Job Description and Selection Criteria

Job title	Casual Research Assistant
Department	Oxford Internet Institute
Grade and salary	Grade 6

Job description

Overview of the role

The post holder will report to Dr Luc Rocher. The post holder will be a member of the research group led by Dr Luc Rocher studying the impact of AI on society, with responsibility for the provision of research support for a project in Privacy Enhancing Technologies—in collaboration with Dr Luc Rocher, Blue Tiyavorabun (RA at OII), and Juliette Zaccour (DPhil student at OII). The post involves contributing to research building better evaluation and auditing methods for privacy technologies such as 'differential privacy' and 'synthetic data generation'.

Privacy technologies are crucial for facilitating the secure sharing of sensitive data with third parties for research and investigation led by journalists, researchers, and non-governmental organisations. The post holder will join a research project dedicated to critically examine the reproducibility of investigations and analyses performed through privacy technologies. Our overall goal is to empower independent researchers and make providers of anonymised data accountable. This is an interdisciplinary effort at the intersection of machine learning, privacy and security, policy, and social sciences.

Responsibilities/duties

- Manage own research and administrative activities, within guidelines provided by the research team and Dr. Rocher

- Contribute to software design in Python and scientific programming to build reproducible evaluation and auditing pipeline. This is the primary deliverable.

- Help identify and wrangle data from health and social sciences to test and validate the reproducible pipeline.

- Contribute and be recognised as a co-author on any of the work they contribute to using the CRediT system for recognising contributions.

Selection criteria

Essential

1. Ability to manage own research and administrative activities

2. Excellent communication skills, including the ability to write text that can be published, present data at conferences, and represent the research group at meetings.

3. Good command of scientific programming in Python, as well as working with version control (e.g. git) and package management software (eg. poetry, anaconda).

Desirable

1. Experience of contributing to research publications

2. Experience of working in a research team and contributing ideas for new research projects

3. Research experience in machine learning, applied data science, or privacy and security

4. Experience with GNU/Linux servers and managing intensive CPU/GPU computations.