

The Department of Philosophy of the University of Twente in the Netherlands is looking for two PhD students:

- **Ph.D. student in ethics of research and innovation**
 - **Ph.D. Student in Ethics of Robotics, with a focus on Robot-Enhanced Therapy for Children with Autism Spectrum Disorders**
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Ph.D. student in ethics of research and innovation

for the EU-funded SATORI project for the development of a European framework for the ethical assessment of scientific research and technological innovation

The PhD position is part of a prestigious and exciting four-year project, SATORI, which is a EU-FP7-funded “Science and Society” project with a total budget of 4.7 million euros. The aim of the project is to develop common methods, standards and approaches for the ethical assessment of research and innovation within Europe, to the benefit of assessors, stakeholders and society as a whole, and in association with major non-European partners, especially the US and China. The results of the project are to be utilized by a variety of assessors, including funding agencies, research ethics committees, policy makers, industry, NGOs, and others.

The project will concern itself with issues such as the potential impact of research and innovation on the environment, health, privacy, and civil rights, issues of globalization and internationalization of research, responsible product design, scientific integrity, informed consent, ethical issues in human subjects research and the social responsibility of industry, scientists, engineers, and other relevant actors, with the aim of proposing unified frameworks and approaches. It will also consider the legal and policy framework for these issues, and make policy recommendations. The sixteen partners from thirteen countries in the project aim to develop standards and approaches for implementation within Europe, in close association with relevant stakeholders inside and outside Europe. The consortium includes universities, government entities, standardization agencies, industry, civil society/NGO actors, corporate partners, and UNESCO as a transnational partner. The project will start in January 2014.

Professor Philip Brey of the Department of Philosophy at the University of Twente is the coordinator (leader) of the project and one of its main researchers. As a PhD student in the project, you will be working closely with Prof. Brey in developing the framework for the project and you will also have an assisting role in coordination of the project. Prof. Brey is full professor in philosophy, with a focus on ethics.

Objectives

Your research focuses on the study and development of ethical frameworks, approaches and protocols for the assessment of scientific research and (technological) innovation. You will be working on a dissertation in which you take on many of the central issues in the project, including the possibility of developing such a unified framework, the shape of such a framework, and its

implementation and utilization for and by various types of assessors. You will be studying relevant differences in approaches by various types of assessors, as well as differences between European countries, and issues concerning the internationalization of research and innovation. Your dissertation is in large part the result of your research within various work packages for the project.

You will also be co-authoring reports for various scientific reports for the project, including reports on a comparative analysis of ethics assessment between different types of assessors, countries, and scientific disciplines, legal aspects of ethics assessment and the impact of globalization, outline of a common ethics framework, measuring the impact of ethics assessment, and policy recommendations. You attend project meetings with the consortium, and relevant workshops and conferences across Europe.

You are expected to submit your work for publication in peer-review journals.

As part of your tasks, you will be assisting prof. Brey with the coordination and management of the project.

Profile

A master's degree or equivalent degree in ethics, or a related area in philosophy. It will be a plus if you have experience with research ethics (including ethics of medicine, natural science, social science, humanities, or engineering) and/or ethics of innovation and/or technology.

Good analytical skills. Good ability to do conceptual work and to construct new (ethical) theories and frameworks. Preferably experience in collecting and analyzing empirical data, or a willingness to learn and apply such skills. Good communication skills in English, in writing as well as orally. Good team spirit. Creativity, open-mindedness, and an ability to develop new ideas. Willingness to travel.

Offer

A four-year full-time Ph.D. position, starting January 1st, 2014 (or, if possible, December 1st, 2013). The gross salary is € 2083,- per month in the first year going up to € 2664,- in the fourth year (€ 29070,- and € 37178,- per year, respectively, including vacation pay and end-of-year bonus). The position also comes with a travel budget.

Information and application

For questions please contact the project leader, Prof. dr. Philip Brey (e-mail: p.a.e.brey@utwente.nl; phone: +31-53-4894426). He can also provide you with a fuller description of the SATORI project. During periods in which he is traveling, you can also contact the deputy coordinator, dr. David Wright (david.wright@trilateralresearch.com).

Your application should contain the following documents: a letter of application; a curriculum vitae which includes the name and e-mail address/telephone number of one or more referents, preferably including the supervisor of your master's thesis; a copy of your master's thesis (or, if more relevant, a publication); an academic transcript that contains a list of subjects taken and grades received (this may be an unofficial version or scanned copy; we can request the original later).

Your application should be uploaded no later than **October 20th, 2013** to www.utwente.nl/vacatures/en. Since this website only accepts three documents per application, please combine the transcript together with your CV or your thesis into one document. Job interviews will be held in the last week of October.

Ph.D. Student in Ethics of Robotics, with a focus on Robot-Enhanced Therapy for Children with Autism Spectrum Disorders

The challenge

This PhD position is funded by the European FP7 project “Development of Robot-Enhanced therapy for children with Autism spectrum disorders” (acronym: DREAM). This exciting interdisciplinary, large-scale project, involving 7 European partners from Sweden, Belgium, Romania, United Kingdom, the Netherlands, and France, will develop next-generation robots that mediate between therapists and children with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) in autism therapy. In this Robot-Enhanced Therapy (RET), the robots will be able to interact with the child autonomously for limited periods under the supervision of a therapist (“supervised autonomy”).

The use of robots in therapeutic contexts raises several ethical issues, such as the degree of autonomy to be given to the robot and the question if parents are happy to leave their child ‘in the hands of the robot’. The “Ethics” work package (WP) will address these ethical issues by making sure that all relevant known ethical constraints and existing laws applicable are implemented in the design process, by examining specific ethical questions raised by the interaction between child and autonomous therapeutic robots, and by investigating if and how we can build in ethical constraints into the meta-cognition level of the robot. In addition, through close collaboration between the technical and ethical researchers and the ASD practitioners, the project will determine how to achieve the maximum impact of RET through effective integration of technology with clinical therapy practices in general.

Research leader of the “Ethics” work package is Dr. Mark Coeckelbergh, who will act as the daily supervisor of the Ph.D. project. The research leader and the Ph.D. candidate will collaborate very closely with partners from all over Europe who have different backgrounds, such as engineering and psychology.

Your profile

A Master’s degree or equivalent degree in philosophy (preferably but not exclusively in ethics) and the proven ability and willingness to engage in interdisciplinary research. Consideration will also be given to outstanding candidates with a social sciences or multidisciplinary Master’s degree on a topic relevant to the project, provided the candidate has some background and experience in ethics. Demonstrable interest in philosophical issues relating to human-robot interaction. Highly motivated to become part of an international team of researchers and to contribute to the success of the DREAM project. Good analytical skills. Good organizational skills. Good communication skills in English, in writing as well as orally. Creativity, open-mindedness, and ability to develop new ideas.

Our offer

We offer you a four-year full-time Ph.D. position, starting in 2014 (the exact starting date will be communicated during the interview) and at the end you should have completed your PhD thesis. The gross salary is € 2.083,- per month in the first year going up to €2.664,- in the fourth year. Additionally, the University of Twente provides excellent facilities for professional and personal development, a holiday allowance (amounts to 8%), an end-of-year bonus (amounts to 8,3%) and a number of additional benefits. The position also comes with a travel budget.

Information and application

For information you can contact the research leader of the “Ethics” work package, dr. M.J.K. Coeckelbergh (e-mail: m.j.k.coeckelbergh@utwente.nl).

Your application should contain the following documents: a letter of application which explains your motivation and interest in the position at some length and explains your qualifications (this letter should contain some suggestions on how you would want to approach this Ph.D. project); a Curriculum Vitae which includes the names and e-mail address/telephone number of at least two academic references; a copy of your master's thesis; copies of publications, if any.

Your application should be uploaded no later than October 31, 2013 to www.utwente.nl/vacatures/en. Since this website only accepts three documents per application, please combine the last ones into one document. Job interviews will be held in November.