



The Institute of Philosophy of the Czech Academy of Sciences in Prague is seeking to appoint:

## **2 post-doctoral positions**

The post-docs will join Geoffrey Dierckxsens' newly founded *Interdisciplinary Research Lab for Bioethics* – IRLaB, which is funded by the Czech Academy of Sciences (CAS). The positions are for 2 years, with a possible extension for another 3 years if positively evaluated. The post-docs are expected to relocate to Prague and to work with the principle investigator in the IRLaB at the Institute of Philosophy of the CAS.

We are looking for:

1. **A specialist in bioethics** (1.0 FTE). The team will hire a scholar with a Ph.D. in philosophy and specialized in bioethics, focusing in particular on research concerning the awareness of the body in health care from a phenomenological and hermeneutical perspective. A background in these fields and familiarity with hermeneutical concepts (imagination, narrative, lived existence) is a plus. The successful candidate will be expected to publish in quality peer-reviewed journals of bioethics (e.g. *Bioethics*, *Cambridge Quarterly of Health Care Ethics*, *Narrative Inquiry in Bioethics*). Preferably the successful candidate will have several articles already published and/or accepted for publication in one of these or similar journals. The candidate will work closely with the PI and investigate cases in bioethics, theoretically and in the field, that allows developing the framework to understand these ethical enactive cognitive relations.

2. **A specialist in cognitive science with a focus on enactivism** (1.0 FTE). The candidate will have expertise in the field of cognitive science with an orientation towards enactivism. He or she has a Ph.D. in either cognitive science or philosophy (with a strong focus on cognition). The candidate's role in the research team is to examine empirical research in cognitive psychology and cognitive science that supports a connection between ethical dimensions of social affordances and motor activity/neural activity. The candidate will assist



the PI in this way by offering an empirical basis for the enactive framework that the team will jointly develop. The candidate is expected to publish in international peer-reviewed journals significant for enactivism (e.g. *Topoi*, *Cognitive Science*, *Phenomenology and the Cognitive Sciences*).

We are looking for **candidates who obtained their Ph.D.'s after January 1, 2013** with a relevant research background, a strong motivation for research, and competence to carry out both independent as well as collaborative research. The starting date for the appointments is January 1, 2020 (or shortly after upon agreement). The positions will be for two years, with a possible extension of up to 5 years after evaluation of the research performance. **Starting salaries will be 40000 CZK gross (to be increased up to 45000 CZK** depending on research results).

For questions and further information, please contact the principle investigator of IRLaB, Dr. Geoffrey Dierckxsens by e-mail: [dierckxsens@flu.cas.cz](mailto:dierckxsens@flu.cas.cz).

Please submit your application by e-mail by **December 1, 2019** to [dierckxsens@flu.cas.cz](mailto:dierckxsens@flu.cas.cz). Your application should include: CV with a list of publications; a cover letter (1-2 pages) explaining your past research and how you envision your role at IRLaB, and the contact details of two referees who may be contacted for a reference letter. Evaluation will be in two rounds. If selected by the scientific committee candidates will be invited for an interview in Prague (alternatively via Skype) in December.

About IRLaB:

The purpose of IRLaB is to create a new interdisciplinary research environment with a focus on bioethics – the ethics of biological and medical research and medical practice. IRLaB's mission is to bring together researchers in philosophy, cognitive science, and biomedical science. It will be the first research center in the Czech Republic connecting these fields.

Recent bioethical discussions are often about formal regulations of the use of technology in the sense of applied scientific knowledge for medical or biological research purposes (i.e. so-



called principle-based theories). These discussions are clearly important. However, what appears to be lacking in the field is a rigorous study of our actual experience of the body in relation to ethical values and norms that are part of our social surroundings (e.g. social values of body health or body fitness). Rather than a top-down model, we propose to develop a bottom-up model that explains how embodied subjects actually experience ethical values and norms in the context of the use of technology in health care and medical research. The proposed research lab will investigate cases in health care in which technology alters or affects a person's body and how persons ethically evaluate and experience this change. The methodology we propose for this investigation is based on phenomenological hermeneutics as well as theories of 'enactivism,' which both examine embodied subjectivity in physical and social environments. IRLaB will be the first international enactivism *and* hermeneutics based center for bioethics.

Part of the research lab's mission is also to aim for a societal impact and to promote ethical discussions in health care. We propose not only to develop a theoretical model, but also to do fieldwork in local hospitals. In cooperation with sociologists, psychologists and biomedical scientists of the CAS, who will do empirical research about cognitive processes of ethical evaluation (how they relate to body processes) and technological applications in medical practice (e.g. materials used in prostheses), the post-docs are expected to participate in interviews with patients and health care professionals about their evaluation of the technological impact of medical procedures. We aim to develop guidelines designed for the promotion of ethical understanding in health care and bring back bioethical discussions from behind the scenes to the patients themselves.

The Institute of Philosophy is an equal opportunity employer offering as well:

- flexible working hours
- employee benefits (e.g. meal vouchers, 25 vacation days, up to 8 sick days, language courses)
- pleasant working environment.