The Computation and Psycholinguistics (CAP) Laboratory in the Department of Psychology at the University of Toronto Scarborough invites applications for a postdoctoral fellow to study how semantically ambiguous words are learned, represented and processed. This work will be completed in collaboration with the laboratory co-director, Blair Armstrong and the position is available for an initial appointment of one year starting January 1, 2019.

The project focuses on improving the understanding of how individuals learn words with different numbers of meanings and different degrees of relatedness among those meanings, how those meanings are represented, and how processing mechanisms selectively activate a contextually appropriate meaning. Prior experience developing neural network (connectionist) simulations and/or working with word co-occurrence models of semantic memory is therefore desirable. Although the focus will be on computational modeling, there will also be opportunities for conducting coordinated behavioural, EEG/ERP, and/or transcranial stimulation experiments in the CAP lab experimental suite.

The successful candidate must have a PhD in psychology, computer science, linguistics, cognitive science, or a closely related field by the time of appointment or shortly thereafter. The candidate should articulate in their cover letter how their prior theoretical and methodological experience relates to the research topic. Salary will be in the $45,000-$60,000 range, commensurate with qualifications and experience.

The normal hours of work are 40 hours per week for a full-time postdoctoral fellow (pro-rated for those holding a partial appointment) recognizing that the needs of the employee’s research and training and the needs of the supervisor’s research program may require flexibility in the performance of the employee’s duties and hours of work.

The successful candidate will join the vibrant research community at the University of Toronto, one of the world’s highest ranked institutions in psychology, linguistics, and computer science, and with a number of laboratories and research groups standing at the intersection between these disciplines to study semantic ambiguity. Among others, these include the research groups of Professor Suzanne Stevenson (Computer Science), Professor Yang Xu (Computer Science / Cognitive Science), and Professor Barend Beekhuizen (Linguistics), all of whom are pursuing research in areas related to the topic of this project. Where appropriate, collaborations with other relevant research groups will be encouraged.

Toronto is consistently ranked among the most livable cities in the world. It is a highly multi-cultural environment both inside and outside the University community, and offers opportunities to enjoy the music, food, and arts of the world. The city also boasts an extensive network of public parks and trials, including many along the edge of Lake Ontario, as well as an extensive public transportation network and world class public services.

Beginning October 1, 2018, all qualified candidates are invited to submit the following application materials to blair.armstrong@utoronto.ca:

1. A cover letter summarizing the candidate’s qualifications and eligibility for the position
2. A one-page research statement related to the proposed project
3. Curriculum vitae
4. Two reference letters to be emailed directly to blair.armstrong@utoronto.ca by the referees. If the candidate has not completed their PhD, these letters should note the expected completion date.

Review of applications will begin on November 21, 2018. The position will remain open until filled.

The University of Toronto is strongly committed to diversity within its community and especially welcomes applications from racialized persons / persons of colour, women, Indigenous / Aboriginal People of North America, persons with disabilities, LGBTQ persons, and others who may contribute to the further diversification of ideas.

Employment as a Postdoctoral Fellow at the University of Toronto is covered by the terms of the CUPE 3902 Unit 5 Collective Agreement.