



CALL FOR APPLICATIONS: PhD POSITION ON PRIVACY AND PERSONAL DATA PROTECTION LEGISLATION IN CONNECTION WITH HUMAN-ROBOT INTERACTIONS

The multidisciplinary Research Group on Law, Science, Technology & Society (LSTS) is an independent entity within the Faculty of Law & Criminology at the Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB). With more than 45 researchers at all levels of experience, LSTS has become a prominent European research institute in the area of technology regulation. The team is led, both administratively and academically, by Prof. Serge Gutwirth and Prof. Paul De Hert. The staff comprises several postdoc researchers, PhD researchers, associated researchers and affiliated professors. Research staff at LSTS have backgrounds in a number of areas, including law, ethics, philosophy, political science, sociology, chemistry, criminology, and others. Great emphasis is placed on incorporating a multidisciplinary perspective in all our work.

LSTS is looking for a motivated researcher to join its research unit on human-robot collaboration and personal data protection law.

As part of his or her duties, the candidate, will be working on a research and innovation project co-funded by the European Commission and concerning the development of a *“hybrid collaboration environment, where humans and robots will harmoniously share and undertake at the same time different processing and manipulation tasks, targeting the industrial application case of Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) recycling”*.

In particular, the researcher is expected to:

- provide legal and ethical advice to project partners;
- assess the societal risks and impacts caused by the proposed system and contribute to an informed co-design development processes;
- research and discuss other ethical issues related to human robot interactions //develop and deliver legal and ethics control based on self-regulation for the human, robot and material safety.

While working on the project, the researcher is expected to develop a proposal for a doctoral degree (PhD). In addition, the researcher will have the opportunity to take an active role in LSTS contributing to its research agenda, attending and presenting in seminars, assisting in organizing conferences and workshops, and helping the Centre in competing in national and European funding opportunities.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Candidates are expected to possess the following qualifications:

- a master’s degree in law, criminology, sociology, ethics, or STS, preferably with a specialization in technology, awarded by the deadline for applications;
- relevant working experience;

- demonstrate enthusiasm by contributing to ongoing research activities and attracting external funding for research projects;
- fluency in English, and the ability to conduct research in at least one other language;
- excellent organisational and communicative skills;
- the ability to work independently, under pressure, respect deadlines, and produce quality work.

Interdisciplinary experience (for example, in an area such as law and economics or computer science) would be an added bonus.

A FEW SKILLS REQUIRED

The researcher is expected to:

- Develop an original PhD thesis on topics related to the privacy and data protection aspects of human-robot interactions;
- Coordinate and manage the execution and implementation of LSTS projects and activities;
- Participate in international seminars and conferences;
- Publish in peer reviewed journals;
- Draft project proposals for external funding in collaboration with other researchers;
- Contribute to the existing research activities of LSTS;
- Represent LSTS at third party events.

CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT

The successful candidate will be integrated in a dynamic team, composed of both experienced and early career researchers, working under the guidance of Prof. Paul de Hert. The candidate will collaborate closely with the other members of LSTS and will have access to doctoral training offered by the VUB, as well as to all facilities of the university. Successful candidates are expected to work at the VUB premises in Brussels. Office space and equipment will be provided along with a budget for travelling and other research-related expenses.

We offer employment as a full-time doctoral researcher. The PhD degree will be awarded in law. For more information about facilities and benefits of employment at the Vrije Universiteit Brussel, please visit <http://www.vub.ac.be> under the heading 'future employees'.

Contract: full-time research grant for one year, renewable on an annual basis for a maximum of four years. Extension of the contract is subject to the agreement of the doctoral committee. Remuneration is at the level of a full-time research assistant at a Flemish university (i.e. approximately €1.900 net per month) and includes contributions for social security. Secondary employment is not allowed.

APPLICATION

The candidate will be selected on the basis of the quality of the application, expertise, work experience and qualifications. The following application documents are to be consolidated into a single PDF file sent by email to isborocz@vub.be.

Applications (in English) should include the following:

- a curriculum vitae;

- a cover letter which explains the motivation and qualifications of the candidate;
- two recent works: essay or excerpt from recent research or article written by the candidate;

Deadline for the submission of applications is 15 July 2018, 12:00 CET. It is currently envisioned that the successful candidate will be notified by the end of August and the position will start on 1 September 2018 (the start date is subject to change).

If you are interested in learning more about the project on which you will be working, its content, team, consortium, or about working as researcher at VUB-LSTS, please visit the LSTS website www.vub.ac.be/LSTS/ or send us an email.