Funded PhD position: Ethics and Cybersecurity
ADAPT Centre & Institute of Ethics, Dublin City University (DCU), Ireland

Deadline for applications: 30 November 2016
(remains open until position filled)

Supervisor: Prof. Bert Gordijn, Director of DCU Institute of Ethics.
Co-supervisors: Dr. Joss Moorkens and Prof. David Lewis, ADAPT Centre

The PhD is funded by the H2020-Project: CANVAS Cybersecurity and Ethics and the ADAPT Centre. Funding is available for a PhD student for 4 years, to cover university fees and an annual tax-free stipend of €16,000.

ADAPT
ADAPT is Ireland's global centre of excellence for digital content technology. ADAPT brings together more than 120 researchers who collectively have won more than €100m in funding and have a strong track record of transferring world-leading research and innovations to more than 140 companies. With €50M in new research funding from Science Foundation Ireland and industry, ADAPT is seeking talented individuals to join its growing research team. Our research and technologies will continue to help businesses in all sectors and drive back the frontiers of future Web engagement.

Why join ADAPT at DCU?
Work on hard, relevant problems in an interdisciplinary and exciting research environment., in a centre focussed on advancing your career. Whether you want to take an academic, industrial, or entrepreneurial career path, ADAPT prides itself in the support and mentoring that enables all its Students and early-stage researchers to reach their full potential. This year alone its postdoc-to-PI programme has helped three postdocs transition to be Principal Investigators on their own H2020 projects, while four others have recently won funding with ADAPT support to realise the commercialisation of their research through spin outs and licensing.

DCU Institute of Ethics
The DCU Institute of Ethics engages in high quality research, teaching and services. It is committed to creating a community of students, graduates and scholars able to engage with professionals working in the private and public sectors, as well as with researchers from other academic disciplines. The Institute promotes a systematic approach to applied ethics in the fields of government, business, media, science, technology and health care.

CANVAS
The CANVAS Consortium – Constructing an Alliance for Value-driven Cybersecurity – brings together technology developers with legal and ethical scholars and social scientists to approach the challenge of how cybersecurity can be aligned with European values and fundamental rights. CANVAS is a 'Collaboration and Support Action' within the 'EU Framework Programme for Research and Innovation - Horizon 2020' coordinated by the University of Zurich, Switzerland. CANVAS has a particular focus on three domains of application with specific ethical challenges: the health system, business, and law enforcement/ national security. Among others, CANVAS aims at creating a reference curriculum for value-driven cybersecurity with a focus on industry-training, briefing packages for policy stakeholders, and a MOOC (Massive Open Online Course) on value-driven cybersecurity.

Focus of the PhD

The growing complexity of the digital ecosystem in combination with increasing global risks entails the danger that enforcing cybersecurity may bypass other fundamental values like autonomy, equality, fairness, or privacy; whereas downplaying cybersecurity would undermine citizens' trust and confidence in the digital infrastructure as well as in policy makers and state authorities. How to strike a good balance whereby technology development in cybersecurity can be value-driven, i.e. incorporate European values and fundamental rights?

The focus of the PhD is on the ethics of dealing with cybersecurity risks in business. ICT applications in the business sphere allow for an ever-increasing number of business opportunities that are offered on the market. At the same time there are increased cybersecurity risks to do with actions by people (weak passwords for employees and/or customers), system failures (zero days), failing internal processes (lack of monitoring) and external events (like cyber attacks) (Cebula & Young 2010 p.2). The PhD research will involve the development of an ethical framework for the normative analysis of different approaches towards cybersecurity in business. Moreover, using this framework it will conduct an elaborate analysis of the main existing approaches and develop recommendations for the future.

Tasks to be performed in the CANVAS project

We offer a very challenging position in an inspiring environment, bridging science and industry, ethics, law and technology. You will play an important role in the CANVAS project where you will perform the following tasks:

➢ Execute a literature research on cybersecurity and ethics in the business sphere and provide a comprehensive review of the discussion and outline the main positions and arguments.
➢ Execute a review of previous (mostly EU) projects and provide a comprehensive overview of existing empirical data regarding attitudes and opinions of (mainly) European citizens regarding cybersecurity.
➢ Contribute to the organization of a workshop on the ethics of cybersecurity in the business sphere. The workshop will discuss ethical, legal, and technological issues of cybersecurity with a particular focus on business applications.
➢ Contribute to the development of a reference curriculum on the ethics of cybersecurity.

Your profile

➢ You have an excellent academic record (first class or II.1 primary degree or a postgraduate qualification, e.g. M.Sc.) in Philosophy, Ethics, Applied Ethics, Computer Ethics or a related discipline. Moreover, you have a strong interest and/or expertise in ICT.
➢ You are eager to work in and learn from multi-disciplinary and multi-organization teams from engineering, social sciences and law. You have a proven ability to communicate across disciplines, or a clear interest in developing this ability.
➢ You are highly motivated, ambitious, have good social and strong written and oral communication skills, have excellent analytical skills, and can work independently.
➢ You have an excellent command of the English language. You should have English language certification if English is not your first language, the requirement being: IELTS: 6.5+, TOEFL iBT: 92+, TOEFL pBT: 580+, or equivalent (Please visit: http://www.dcu.ie/registry/english.shtml for details).

Apply

Please email a cover letter, CV, and writing sample plus contact details of two referees to Prof. Bert Gordijn (bert.gordijn@dcu.ie). For all further informal enquires, please contact Prof. Bert Gordijn. There will be a screening and interview process.

Dublin City University is an equal opportunities employer