

### PhD Student Position (65%, E13 TV-L, 3 years)

The [Chair for Sinology with a focus on the Intellectual and Cultural History of China](#) — Institute for Near Eastern and East Asian Languages and Civilizations — at FAU Erlangen-Nuremberg (Germany) invites applications for the position of a PhD student (f/m/d) with an interest in digital humanities and the language of modern science in China, in particular mathematics.

The position is part of the interdisciplinary project “[The language of algorithmic mathematics](#)” funded by the Alexander-von-Humboldt-Foundation. In cooperation with the [Chair for Computational Corpus Linguistics](#) and the [Research Center for Mathematics of Data](#) at FAU the PhD concerns the qualitative and quantitative analysis of the language of Chinese mathematical texts in a comparative perspective. A specific focus will lie on the analysis of texts after 1850, since after the Opium Wars there is an obvious tension between Western mathematics based upon algebraic symbols with logical proof schemes and an algorithmic style of mathematics written in natural language defended by traditionalists in China. Following the close reading of some original texts, an automated analysis of a corpus of Chinese algorithmic mathematical writings will be carried out to explore and quantify the formulaic character of the language used in such writings and make a comparison with the phraseology and metre of other literary genres. Based on a segmentation of the Chinese texts, methods from corpus linguistics, terminology extraction and literary stylometry will be tested and refined. The applicant will conduct research and provide support for the organization of conferences and project publications. He/she will also contribute to the development of innovative methods for the quantitative analysis and automatic identification of formulaic language in comparatively small text corpora.

The successful candidate is expected to have

- a Master degree in Chinese studies, computational linguistics, or a similar discipline
- a strong interest in the role of natural language in algorithmic modes of expression,
- excellent knowledge of the working languages English and Chinese,
- experience with digital tools for corpus linguistics and solid programming skills (preferably in Python or R) are a plus.

FAU provides an innovative and supportive environment, a yearly travel budget is granted for participation in international conferences. The position is to be filled by **April 1st, 2022**.

FAU is a family-friendly employer and intends to increase the number of women in research and teaching positions and, therefore, strongly encourages female researchers to apply. In its pursuit of academic excellence, FAU is committed to equality of opportunity and to a proactive and inclusive approach, which supports and encourages all under-represented groups, promotes an inclusive culture and values diversity.

Please apply by submitting a letter of motivation, a CV, and contact information (incl. email addresses) for two academic references by **31 January 2022** to Prof. Dr. Andrea Bréard [andrea.breard@fau.de](mailto:andrea.breard@fau.de) and Prof. Dr. Stephanie Evert [stephanie.evert@fau.de](mailto:stephanie.evert@fau.de). Inquiries concerning the position may be directed to both beforehand.

#### **Contact:**

Prof. Dr. Andrea Bréard  
Lehrstuhl für Sinologie mit dem Schwerpunkt Geistes- und Kulturgeschichte Chinas (Alexander von Humboldt-Professur)  
Institut für Sprachen und Kulturen des Nahen Ostens und Ostasiens  
Friedrich-Alexander Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg  
Artilleriestraße 70  
91052 Erlangen (Germany)

