

Research Fellow, Digital Humanities and Democracy, based in TCD Dublin

Position Start: from February, 2023

Post Title:	Research Fellow, Digital Humanities and Democracy
Post Status:	up to 36 months, specific purpose contract (project ends January 2026)
School/Institute:	Centre for Digital Humanities, Trinity Long Room Hub Arts and Humanities Research Institute, Trinity College Dublin, the University of Dublin
Location	Trinity Long Room Hub Trinity College Dublin, the University of Dublin College Green, Dublin 2, Ireland
Reports to:	Dr Jennifer Edmond, Co-Director of the Centre for Digital Humanities; PI, KT4D project
Closing Date:	18th January 2023, 5PM
Salary:	€40,023 per annum IUA Research Fellow Level 2 Point 1

The Trinity College Centre for Digital Humanities is recruiting a 2-year post-doctoral fellow with fluency expertise in digital technology and the humanities to join its growing and diverse team. The purpose of this post is to support the delivery of the KT4D (Knowledge Technologies for Democracy) project.

AI and big data are fundamentally interwoven into our societies, culture and indeed into our expectations and conceptions of democratic governance and exchange. They can also, however, contribute to an environment for citizens that is distinctly anti-democratic. KT4D will harness the benefits of an understanding of these as knowledge technologies to foster more inclusive civic participation in democracy. To achieve this, we will develop and validate tools, guidelines and a Digital Democracy Lab demonstrators platform. These results will be validated across three user needs scenarios: 1) building capacity for citizens and citizen-facing Civil Society Organisations (CSOs); 2) creating regulatory tools and services for Policy and CSOs; and 3) improving awareness of how to design ethically and mindfully for democracy principles in academic and industrial software development. Our work is underpinned by the understanding that to fully address the social and fundamental rights costs of AI and big data, we need more than just technological fixes, we need to address the underlying cultural influences and barriers. Most importantly, we understand the threats to democracy of AI and big data not only through the nature of what they do, but via the cultural disruptions they create with power dynamics they shift, their tendency toward opacity, and the speed at which they change. KT4D's ambitious and disruptive results will drive

transformation in how democracy and civic participation are facilitated in the face of rapidly changing knowledge technologies, enabling actors across society to capitalise on the many benefits these technologies can bring in terms of community empowerment, social integration, individual agency, and trust in both institutions and technological instruments, while confidently mitigating potential ethical, legal and cultural risks.

The KT4D consortium of 12 partners from across Europe has been funded by the European Commission and is led by Trinity College Dublin's Professor Jennifer Edmond, Co-Director of the Trinity Centre for Digital Humanities. The appointee will be based in the Trinity Long Room Hub Arts and Humanities Research Institute and will work closely with Professor Edmond and the DH@TCD Team, also based in the Trinity Long Room Hub.

Duties and Responsibilities of the Post

The appointee will work closely and collaboratively with the Project PI to deliver a series of activities woven into the overall goals and ambitions of the KT4D project. The duties will include:

- Undertake specific research work related to a series of project activities, including the following:
 - Develop a cultural and historical overview on individual responses to knowledge technologies. This will include building an overview and corpus of accounts documenting both historical and imagined interactions with knowledge technologies and their effects on individual self-determination, perceptions of well-being, and openness toward socially beneficial collective action. This corpus will create new frames of reference for exploring questions of trust, influence and the limits of the technologically extended, 'cyborg' (Haraway, nd) self, making the project's results relevant to a variety of humanities disciplines.
 - Undertake a review of tools created to guide software developers toward human- or life-centred design and contribute to the team working to build new instruments to foster better tuning to the understanding of cultural sensitivities, relational and holistic identity paradigms, and awareness of individual biases.
 - Support the development of materials to promote critical digital literacy by assembling background information (via research into comparators and extant good practice) illustrating issues of cultural adaptation and technical feasibility in pedagogical design.
 - Support the project's development of guidelines and tools to promote Participatory Algorithmic Accountability with the different perspectives on this same topic that have been developed within the digital humanities and cultural critiques of knowledge technologies.
- Contribute to the development and delivery of the project's user-facing activities, in particular Dublin-based Use Case 3, serving the community of academic and industrial software developers.
- Work with the PI to and project team to prepare and submit the results of these tasks for publication;
- Contribute, as appropriate, to DH@TCD Centre research dissemination work, including producing content for the project newsletter and project and Centre social media accounts, presentations at stakeholder engagement events (such as the learning case workshops and the project's final stakeholder event), and presentations at events for researchers (such as the Centre's DSS Workshops);

- Participate in and contribute to building the activities of the DH Centre, its projects and our host Institute, the Trinity Long Room Hub.
- Other tasks/duties as assigned by the Principal Investigator..

Person Specification

Applicants for this position are required to:

- Hold a PhD in a relevant humanities field (e.g. history, philosophy/ethics, cultural studies/literature), with a track record of research outputs commensurate with career stage
- Possess familiarity and ease with interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary
- Have excellent, proven academic writing and analysis skills
- Be highly adept at working collaboratively and in an integrated team environment
- Be a resourceful / conscientious and self-motivated individual with a 'can do attitude' and ability to see tasks through to completion
- Be conversant with and interested in the social and cultural contexts and tensions around AI deployment

Applicants for this position are desired to:

- Have an established publication record in the digital humanities or a related field
- Have experience of assembling and managing complex datasets
- Have excellent oral and written communication skills, with the proven capacity and confidence to communicate with a wide range of audiences across media
- Be able to manage competing priorities and maintain a high level of professionalism when working under pressure;
- Show discretion and professional approach to all activities;

Trinity College Dublin

Founded in 1592, Trinity College Dublin is the oldest university in Ireland and one of the older universities of Western Europe. On today's campus, state-of-the-art libraries, laboratories and IT facilities, stand alongside historic buildings on a city-centre 47-acre campus.

Trinity College Dublin offers a unique educational experience across a range of disciplines in the arts, humanities, engineering, science, human, social and health sciences. As Ireland's premier university, the pursuit of excellence through research and scholarship is at the heart of a Trinity education. TCD has an outstanding record of publications in high-impact journals, and a track record in winning research funding which is among the best in the country.

The Library of Trinity College is the largest research library in Ireland and is an invaluable resource to scholars. In addition to purchases and donations accrued over four centuries, the College has had 200 years of legal deposit. By this right Trinity can claim a copy of every book published in Ireland the UK. The Library contains 4.25 million volumes, 30,000 current serial titles as well as an extensive collection of manuscripts, the most famous being the Book of Kells.

DH@TCD

The Trinity College Dublin Centre for Digital Humanities (see: <https://dh.tcd.ie/dh/>) is internationally recognised for its track record of excellence in research, teaching and service. Our 10-year track record of externally-funded **research projects** covers a wide range of topics, with particular strengths in the development of research environments and infrastructures for the digital humanities, and the application of digital humanities insights to wider social, cultural and technical challenges (critical digital humanities). Among our projects have been signature EU-funded initiatives such as CENDARI, PARTHENOS, KPLEX, ECloud, and PROVIDE DH. We also host one of the four Coordination Offices of the DARIAH ERIC (www.dariah.eu), a pan-European research infrastructure for the arts and humanities.

The DH@TCD Centre also has a strong commitment to building accessible **infrastructure** for digital humanities in our home institute and institution. The Centre Steering Committee aligns activities at a University level, while individual Centre staff act as consultants for a wide range of projects at their inception phase. Our signature institutional contribution, the Digital Scholarship and Skills Workshop series, is now in its 5th year, and in its virtual form attracts a global audience as well as local students and staff.

The Centre also strongly supports Trinity's **Postgraduate Programme in Digital Humanities and Culture** (see: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wnRGP8xihJg&t=1s>), which is based in the School of Languages, Literatures and Cultural Studies. This one-year programme, which can be taken as a PG Certificate, PG Diploma or full Masters degree, introduces students to the basic discourses, contexts and tools of the field, preparing them for a wide range of professional and research opportunities.

The position will be based in the Trinity Long Room Hub, Trinity College Dublin's Research Institute for the arts and humanities, and make its home in the Hub's beautiful facility on historic Fellow's Square. For more information about the Long Room Hub, see www.tcd.ie/longroomhub

The Selection Process

Applications will be acknowledged by email. If you do not have confirmation of receipt within 3 working days of submitting your application online, please get in touch with us immediately and prior to the closing date/time.

Interviews for this position will be held on 27th January 2023. Interviews will be carried out by Zoom video conference. Interviewees will be notified of outcomes in writing no later than 5 working days following the end of the selection process.

Equal Opportunities Policy

Trinity is an equal opportunities employer and is committed to employment policies, procedures and practices which do not discriminate on grounds such as gender, civil status, family status, age, disability, race, religious belief, sexual orientation or membership of the travelling community. On that basis we encourage and welcome talented people from all backgrounds to join our staff community. Trinity's Diversity Statement can be viewed in full at <https://www.tcd.ie/diversity-inclusion/diversity-statement>.

Application Procedure

Candidates are asked to submit one PDF file containing 1) a covering letter outlining personal motivation for seeking the role and key competencies and experience the candidate will bring to it; 2) a full CV and 3) the names and contact details of 3 referees (email addresses if possible) to: Prof Jennifer Edmond (edmondj@tcd.ie).

Please Note that:

- Applicants who do not specifically address the needs of the project described above in their cover letter will not be considered at the short list stage.
- Applicants should note that the interview process for this appointment may include the delivery of a presentation.
- Applications from non-EEA citizens are welcomed. However, eligibility is determined by the Department of Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation and further information on the Highly Skills Eligible Occupations List is set out in Schedule 3 of the Regulations
<https://www.djei.ie/en/What-We-Do/Jobs-Workplace-and-Skills/Employment-Permits/Employment-Permit-Eligibility/Highly-Skilled-Eligible-Occupations-List/> and the Ineligible Categories of Employment are set out in Schedule 4 of the Regulations
<https://www.djei.ie/en/What-We-Do/Jobs-Workplace-and-Skills/Employment-Permits/Employment-Permit-Eligibility/Ineligible-Categories-of-Employment/>. Non-EEA candidates should note that the onus is on them to secure a visa to travel to Ireland prior to commencing any position. Non-EEA candidates should also be aware that even if successful at interview, an appointment to the post is contingent on the securing of an employment permit.

Informal enquiries may also be addressed to Prof Edmond (edmondj@tcd.ie).