

For our team at the Institute of History and Ethics in Medicine we are looking for a

Postdoctoral Research Associate (m/f/d)

About us

The Institute of History and Ethics in Medicine (IHEM) is part of the School of Medicine and Health at the Technical University of Munich. At the Institute of History and Ethics in Medicine, we advance ethical practice and theory in medicine, biomedical technology, and public health, driven by the belief that embedding ethics is essential for shaping the future of healthcare, science, technology, society, and the environment. Our mission encompasses both theoretical and empirical methods to foster ethical, transparent, and interdisciplinary research, education and policy. The Institute works on an interdisciplinary basis and is highly networked both nationally and internationally.

About the position

We are looking for a 100% postdoctoral research associate beginning in September 2025 or shortly after, for a term of 4 years. The postdoc will join the ERC-Starting Grant project team on “Participatory Algorithmic Justice: A multi-sited ethnography to advance algorithmic justice through participatory design” (PARTIALJUSTICE) to examine issues of justice and participation in artificial intelligence (AI). Despite its potential, AI is known to reinforce inequalities and result in negative consequences, for example, racial or gender bias, discrimination, or surveillance. This project advances collaborative, qualitative research to better understand who and what AI harms, but also how these harms should be redressed through multi-sited ethnographic fieldwork. This fieldwork will be integrated with participatory design workshops to develop specific interventions into problems identified by research collaborators. The goal of the project is to amplify the voices and concerns of those most negatively impacted by AI.

Requirements:

- A doctorate in anthropology, sociology, STS, or a related social science discipline, and experience in conducting and publishing research at an international level.
- Experience with qualitative ethnographic methods is required. Applicants should have demonstrated independent experience in designing and carrying-out ethnographic fieldwork, and in qualitative data analysis.
- Experience with participatory design or participatory methodologies is desired. Other forms of experience in community work or project facilitation, will also be considered.
- Strong analytical skills and a proven interest in interdisciplinary analysis are required.
- Topical expertise working in the areas of AI, justice, technology, or on other forms of inequality is desired.
- Fluency in English and one additional language is required. Applicants must have substantial fluency in the second language, such that they are able to conduct in-depth interviews, lead public workshops, and analyze data in that language. Applicants will be expected to conduct fieldwork in this second language, and write and publish in English.

We offer:

- An excellent international, collaborative research environment at one of Europe's leading academic institutions with state-of-the-art equipment.
- Employment and remuneration according to the provisions of the collective agreement for the public service of the federal states up to TV-L E13, plus the attractive benefits of the public service such as capital-forming benefits and company pension scheme.
- We offer a full-time position, part-time can be considered depending on the circumstances.

The Institute for the History and Ethics of Medicine at the Technical University of Munich strives for a safe, inclusive and collaborative working environment. We foster a culture in which everyone feels valued and heard and in which the personal development and well-being of the individual in the group are central.

Further notes and information

- TUM is striving to increase the ratio of women, and therefore expressly welcomes applications from female candidates.
- The position is suitable for disabled persons. Disabled applicants will be given preference in case of generally equivalent suitability, aptitude and professional performance. Note: The workplace is not completely barrier-free, not wheelchair accessible (listed old building).
- The weekly working time is 40 hours. The position is limited to 48 months

Your application

Do not hesitate to contact Dr. Amelia Fiske for any content-related questions you may have (a.fiske@tum.de) or our office team for any administrative-related questions (office.ethics@mh.tum.de, 089/4140-4041).

To apply, please send a cover letter expressing your motivation and preparation for the position, a CV, a short research proposal, up to three relevant publications, and provide a list of potential references. The cover letter should detail your experience with ethnographic methods and qualitative data analysis, as well as your experience with participatory methodologies. The research proposal (max 1 page) should describe a potential ethnographic research project you would propose in relation to the PARTIALJUSTICE project, and provide some specifics on your methodological approach and the feasibility of the research. We look forward to receiving your informative documents. Please send them **in one PDF file** by **16.05.2025** by e-mail with the subject PARTIALJUSTICE WiMi Application followed by your last name, to a.fiske@tum.de with office.ethics@mh.tum.de in cc, or by post to:

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If you apply in writing, we request that you submit only copies of official documents, as we cannot return your materials after completion of the application process.

As part of your application for a position at the Technical University of Munich (TUM), you will submit personal data. Please note our data protection information in accordance with Art. 13 of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) on the collection and processing of personal data in the context of your application <https://portal.mytum.de/kompass/datenschutz/Bewerbung/>. By submitting your application, you confirm that you have taken note of TUM's data protection information.