PhD Position

Transparency for Machinery in Personal Pervasive Smart Spaces

LMU Munich is seeking to fill a position at the Media Informatics Group as

Research Associate (m/w/d) | E13 TVöD

We invite applications from excellent candidates to work with us in the field of Human-Robot Interaction (HRI). Our research shapes the user perception of collaborative robots in domestic environments. Here, we will design communication and interaction patterns to support HRI. Thus, in the scope of the DFG-funded project TransforM (SPP 2199), we aim to answer the following research questions:

- How do transparency and invisibility affect the user experience and variables such as trust and credibility?
- What design solutions enhance the transparency and unobtrusiveness of smart environments?

Environment

You will work in the Media Informatics Group at LMU Munich, an interdisciplinary group tackling various challenges in human-computer interaction. You can utilize our Robotics Research Lab, which features, for instance, ceiling-mounted robotic arms, smart appliances, and spatial projection, to address the research questions.

Requirements

- Master's Degree in Computer Science, Human-Computer Interaction, or similar
- Strong proficiency in programming and software commonly used in robotics research (e.g., Python, C++, ROS)
- Hardware prototyping skills, hands-on attitude
- Experience with experimental design, both quantitative and qualitative
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills in English; proficiency in German is a plus but not required

Responsibilities

- Conducting research within the project, individually and in cooperation with other researchers
- Maintaining and extending the Robotic Research Lab environment and its control software
- Supervision of student research assistants working in the Robotic Research Lab
- Supervision of Bachelor's and Master's theses
- Participation in teaching activities

What we offer

- Work in an outstanding, internationally visible research environment
- Active supervision and promotion of your scientific development toward a doctoral degree
- Payment according to remuneration group E13 carried out in compliance with § 12 TVöD
- Access to state-of-the-art research facilities and resources, including our Robotics Research Lab
- A collaborative and supportive research environment with an international, friendly, and dedicated team
- Living and working in Munich, a city renowned for its quality of life, cultural heritage, and natural beauty

Application

An ideal application contains the following: a cover letter outlining the motivation for pursuing a PhD Degree, as well as research interests and relevant experience; a detailed CV with certificates and evidence of experience in the academic and scientific field (including a list of publications, if applicable); a summary of the Master's thesis; and an indication of 2 potential references. The initial duration of employment is three years.

The LMU Munich aims to increase the proportion of female researchers. Applications from women and individuals from underrepresented groups in science are encouraged. Persons with a handicap are given preferential consideration in the event of equal qualification.

Applications and inquiries should be sent to sekretariat@medien.ifi.lmu.de.