Associate Professor

Ecole/Institution/Société:
Ghent University, **Belgium / Gent**

Discipline:
Electronics, Information Systems

Type d'emploi::
Full-time

Date de publication:
2021-02-27

Personne à contacter:
If you wish to apply for this position, please specify that you saw it on AKATECH.tech

Assistant - Department of Electronics and Information Systems

Department TW06 - Department of Electronics and Information Systems

Contract Full time

Degree MSc in computer science, electrical engineering, technical cognitive science or areas relevant to the research topic (for example, psychology with a keen interest in robotics and AI).

Occupancy rate 100%

Job description

The AIRO group (Artificial Intelligence and Robotics, airo.ugent.be) of IDLab-imec (idlab.technology) at Ghent University are offering a PhD studentship to help with our research on social robotics and machine learning. Social robots are robots which interact with people in a natural manner by, for example, using speech, gestures, facial expressions and language. As social robots use natural communication, they are easier to interact with and this has many applications in entertainment, services, education, collaborative robotics and therapy.

Now, however, these robots are only able to interact with us for a limited amount of time before we lose interest. Our research aims to change that. The project will study what technical elements are needed for a social robot to become an engaging and relevant social partner? We will explore approaches to drawing people into a human-robot interaction, starting from first principles on what makes interaction long term between people. Next, we will implement a number of studies to validate our theories and identify application domains where social robots can make a difference (such as education, support or customer service).

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and technically relevant results.

- You will be supervised by Prof Tony Belpaeme (www.tonybelpaeme.me).
- You will be part of a vibrant and interdisciplinary research team, focusing on human-robot interaction, unconventional robotics, cognitive systems and machine learning.
- You will have access to the full facilities of IDLab, including high performance computing / GPU clusters and the HomeLab living lab.

Job profile

- You must have an MSc degree in computer science, electrical engineering, technical cognitive science or areas relevant to the research topic (for example, psychology with a keen interest in robotics and AI).
- Good programming skills are required (C ++, Python, or other), training or experience in machine learning or robotics is essential.
- English will be the primary language used (spoken as well as written).
- The PhD position is highly interdisciplinary and requires an understanding and / or interest in psychology and social sciences.

Further details:

- The net amount of the scholarship will be approximately € 2000 per month. You will also receive a holiday allowance and will enjoy full social security cover. Additional financial support is available for attending conferences and workshops.
- You will be affiliated with the Artificial Intelligence and Robotics group of the IDLab. While the research will be based in Ghent, occasional travel to international conferences will be required.
- You will be enrolled in the doctoral training program offered by the Doctoral School of Engineering.
- Ghent University and AIRO lab encourages equal opportunities. We will consider applications based only on your potential as an early career researcher and your fit to the research program.

How to apply

For informal queries, do not hesitate to contact Tony Belpaeme (tony.belpaeme@ugent.be).

Your application should include

- A letter motivating your application. Why do you wish to pursue a PhD? Why in social robotics? What is your -if any- prior experience?
- A CV, with copies of relevant exams, grades, master thesis work or publications.
- The names and contact details of at least 2 referees.

Recommendation letters can be included with your application, but are not needed at the time of application.

Applicants should send their application to tony.belpaeme@ugent.be with subject “PhD application”.

Selected candidates will be invited for an online interview.

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