

Name: Professor Konstantinos Tsetsos

Email Address: tsetsosk@tcd.ie



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