

RESOURCING/

JOB DESCRIPTION:



Post-Doctoral Research Associate

Ref Number:	HSS-217-24-R
Salary Scale:	Grade 7: £36,386 - £40,931 per annum
Contract:	For a fixed term period for 24 months Full-time
School/Department:	Psychology
Location:	University of Kent, Canterbury Campus
Responsible to:	Dr Jim Everett
Closing Date for applications:	21 May 2024
Interviews are expected to be held on:	13 June 2024
Expected start date:	1 July 2023

The Role

The University of Kent's School of Psychology is seeking to hire a Post-Doctoral Research Associate to conduct research in moral psychology for a project on the topic of trust in AI.

The post is funded by a 5-year ERC/UKRI Research Grant given to Dr Jim Everett. This project – TRUSTAI – draws on psychology and philosophy to explore how and when humans trust AI agents that act as 'moral machines'. The successful applicant will work as part of a team of researchers at Kent, with Dr Edmond Awad (University of Exeter), and a broader international advisory board to explore 1) the characteristics of AI agents that predict trust; 2) the individual differences that make us more or less likely to trust AI agents; 3) the situations where we are more likely to 'outsource' moral decisions to AI agents; and 4) how these findings should be used to design AI agents that warrant our trust. The project will draw on diverse research methodologies including online surveys, qualitative analysis, economic games, in-person behavioural experiments, and empirical ethical analysis. As well as assisting with running controlled experiments in different countries, you will work with Drs Everett and Awad on a new data collection platform that will run online experiments globally in at least 3 different languages.

Key Accountabilities / Primary Responsibilities

1. To develop and conduct the research as indicated in the grant proposal.
2. To contribute to the writing of research papers and outputs addressing the project's research aims, in collaboration with the project leads.
3. To undertake scholarly activities to promote the project to academic audiences, including presenting the research at conferences and workshops.
4. To actively contribute to the research culture of the School of Psychology.

Key Duties

- To design surveys and experiments and collect data as outlined in the grant proposal
- To analyse data in a transparent and reproducible way using statistical techniques.
- To contribute to the write up of research work for publication and disseminate the project's findings at relevant national and international conferences.
- To write up research work and disseminate the project's findings for both academic and non-academic audiences.
- To manage the project data in a way that is consistent with institutional requirements and best practices for Open Science.
- To manage own research and administrative activities, with guidance if required.
- Such other duties, commensurate with the grading of the post, that may be assigned by Dr Everett or their nominee

Health, Safety & Wellbeing Considerations

This role involves undertaking duties which include the Health, Safety and wellbeing issues outlined below. Please be aware of these, when considering your suitability for the role.

- Regular use of Screen Display Equipment

Internal & External Relationships

Internal:

The post holder will report to and work directly with Dr Jim Everett (University of Kent) on a day-to-day basis. The post holder will coordinate other members of the team, including the Project Officer, PhD students, and other research associates.

External:

The post holder will report primarily to Dr Everett, but will also have contact with Dr Edmond Awad (University of Exeter) and other members of the international advisory board.

Person Specification

The Person Specification details the necessary skills, qualifications, experience or other attributes needed to carry out the job. Please be aware that your application will be measured against the criteria published below.

Selection panels will be looking for clear evidence and examples in your application which back-up any assertions you make in relation to each criterion.



Qualifications / Training	Essential	Desirable	Assessed via*
A doctorate or equivalent qualification/experience in psychology, behavioural economics, or experimental philosophy — or an allied subject (or near to completion)	✓		A

Experience / Knowledge	Essential	Desirable	Assessed via*
An excellent record of publications in quality peer reviewed journals, commensurate with stage of career	✓		A
Familiarity with psychological research literatures on moral psychology, trust/impression formation, and (preferably) AI	✓		A/I
Experience of conducting advanced statistical analyses	✓		A/I
Experience of independently using the statistical package R		✓	A/I/T
Experience of designing experiments and surveys	✓		A/I
Demonstration of ability to work as an independent researcher and be self-motivated	✓		A/I
Experience of managing/conducting psychological research across countries (including translation and back-translation)		✓	A/I
Experience with and knowledge of open science tools (e.g., OSF, GitHub) and practices (e.g., pre-registration, registered reports)		✓	A/I/T

Skills / Abilities	Essential	Desirable	Assessed via*
Excellent interpersonal, organisational, and problem-solving skills required in communication with team members and coordination of research activities internationally	✓		I
Effective written and verbal communication skills	✓		A/I/T
Ability to meet deadlines and follow instructions	✓		I

Additional Attributes	Essential	Desirable	Assessed via*
Interest and willingness to train, supervise, and mentor students and research assistants	✓		I

Continued interest to develop professional profile, knowledge, and skills	✓		I
Ability to collaborate with colleagues within and beyond the School		✓	I
Willing and able to travel internationally		✓	I
Firm commitment to achieving the University's vision and values, with a passion for a transformative student experience and multidisciplinary, impactful research	✓		I
Commitment to deliver and promote equality, diversity and inclusivity in the day to day work of the role	✓		I

***Criterion to be assessed via:**

- A** = application form or CV/cover letter
I = interview questions
T = test or presentation at interview