

Postdoctoral Position in Security/Privacy Studies: Temple University School of Communications and Theater

As part of an international initiative undertaken with the support of the European Commission Seventh Framework Programme, Temple University is offering a 1-year postdoctoral position in security/privacy studies with a target start date of **January 1, 2010 at the earliest; however, this is flexible dependent on the selected candidate's availability**. The selected postdoctoral fellow, along with the Project Director, will be responsible for administering a project on "Privacy Awareness through Branding of Security Organisations" (PATs) in cooperation with institutions in Germany, the UK, Finland, Israel, Poland, and the United States.

Project Summary and Responsibilities: Temple University's role in the project will be to increase the knowledge of existing symbolic representation of security agencies and security functions of private industry in the U.S and in the other partner countries. Symbolic representations are seen as one of the main sorts of communication between security organizations, industry, and citizens as members of the public. This project will research the specific significance of signs and labels in order to reconstruct security practices – and self-understanding of security agencies – through a set of cultural categories. The methodology will include content and discourse analysis, ethnographic fieldwork, and photographic techniques. The selected candidate should be skilled in qualitative and ethnographic methods and will oversee data collection (1) at select security conferences that are open to the public; (2) through systematic coding of privacy symbols and discourses on web pages, brochures, and in security trade publications; and (3) through photographic representations of security and privacy protection in public places.

The postdoctoral researcher along with the director will also be responsible for (1) coordinating with partner countries other components of the research project managed by partner researcher; (2) hosting an international workshop on security and privacy in Philadelphia; (3) attending project meetings hosted at partner countries; and (4) hosting a workshop to improve privacy awareness among security agencies.

Salary is commensurate with experience and includes full fringe and health benefits. All travel related to research, workshops, and project meetings is covered by the Seventh Framework Programme funding.

Qualifications

Applicants must have an earned doctoral degree in Communication or a field related to security/privacy studies. Candidates with pending degrees who will have successfully defended their dissertations by the position start date will also be considered.

In addition, applicants must have relevant expertise in one or more of the following subjects/methodologies: security/privacy studies, visual rhetoric, rhetorical analysis, discourse analysis, narrative analysis, media analysis, and qualitative methods.

Temple University is an affirmative action, equal opportunity employer and educator where diversity is an essential source of vitality and strength. The University is committed to nondiscrimination based on race, color, national origin, sex, marital status, sexual orientation, religion, age, and disability.

Deadline: Review of applications will begin **December 1, 2009** and continue until the position is filled. We hope for a start date of January 1, 2010 but that is flexible and dependent on when the position is filled.

Application Instructions: Please email all application materials and/or questions to the Project Director:

Hector Postigo
Associate Professor
Broadcasting Telecommunications and Mass Media
School of Communication and Theatre, Temple University
hector.postigo@temple.edu

When applying include as MS Word attachments:

1. Cover Letter stating your interests in the position and how your research and expertise will contribute and relates to the project.
2. An up to date CV.
3. Names and contact information for 2 references.
4. Sample of written work (published or unpublished).