



September 30, 2020

## **Thesis (Bachelor/Master) in Cross-Cultural Developmental Psychology**

Project Title: "Identifying Cultural Blind Spots in Developmental Psychology"

The Department of Comparative Cultural Psychology combines approaches from developmental, cross-cultural, and comparative psychology to study uniquely human cultural diversity and the universal cognitive mechanisms that enable and constrain it. The successful candidate will work on the project described below, and may also have the opportunity to engage in other projects within the department.

### **Project Background**

The vast majority of contemporary psychological science is based on studies conducted in Western, industrialized cultural settings. While doing so offers us a profound understanding of the way people in these contexts think, believe, and act, results from such studies often lack generalizability beyond these settings. Cross-cultural psychology offers an approach to counteract this shortcoming in psychological research by relating cultural differences between human groups to psychological traits (and vice versa).

In the current project, we plan to conduct a systematic review to assess the degree to which contemporary research in developmental psychology is informed by cultural factors. Doing so, we want to identify the theoretical and empirical blind spots of our field in order to better understand how the quality and generalizability of developmental research can be accelerated.

The selected applicant(s) may compose their thesis either in English or German. Requirements of the student(s) (regarding independent writing and analyses) will be adapted to their specific needs and goals.

### **Tasks**

- Co-developing a coding scheme to code scientific publications in developmental psychology
- Coding the literature
- Statistical analysis of the data under supervision of researchers within our department

### **Requirements**

- Student in psychology or other related disciplines
- Advanced skills in reading scientific articles
- Interest in developmental and cultural psychology

Interested students are asked to send an informal application to [roman\\_stengelin@eva.mpg.de](mailto:roman_stengelin@eva.mpg.de). Applications will be accepted until the position is filled. Two students may work jointly on the project.

We look forward to receiving your application!