

FURTHER PARTICULARS

Job Title	Research Associate in Narratives of Artificial Intelligence: Perceptions of Autonomous Flight
Grade	7
Salary Range	£32,236 – £39,609
Staff Group	Research
Department / Institution	Leverhulme Centre for the Future of Intelligence, University of Cambridge

Role Summary

The Leverhulme Centre for the Future of Intelligence (CFI) at the University of Cambridge invites applications for a postdoctoral Research Associate to work on a project in collaboration with Boeing exploring perceptions of autonomous flight. The appointment will be for 1 year. It is an exciting opportunity for a talented individual to make a major contribution to the development of this field.

CFI is a new, highly interdisciplinary research centre addressing the challenges and opportunities posed by artificial intelligence (AI). Funded by the Leverhulme Trust, CFI is based at the University of Cambridge, with partners in the University of Oxford, Imperial College, and UC Berkeley. The Centre also has close links with industry, policymakers, and many academic disciplines. This is a new Research Associate post within CFI's AI: Narratives and Justice programme, based in central Cambridge. This programme, led by Dr Sarah Dillon, investigates the cultural contexts shaping how AI is perceived and developed, and the consequences for diversity, cognitive justice and social justice. The Programme brings together expertise from the humanities, the social sciences, and computer science in order to produce scholarly work that will inform future research - in academia, industry, business, and government - and encourage effective interventions to ensure AI is developed in ethical ways that are beneficial and just for all.

This project builds on the existing AI Narratives project in collaboration with the Royal Society. A review of the initial phase of that project is available [here](#). Phase 2 will develop the AI Narratives work with specific case studies. In collaboration with Boeing, one of these cases studies is a one year sub-project entitled 'Flying Machines with Minds of their Own: Exploring Perceptions of Autonomous Flight'. The project aims to:

- develop an understanding of how different sectors of society might regard autonomous flight;
- identify possible concerns that people might have about such systems;
- clarify positive associations that people might have about autonomous flight;

- prepare the ground for understanding what people would perceive to be safe, responsible and trustworthy autonomous flying vehicles.

These aims will be achieved through a multi-disciplinary research methodology:

- quantitative and qualitative research into public perceptions of autonomous flight;
- literary and cultural analysis of perception and reception of autonomous flight in literary and cinematic narratives.

The first methodology will use standard sociological techniques to collect data. Two surveys will be carried out: the first will be exploratory; the design of the second will be informed by the findings of the first. The second methodology adheres to the narrative knowledge method developed during the AI narratives project. This maintains that speculative narratives provide key sites of imaginative thinking about otherwise empirically unknown or untestable scenarios. The dual methodology will offer a productive, creative approach to exploring perceptions of autonomous flight.

The appointee will lead on both strands and is expected to have expertise in social science methodologies with experience in, or capacity for, media and textual research. In addition to contributing to this project, the appointee will play an important role in CFI's interdisciplinary activities, including discussion groups, workshops, and an annual conference. Candidates should have a PhD in a relevant field and should provide strong evidence of potential for research and publication at the highest level, as well as strong interest in engagement with policy and technology communities, and industry.

Main Responsibilities

The Research Associate will report to AI: Narratives and Justice Programme Director and Project co-Principal Investigator, Dr Sarah Dillon, and work closely with co-PI Dr Stephen Cave, and other researchers on the Narratives and Justice programme.

In collaboration with CFI and Boeing colleagues, the post-holder will be expected to:

- Conduct a literature survey of existing research on attitudes to autonomous vehicles in general, and autonomous flight in particular;
- Design and implement two surveys to assess public perceptions of autonomous flight;
- Review and analyse the literary and cultural history of imaginative thinking about autonomous flight, to be published as at least one paper in a leading academic journal.
- Organise, participate in, and speak at workshops, seminar series, lectures and conferences relevant to this research;
- Produce reports for Boeing as appropriate;
- Develop collaborations with leading researchers and research centres relevant to this research within and outside Cambridge, and with key contacts in government, international organisations, and industry where relevant;
- Collaborate with Boeing on further development of the project and collaborate on other funding applications relevant to the work of this project and to CFI's broader research aims.

Person profile

Essential knowledge, skills and experience required for role

Education & qualifications	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- A PhD in a specialist subject relevant to the project's aims, completed by time of appointment, is essential.- Fluency in English is essential.
Specialist knowledge & skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Expertise in an area relevant to the project is essential.- Evidence of a serious research interest in the research foci of the Centre, including a research proposal explaining how their skills are relevant to this project, is essential.- The ability to quickly acquire a technical understanding of other relevant fields where necessary.- The inclination and the intellectual versatility to engage with a range of 'big-picture' questions, and the ability to pursue such questions in a rigorous way, integrating findings from different academic disciplines using a variety of analytic methods.
Interpersonal & communication skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Excellent written and oral communication and presentation skills are essential.- Ability to engage with diverse communities of experts – including academics across disciplines, industry partners, and policymakers is essential.- Evidence of ability to work in collaborative environments is desirable.
Relevant experience	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Experience in organisation of conferences and academic events is highly desirable.- Ability to contribute to the Centre's grant-writing and fundraising efforts is desirable.
Additional requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- An enthusiasm and strong commitment to CFI's core research aims is essential.- The post-holder is expected to conduct most of their research in Cambridge and be based there but travel elsewhere for research, conferences and meetings.

Terms and Conditions

Location	Central Cambridge
Working pattern	Full Time
Hours of work	There are no conditions relating to hours and times of work but the jobholder is expected to work such hours and days as are reasonably necessary for the proper performance of their duties. The times of work should be agreed between the jobholder, the project leader and CFI's Executive Director.
Salary	£32,236 - £39,609 subject to experience.
Start date	1st April 2019, or as soon as possible thereafter
Length of appointment	12 months
Limited funding	The current position is funded by a research grant or contract. The position is limited to one year in the first instance, and the head of department, or his/her nominee, will keep the role holder informed of the funding situation.
Probation period	Six Months.
Annual leave	Full time employees are entitled to annual paid leave of 6.6 weeks (or 33 days); this excludes Public Holidays but includes building closure days between Christmas and New Year.
Pension eligibility	Universities Superannuation Scheme (USS) Pension scheme details, including information about the legal requirement for the University to automatically enrol its eligible jobholders into a qualifying workplace pension scheme from 1 March 2013, is available at: http://www.pensions.admin.cam.ac.uk/ .

Retirement age	The University does not operate a retirement age for assistant staff/research staff/unestablished academic staff/unestablished academic-related staff.
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Screening Check Requirements

We have a legal responsibility to ensure that you have the right to work in the UK before you can start working for us. If you do not have the right to work in the UK already, any offer of employment we make to you will be conditional upon you gaining it. If you need further information, you may find the Right to Work page within the 'Applying for a job' section of the University's Job Opportunities pages helpful (please see <http://www.jobs.cam.ac.uk/right/have/>).

Application Process

To submit an application for this vacancy, please click on the link in the 'Apply online' section of the advert published on the University's Job Opportunities pages. This will route you to the University's Web Recruitment System, where you will need to register an account (if you have not already) and log in before completing the online application form.

Applications are due by 28 February 2019, and should include:

- **A Curriculum Vitae** [1]
[SEP]
- **A Covering Letter** of no more than 1,500 words, outlining a proposed research direction, and explaining how this proposal and your skills would contribute to this project in particular and to CFI more broadly. [1]
[SEP]
- **A Sample of Writing** of no more than 5,000 words. Candidates should choose a sample that demonstrates their suitability for this project, and their ability to write clearly and effectively. The writing sample may be published work, or a chapter from the applicant's thesis, or other unpublished work. [1]
[SEP]
- The names and contact details of **two referees** who are familiar with your work. Please note that if you would like us to take your references into account in deciding whether to shortlist you, it is essential that you select the box 'At any point in this process' on the online system in response to the question when references can be requested.

If you upload any additional documents which have not been requested, we will not be able to consider these as part of your application.

The closing date for applications is midnight (GMT) on 28 February 2019. If you have any questions about this vacancy or the application process, please contact Susan Gowans on skg41@cam.ac.uk, or for any questions about this project, please contact Sarah Dillon on sjd27@cam.ac.uk.

Interviews will take place in Cambridge in March 2019.

General Information

The University of Cambridge

The University of Cambridge is one of the world's oldest and most successful Universities, with an outstanding reputation for academic achievement and research. It was ranked first in the 2011 QS World University Rankings and its graduates have won more Nobel Prizes than any other university in the world. The University comprises more than 150 departments, faculties, schools and other institutions, plus a central administration and 31 independent and autonomous colleges.

The University and the Colleges are linked in a complex historical relationship. The Colleges are self-governing, separate legal entities which appoint their own staff. They admit students, provide student accommodation and deliver small group teaching (supervisions). The University awards degrees and its faculties and departments provide lectures and seminars for students, determine the syllabi for teaching and conduct research.

There is much more information about the University at <http://www.cam.ac.uk/univ/works/index.html> which we hope you will find helpful.

Leverhulme Centre for the Future of Intelligence

The development of AI seems likely to be one of the defining themes of our century, and the project of ensuring that we make best use of its opportunities is one that we all face together. Thanks to a £10 million grant from the Leverhulme Trust, in 2016 the University of Cambridge has established a new interdisciplinary research centre, the Leverhulme Centre for the Future of Intelligence, to explore the opportunities and challenges of this potentially epoch-making technology, both short and long term. The Centre is a collaboration with partners at the Oxford Martin School at the University of Oxford, at Imperial College London, and with Stuart Russell's group at UC Berkeley.

A major goal of the CFI is to lead the growth of a new interdisciplinary research community to address the opportunities and challenges of AI. To this end, it is launching two initial research exercises and seven projects in its first research phase, each of which addresses an important question related to the development and implications of AI. The Centre's objectives are practical as well as theoretical, and it places a high priority on links outside academia, including to leading technology developers and policy leaders. CFI also aspires to improve the standard of public debate on the impacts of AI, and senior CFI staff will support the jobholder in writing for a broader audience, including through our partnership with aeon.co. More information is available at www.lcfi.ac.uk.

What the University can offer you

One of our core values at the University of Cambridge is to recognise and reward our staff as our greatest asset. We realise that it's our people who have built our outstanding reputation and that we will only maintain our leading position in the academic world by continuing to attract and retain talented and motivated people. If you choose to come and work with us, you will find that we offer:

Excellent benefits – You will be eligible for a wide range of competitive benefits and services, including numerous discounts on shopping, health care, financial services and public transport. We also offer defined benefits pension schemes and tax-efficient bicycle, car lease and charity-giving schemes.

We will help you balance your home and work life by providing you with generous annual leave entitlement and procedures for requesting a career break or flexible working arrangements if you need them. You will also have access to a range of well-being support services, including in-house Occupational Health and Counselling services. If you have childcare responsibilities, you may also benefit from the enhanced maternity/adoption pay, two nurseries and a holiday play scheme that we provide.

We are keen to welcome new employees from other parts of the UK and other countries to Cambridge. If you will be relocating to Cambridge on a centrally funded appointment of two years or more, you may be eligible for our relocation expenses scheme. The University [Accommodation Service](http://www.accommodation.cam.ac.uk/) (<http://www.accommodation.cam.ac.uk/>) will also be available to help you find suitable rented accommodation and to provide advice on renting arrangements and local facilities, if required. In addition, certain academic and academic-related appointments are eligible for the Shared Equity Scheme which offers financial assistance with the purchase of living accommodation.

A welcoming and inclusive environment - We will help you settle into your new role and working environment through a central [University induction event](#), local induction activities and our online induction package. Where appropriate to your role, you will have a probation period to provide a supportive framework for reviewing your progress and discussing your training and development needs.

If you are relocating to Cambridge, you and your family will be welcome to attend the Newcomers and Visiting Scholars Group, which provides an opportunity to find out more about Cambridge and meet other people new to the area.

Extensive development opportunities - The encouragement of career development for staff is one of the University's core values. We put this into practice through various services and initiatives, including:

- A [wide-range of training courses](#) and online learning packages.
- The [Staff Review and Development \(SRD\) Scheme](#), which is designed to enhance work effectiveness and facilitate career development post-probation.
- [Leave for career and personal development](#), including long-term study leave for assistant staff and sabbatical leave for academic staff.

- The [CareerStart@Cam programme](#), which supports assistant staff roles without higher education qualifications to develop their skills, experience and qualifications. Assistant staff may also apply for financial assistance for study which results in a qualification.
- [Reduced staff fees](#) for University of Cambridge graduate courses.
- The opportunity to attend [lectures and seminars](#) held by University departments and institutions.
- Policies and processes dedicated to the career development of researchers and the implementation of the principles of the Concordat, which have led to the University being recognised with an HR Excellence in Research Award by the European Commission.

You can find further details of the benefits, services and opportunities we offer can be found in our CAMBens Employee Benefits web pages at <http://www.hr.admin.cam.ac.uk/pay-benefits/cambens-employee-benefits>. A range of information about living and working in Cambridge is also available to you within the University's web pages at <http://www.jobs.cam.ac.uk/> and <http://www.hr.admin.cam.ac.uk/hr-staff/information-staff>.

Equality of Opportunity at the University

We are committed to a proactive approach to equality, which includes supporting and encouraging all under-represented groups, promoting an inclusive culture and valuing diversity. We make selection decisions based on personal merit and an objective assessment against the criteria required for the post. We do not treat job applicants or members of staff less favourably than one another on the grounds of sex (including gender reassignment), marital or parental status, race, ethnic or national origin, colour, disability (including HIV status), sexual orientation, religion, age or socio-economic factors.

We have various diversity networks to help us progress equality; these include the Women's Staff Network, the Disabled Staff Network, the Black and Minority Ethnic Staff Network and the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Staff Network. In addition, we were ranked in the top 100 employers for lesbian, gay and bisexual (LGB) staff in Stonewall's Workplace Equality Index 2013 and we hold an Athena SWAN silver award at organisation level for promoting women in Science, Technology, Engineering and Medicine.

We are supportive of staff with caring responsibilities, such as through our flexible working, career break and returning carers schemes. We encourage individuals to include details of any breaks in employment due to caring responsibilities in applications for employment so that these can be taken into consideration in assessments made, where appropriate.

Information if you have a Disability

The University welcomes applications from individuals with disabilities and we are committed to ensuring fair treatment throughout the recruitment process. We will make adjustments to enable applicants to compete to the best of their ability wherever it is reasonable to do so, and, if successful, to assist them during their employment. Information for disabled applicants is available at <http://www.admin.cam.ac.uk/offices/hr/staff/disabled/>.

We encourage you to declare any disability that you may have, and any reasonable adjustments that you may require, in the section provided for this purpose in the application form. This will

enable us to accommodate your needs throughout the process as required. However, applicants and employees may declare a disability at any time.

If you prefer to discuss any special arrangements connected with a disability, please contact, Miss Ruth Farley, HR Administrator who is responsible for recruitment to this position ruth.farley@admin.cam.ac.uk or 01223 767355. Alternatively, you may contact the HR Business Manager responsible for the department you are applying to via hradmin@admin.cam.ac.uk