

JOB DESCRIPTION TEMPLATE FOR A POSTDOCTORAL VISITOR AT YORK UNIVERSITY

Job Information	
Position Title	Postdoctoral Fellow in Data Valuation
Category	Postdoctoral Visitor
Supervisor(s)	Prof Kean Birch
Unit	Institute for Technoscience & Society
Location	Keele Campus, York University, Toronto
Background	
I am seeking a Postdoctoral Fellow to work with me and my collaborators on a SSHRC-funded project titled “Digital Data Value Paradox: An Empirical Investigation of Personal Data Valuation”. The project will investigate three empirical examples of digital personal data valuation represented by international standard-setters, law courts, and digital technology businesses in order to develop a common definition and conception of personal data value and valuation that policymakers and others can use to pursue policies, regulations, and standards that promote the social value of personal data. The research design includes in-depth qualitative interviews with stakeholders and businesspeople. How much an individual's digital personal data is worth is a simple but unresolved question, but it is an increasingly important question for numerous policymakers, regulators, and stakeholders in our digital economies. These stakeholders are trying to work out how to govern the collection, use, and valuation of digital personal data to balance the costs of its collection and use – such as privacy loss, or declining market competition -- with the social and economic benefits that could result -- such as improved service delivery, or new products. The project’s objectives are: (1) to explore how policymakers, standard-setters, and stakeholders from international institutions understand the value of personal data, both currently and in the future; (2) to examine how Anglo-American and EU law courts frame ownership and control over personal data, its value, and the potential harms derived from its sharing and excludability; (3) to analyse how North American data-driven companies value the personal data they collect and/or control; and (4) to develop a common definition, method, and standard for valuing personal data and engage with Canadian policymakers, standard-setters, and stakeholders through knowledge mobilization activities in order to share our findings and recommendations.	
Overall Purpose of Postdoctoral Position	
As a researcher with the project, in collaboration and with the guidance of the supervisor and project collaborators, and within the bounds of the project mandate, the Postdoctoral Fellow will undertake research leading to publication in leading international journals. More specifically, the Postdoctoral Fellow in Data Value will be responsible for the following tasks and activities: literature reviews; primary and secondary data collection; interviewing informants; statistical analysis; qualitative analysis; presenting research; writing up research for publication; writing up research for policy and stakeholder audiences; developing and maintaining a project website and social media presence (e.g. Twitter); helping to organize events; and other activities as required.	
Key Responsibilities	
The Postdoctoral Fellowship will have the following responsibilities: • Undertake literature reviews, covering the topic of digital data value and valuation in academic fields like science & technology studies, law, economic sociology, policy studies, accounting, and political economy. • Undertake desk-based secondary data collection relating to digital data value and valuation; • Travel to undertake primary and secondary data collection (as necessary); • Interviewing business, legal, and policy elites; • Statistical analysis of corporate data (as necessary); • Data analysis using qualitative and quantitative software programs (e.g. Atlas.ti, NVivo, SPSS, Excel); • Presenting research at international conferences and other events;	

- Writing up research for publication in leading international journals (and publishers) (e.g. Big Data & Society; Social Studies of Science; Science, Technology & Human Values; New Political Economy; Journal of Law & Political Economy; Policy Studies; and Accounting, Organization & Society).
- Writing up research for policy and stakeholder audiences;
- Developing and maintaining a project website and social media presence (e.g. Twitter);
- Helping to organize events;
- Other activities as required.

Skills and Qualifications

Educational Qualifications

Applicants must have completed all requirements for a PhD by 1 January 2024.

Training/Experience Required

The applicant should have the following experience/training:

- PhD and research background in science & technology studies, law, economic sociology, policy studies, accounting, or political economy (or closely related field);
- Undertaken primary data collection outside of Canada (e.g. interviewing informants);
- Comfortable doing qualitative and quantitative data collection and analysis, especially on political-economic topics;
- Strong theoretical interest in areas relating to data value & valuation or similar topics in digital economy;
- Publication in press or submission to international social science journals in science & technology studies, law, economic sociology, policy studies, accounting, and political economy.

Terms and Conditions

This postdoctoral position based in Institute for Technoscience & Society will be 12-months in length (1 February 2024 – 31 January 2025). There is the possibility for renewal for another 12-months with the successful completion of work. Work can be undertaken remotely with travel to Toronto required, but you will need to be based in Ontario.

Salary: minimum annual salary of \$50,000 + benefits.

How to Apply

To apply for this position, please submit the following documents:

- A cover letter outlining how your experience matches the requirements (2-page max);
- A detailed and up to date CV (please highlight your publications);
- Details of two referees, including their email addresses.

Please submit all documents by email to Kean Birch at kean@york.ca by 30 November 2023. Qualified applicants will be invited for an interview to be conducted by Skype/Zoom. Apologies in advance, but only those applicants selected for interview will be contacted.