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by Ester Maria Loi

REF. N. 12_18

Job Description:

Job title: 1 PostDoc position in TECHNOLOGY

Name of Organisation: Maastricht University (UM)

Country: Netherlands

City: Maastricht

Main research fields: Technology

Sub research fields: Artificial Intelligence, Game Playing

Application deadline: 30/04/2018 22:00 - UTC

Required Education:

Applicants should have a PhD in a relevant field (artificial/computational intelligence, machine learning, general game playing, computational phylogenetics, data mining, etc.)

Language skills:

Required languages: English

Level: Good

Required research experiences:

- Strong track record of research output and publication.
- Expert Java programming skills are essential.

Application details:

Job description: The Digital Ludeme Project, a five-year research project funded by the European Research Council (ERC), will entail a computational study of the world's traditional games throughout recorded human history. It aims to improve our knowledge of ancient games using modern AI techniques, to chart their evolution and their role in the spread of mathematical knowledge across cultures, thereby establishing a new field of research called Digital Archaeoludology.

The successful applicant will play a leading role in helping to develop the software system and related databases for modelling the expected corpus of over 1,000 traditional games, and preparing the data thus collated for phylogenetic, historical and cultural analysis by the project's "cultural" contingent. The project will produce a new public platform for game AI study, facilitating novel research into machine learning for general game playing, phylogenetic analysis of games including game distance/similarity metrics, and automated strategy learning, transfer and explanation.

The successful candidate will produce publishable results in leading conferences and journals, and will assist with the supervision of PhD students and play an active role in the day-to-day running of the project. This will include coordinating project meetings and field trips, and events such as international symposia, conferences and a public exhibition, and assisting with the pursuit of further research funding.

Job starting date: 01/06/2018 or as soon as the successful applicant is available.

Duration of job: The position is offered for the duration of the project (until 31 March 2023) with yearly evaluations.

Status: Full time

Additional requirements:

A strong background in machine learning and experience coordinating research projects and conference-level events would be advantageous. A demonstrated passion for traditional games and an interest in their history will be highly regarded.