

We invite applications for a **3-year postdoctoral position in Experimental Philosophy of Language / Philosophy of AI** at the University of Graz, Austria.

The position is attached to the CHANSE/HERA Crisis project, which explores norms of assertion for LLMs.

### **Project Summary: Norms of Assertion in Language-based Human-AI Interaction**

One of the central crises of our times regards the widespread dissemination of mis- and disinformation, fake news, conspiracy theories and consequently the erosion of trust in the media, science and governmental institutions. The *communication crisis*, as we will call it, has been exacerbated by the use of digital means of discourse. And it will be *further* intensified, we predict, because in the near future many of our interlocutors will no longer be humans, but AI-driven conversational agents. We propose an in-depth, cross-cultural inquiry into responsible principles of operation for AI-driven conversational agents, so as to help mitigate or prevent a new AI-fueled wave of the communication crisis.

The research endeavour, which sits at the interface of ethics, linguistics, media and communication as well as social computer science, will empirically explore (i) normative expectations in language-based human-AI interaction as well as (ii) the appraisal of norm violations and their downstream interactive consequences across several European and non-European languages and cultures. We will closely (iii) track relevant moderators (e.g. context, role, model complexity of the AI system, stakes) and mediators (e.g. perceived agency, projection of mind), so as to (iv) investigate their influence on the evaluation of and disposition to rely on conversational AI systems across cultures. On the basis of the findings, we will (v) propose principles for the responsible design and use of AI-driven conversational agents, which will be tested immediately on the AI-driven lay-journalism application *Reporter* provided by our associated partner Polaris News.

### **Responsibilities**

- Research and publication activities in experimental philosophy of language, philosophy of AI and HRI.
- Collaboration with Markus Kneer (see <https://shorturl.at/gnpz1>) and the PIs of the NIHAI project.
- Support of the chair of Ethics of AI in teaching
- Support of the chair of Ethics of AI in organizing workshops and conferences at IDea\_Lab
- Participation in the application process for third-party funded projects
- Independent teaching of courses and conducting of examinations
- Participation in organizational and administrative tasks as well as in evaluation measures

### **Profile**

- Completed Doctorate/PhD in experimental philosophy, linguistics, social computer science or related discipline
- At least two publications (published or accepted)
- Expertise in experiment design, statistical analysis and/or corpus analysis
- Good command of statistics (ideally R)
- Excellent written and spoken knowledge of English, German an asset

- Very good IT skills, especially in connection with digital teaching
- High level of commitment and motivation for scientific work
- High degree of personal responsibility and ability to cooperate
- Strong teamwork and organizational skills
- Willing to move to Graz, Austria (which is beautiful)

We offer an annual gross salary of about € 65.000/a year.

Please apply with a CV (maximum 2 pages), a Cover Letter (maximum 2 pages), and one publication to [talkingtobots.nihai@gmail.com](mailto:talkingtobots.nihai@gmail.com) with “Postdoctoral position Graz – application” in the subject line. Only complete applications will be considered. The **deadline is January 15, 2025**.

For questions regarding the position, please contact Markus Kneer ([markus.kneer@gmail.com](mailto:markus.kneer@gmail.com)) and state “Postdoctoral position - NIHA1” in the subject line.

The University of Graz strives to increase the proportion of women in particular in management and faculty positions and therefore encourages qualified women to apply. In the event of underrepresentation, women with equal qualifications are generally given priority for admission. Especially with regard to academic staff, we welcome applications from persons with disabilities who meet the requirements of the advertised position.