Postdoctoral Position: fMRI of Spatial Memory and Spatial Navigation

The Epstein Lab in the Department of Psychology at the University of Pennsylvania (Philadelphia, PA) is looking to hire a new postdoc. This position will be funded from an NIH project investigating the neural basis of spatial memory and spatial navigation in humans. The specific focus of this project is on the knowledge structures (e.g. cognitive maps, cognitive graphs) that underlie our ability to understand the organization of large-scale spaces. We wish to understand how these knowledge structures are learned, how they are used for spatial navigation, and how they might be applied to both spatial and nonspatial domains to support memory and cognition more broadly. We are looking for a scholar who can bring creative ideas of their own that fit under this general umbrella.

Candidates will be particularly favored if they have some combination of: (i) experience with fMRI or other cognitive neuroscience methods; (ii) strong computational and statistical skills; (iii) deep interest in spatial navigation or spatial memory. However, candidates lacking some of these desiderata will be considered if the intellectual fit is otherwise strong. An established track record of research productivity is essential, as is a proclivity for independent thought. Candidates are encouraged to peruse the publications page of our lab website (www.psych.upenn.edu/epsteinlab/) to get a sense for the recent intellectual directions of the lab.

The University of Pennsylvania is an excellent place for cognitive neuroscience research. The Center for Functional Neuroimaging (www.cfn.upenn.edu) provides comprehensive technical support for fMRI acquisition and analysis using several state-of-the-art research-dedicated 3T and 7T Siemens scanners. Our lab is part of the Penn Brain Sciences Center (https://pennbrain.upenn.edu/) which is a lively, friendly, collaborative environment that is co-located with the Department of Psychology and the Computational Neuroscience Initiative (www.cni.upenn.edu). Philadelphia is a culturally vibrant, walkable, affordable city that has become one of best places to live on the East Coast. Penn has recently enhanced postdoctoral salaries and benefits to competitive levels above NIH standard rates.

To apply, send the following documents to Russell Epstein (epstein@psych.upenn.edu):

1. A brief cover letter describing you qualifications, research interests, and why this position is right for you

2. CV

3. pdfs of recent publications

4. Names and contact information for 3 references

The University of Pennsylvania is an Equal Employment Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer.