

Paola dei Mansi fellowships - a joint postdoctoral program of I-CORE Cognition and CNR



I-CORE Cognition – *the Israeli Center of Research Excellence in Cognitive Sciences* and CNR – *the National Research Council of Italy* are seeking excellent candidates for postdoctoral fellowships within the I-CORE.

The joint program is supported by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and one of its objectives is to strengthen the bi-national cooperation in science and technology between Italy and Israel, under the auspices of the Italian-Israeli Agreement on Industrial, Scientific and Technological Cooperation. CNR participates in the program to help open new paths towards excellence for young researchers, some of whom will eventually join the Italian research system.

The Israeli Center of Research Excellence in Cognitive Sciences is part of the I-CORE program, initiated by the Government of Israel and adopted by Israel's Council of Higher Education, in order to reinforce Israel's intellectual capacities and to promote synergy among Israel's leading research centers.

The fellowships are named after the thirteenth century Jewish Italian intellectual Paola dei Mansi*.

RESEARCH SCOPE

Defined as *The Reconstructive Mind: From Percept to Memory and Back*, the I-CORE agenda is to investigate the codes, representations and mechanisms used by the brain in perception, memory, action and imagining. Its research activity is guided by the premise that our percepts create our memories but our memories also shape our percepts. The approach is to develop new capabilities to monitor in detail activity in networks of nerve cells in the behaving human brain over time and space, and correlate this activity with specific cognitive states, emotions and actions; hoping to promote the understanding, prevention, diagnosis and amelioration of brain pathologies on the one hand, and the development of advanced smart computers and intelligent robots on the other.

The I-CORE includes investigators at the Weizmann Institute of Science, Tel-Aviv University, Bar-Ilan University, and Tel-Aviv Sourasky Medical Center, as well as a selected number of outstanding young investigators newly integrated into the above partner institutions from University of California in Los Angeles, Harvard Medical School & Massachusetts General Hospital, Stanford University and the University of Wisconsin. Paola dei Mansi Fellows can apply to work with any host group in the I-CORE. See <http://www.cognitionicore.org.il/>

SELECTION PROCESS

Researches of any nationality can apply to the program, given that they obtained their PhD (Dottorato di Ricerca) from an institution in Italy no longer than 2 years before the date of the application, or will obtain it within 3 months after the application. EU nationals can apply independently of where they have obtained their degree, within the same temporal frame. Equal opportunity is a principle underlying the whole selection process.

Key criteria for the selection will be

1. the scientific potential of the candidates, as assessed by their academic record and thesis, by publications, if any, by previous research experience and by any previous awards and honors.
2. the expected benefits of the fellowship for the trainees, as indicated also by a short research statement (or tentative project) submitted with the application.

Reference letters are requested from at least three recommenders and will contribute to assess both criteria.

The selection Committee (3 members, from the CNR, the I-CORE and the Embassy of Italy in Israel) will choose between applicants, on the basis of the above criteria.

The Fellowships will be awarded initially for a period of up to twelve months, and they may be prolonged, after consideration, within the same program or other programs of the I-CORE.

Paola dei Mansi fellows will carry out their postdoctoral research in one of the I-CORE institutions. Salaries and benefits are competitive and assistance with visas and housing will be provided. In addition, the I-CORE will provide some support to travel to and from Israel.

The selected candidates will submit a brief activity report to the Committee every three months.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE

To apply, please send the attached form (as .pdf) by e-mail to both

galit.zemel@weizmann.ac.il and lucilla.alagna@esteri.it

In addition, applicants should ensure that their recommenders email their letters (as pdf files) to the email addresses above, with the subject line "<candidate_name>: recommendation". (It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure that the letters are sent; letters will not be solicited directly.)

The deadline is 15th January 2013, 24:00 (at GMT+1)

***Paola dei Mansi** (Rome, d. 1292) was the daughter of poet Avraham b. Yoav, one of several eminent scholars from the illustrious dei Mansi/Anav family, that according to oral tradition was deported to Rome by Titus. She attained independent distinction as a talented translator (from Hebrew to Italian) and commentator of Biblical and Talmudic text. Her beautiful handwriting made her a renown scribe. She was married twice, and with her three children she symbolizes the unbroken tradition of Jewish Italian scholarship.