Research assistants (2 to 3 positions available)

Start date: September 1, 2018

Location: University of Ottawa, School of Psychology, Canada

Salary: As per salary grids for students at the University of Ottawa (Non-student may be considered)
https://socialsciences.uottawa.ca/research/resources-researchers

The successful candidates are expected to provide support in 2 (two) ongoing research projects on the ethical challenges arising when developing and commercializing technology for persons with cognitive disabilities, and especially those with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Responsibilities will include conducting interviews, qualitative data analysis and project management. They will also be expected to contribute to the development and submission of grant applications, as well as the preparation and submission of manuscripts for publication, poster and oral presentations, and other scientific outputs (e.g. policy documents, online resources for knowledge users, etc.). They may also co-supervise undergraduate students contributing to the project. Details on the projects are included in this package.

Required skills and experiences:

- Previous research experience in a related field
- Previous experience and advanced training in qualitative research.
- Understanding of the challenges relevant to technology adoption and diffusion
- Excellent communication skills in English or French, bilingual candidates will be preferred
- Excellent computer skills (Including Microsoft Office, Reference Management systems, N'Vivo).
- The ability to work independently with guidance from the project leads, to work collaboratively with all research team members, industry and clinical partners.

Skills and experiences considered an asset:

- Experience conducting interviews
- Experience contributing to peer-reviewed publications, and other scientific outputs
- Experience contributing to grant application writing

Short-listed candidates will be invited for interviews. The positions remain open until filled.

Please send:

- A letter of intent, including a one page description of how you see yourself contributing to the projects,
- A Curriculum Vitae,
- Names and contact information of two referees.

Applications should be sent to Hajer Chalghoumi, Research associate
Tel: (613) 562-5800 x 2208, Email: Hajer.Chalghoumi@uottawa.ca

Details on the projects

Project leads

Virginie Cobigo, School of Psychology, University of Ottawa, and Research Chair, CHEO Research Institute.

Jeffrey Jutai, School of Health Sciences, University of Ottawa and Scientist in the Care for the Elderly Research Program at the Bruyère Research Institute (BRI).

Team members have expertise in research on assistive technologies for persons of all ages with disabilities (e.g. persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities, aging population), on disability-relevant and technology use-relevant policies and laws (including Privacy by Design), on ethical issues relevant to the use of technology and the lives of persons with disabilities (e.g. self-determination, autonomy).

About *Privacy, security, and ethics of the use of emerging technologies: development and validation of a framework for research and policy*

Millions of Canadians with disabilities use technologies that assist them with activities of daily living and independence. Technical innovations in information communication technologies are therefore important, but users' concerns about ethical, security, and privacy (ESP) factors limit their diffusion and adoption. This project aims to develop and validate a conceptual framework describing the influence of ethical, security, and privacy factors in technology adoption. This will be achieved through the development of a mobile application to promote safe and rational medication use by the elderly and persons with disabilities. It is an excellent opportunity for scientific innovation by advancing knowledge on ethical challenges that have so far received little attention. Following a knowledge-to-action cycle, we aim to develop applied solutions that will produce change in policy and regulation frameworks and in caregivers' daily practice. We will promote the useful and widespread application of this knowledge through creative partnerships with community agencies and government-funded residential care centers.

About *Implementing changes in technology development practices that protects users' security and privacy*

Persons with cognitive disabilities benefit from the use of information and communication technologies (ICT) that are known as cognitive assistive technologies because of the support they provide to independent living. However, they are among the most vulnerable to privacy breaches and their use of technology raises many ethical concerns. For example, many of these individuals misunderstand who has access to the information being recorded by ICTs. Currently, safety and monitoring of individuals with cognitive disabilities supersede privacy considerations. Furthermore, technology developers often lack awareness of the privacy and security regulations, and struggle with applying best practices within a sustainable business plan. We will conduct an analysis of AGE-WELL members' actual security and privacy practices, and identify areas of improvements and targets for change. This will inform the development of online resources for technology developers, and will lead to increased awareness of privacy and security regulations and best practices when developing ICT for persons with cognitive disabilities.

The AGE-WELL NCE (Aging Gracefully across Environments to Ensure Well-being, Engagement and Long Life NCE Inc.; **See http://www.agewell-nce.ca/**) is a national research network in technology and aging whose aim is to help older Canadians to maintain their independence, health and quality of life through accessible technologies that increase their safety and security, support their independent living, and enhance their social participation.