



## HUMA UCT CCNY AFRICA AI ETHICS POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP

(3 x VACANCIES | Application Deadline: 14 April 2024)

(1-year contract | Start Date: Immediate)

HUMA - INSTITUTE FOR HUMANITIES IN AFRICA  
FACULTY OF HUMANITIES

**huma**  
INSTITUTE  
FOR HUMANITIES  
IN AFRICA

HUMA is an interdisciplinary research institute at UCT, based in the Faculty of Humanities, centring the humanities as a lens for knowledge production and public engagement. Its primary objectives are threefold: to undertake and champion interdisciplinary research and exchange; to promote the next academic generation; to contribute to social commentary and debate that straddles academic and non-academic publics. Each is undertaken from the vantage point of an Africa-centred framework, and an interest in establishing appropriate linkages and relationships elsewhere on the continent and globally. Central to HUMA's mission, is a commitment to centering the humanities for research, promoting the next generation of humanities scholars in the African continent at large. We aim to nurture the expertise and enthusiasm of graduate students interested in an academic career, through a combination of intensive and supportive doctoral supervision, and a broader programme of seminars, symposia, workshops public engagement, publication and dissemination activities that help develop the intellectual versatility and confidence that an academic career requires.

Funding from Carnegie Corporation of New York has made available three (3) Full Time Writing Residential Postdoctoral Fellowships for the 2024 academic year at HUMA UCT. This particular fellowship is aimed at supporting the work of Black Early-Career post PhD scholars awarded the doctorate degree within the past five (5) years, working on questions related to artificial intelligence. The aim of the fellowship is to grant scholars the opportunity to develop their careers and convert their dissertations into publishable monographs. The postdoctoral project must clearly centre the humanities in the writing process. Fellows are expected to use the period of their residency at HUMA to complete writing, submission of the book proposal and publishing of the monograph, closely working with the HUMA Team (particularly the Postgraduate Development Programme) and a mentor in the relevant discipline, while **actively participating** in the life of the Institute. This is considered as a PRIMARY fellowship and candidates should not have previously received Postdoctoral funding from Carnegie Corporation of New York. Working with the lead PI Divine Fuh, fellows will join HUMA's Africa AI Ethics initiative (a part of the HUMA Tech Hub) and required to contribute to different tasks at the Institute. The initiative emphasizes centring African epistemologies and feminist approaches in thinking AI for social justice.

### Requirements

- A PhD degree in any discipline with an excellent pass.
- A doctoral dissertation on any aspects of Artificial intelligence in any field.
- Ability to present complex issues in a readable form for both academic and non-academic audiences.
- Excellent analytical and research skills including the use of quantitative and/or qualitative research techniques.
- Competences and skills in effective communication, editorial work, publishing and scholarly knowledge dissemination.
- Interest in developing a publication record.
- Interest in graduate supervision at the honours level.
- Strong networks and experience working in the African continent and globally.
- Interest in fundraising and/or write funding proposals.
- Interest in policy advice, and public engagement/communication.
- Postdoctoral fellows are required to produce at least two DHET-accredited publishable peer-reviewed research outputs during the tenure of the fellowship (or equivalent).
- Candidates must be available to start immediately.
- As this is a residential fellowship, candidates must be available to reside in Cape Town and be actively present at the Institute.

### Value and tenure:

- The value of the Fellowship is fixed at **R300 000 (three hundred thousand rands) per annum (includes tuition, any related relocation costs)**.
- Within the fellowship value, holders may apply for partial funding for research visits / conference participation up to a maximum of R30'000 annually.
- The Fellowship carries no benefits and is compliant with the SARS regulations.

### Award Conditions

- All HUMA Fellowships are open to South African and international candidates interested in doing research in the African continent outside South Africa. Particularly African candidates are strongly encouraged to apply, but preference will be given to applicants who graduated with the doctoral degree from universities other than UCT. **Women are particularly encouraged to apply.**



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- HUMA Fellows are required to attend weekly team meetings, all HUMA seminars and participate in Institute organised/hosted activities.
- Successful candidates for this particular fellowship must register for the Postdoc at UCT.
- Candidates must have obtained their PhD degree within the past five years.
- Compliance with the University's official DEFINITION, specifically in that the prospective Postdoctoral Fellow has achieved her/his PhD degree within 5 years of such enrolment, and On condition that the prospective Postdoctoral Fellow has not previously held comprehensive professional or permanent academic positions.
- Successful candidates will be expected to use the period exclusively for writing, to undertake the agreed research, as stipulated, as well as limited postgraduate and other assigned duties at HUMA as part of professional development.
- **The HUMA Postdoctoral Fellowship is considered a PRIMARY AWARD and cannot be held in full concurrently with any other award without the prior consent of the Institute and the UCT Postgraduate Funding Office. A maximum of 50% (R165 000) of the value of the award can be held concurrently with other Postdoctoral fellowship(s) up to the overall limit of income from all sources of R543 000.**
- It is crucial that applicants' research interests are in line with those of HUMA and the specific project.
- Successful candidates will be required to enter into a Memorandum of Agreement with the Institute.
- Successful candidates will be expected to produce appropriate scholarly output or publish an appropriate number of papers, as determined by the Institute (to be specified in the MoU with HUMA).
- All HUMA positions and fellowships require **good interpersonal skills and a commitment to collegial modes of working.**
- Successful candidates are required to report on their progress 4 times in the year.

### **Application Procedure:**

Please email the below documents **in a single pdf file** to: [huma@uct.ac.za](mailto:huma@uct.ac.za)

- A motivation letter which includes a detailed account of how your research and intellectual interests would fit with, and contribute to the specific project and HUMA's intellectual agenda.
- A curriculum vita that must have a **full list** of publications/research output (where available).
- Contactable details and reference reports from three referees (one from supervisor), may be emailed directly to: [huma@uct.ac.za](mailto:huma@uct.ac.za)
- Copies of all academic transcripts and diplomas.
- One recent publication or piece of written work.
- A Book proposal, which is a concise description of the Doctoral dissertation, clearly explaining the different chapters.
- A clear timeline for the fellowship, clearly indicating the different stages of the writing process/fellowships leading up to expected publication.

**The closing date for receipt of applications is 14 April 2024. Please note that late and/or incomplete applications will be disqualified.**

Only short-listed candidates will be contacted. As part of the recruitment process, shortlisted candidates will be invited to present their proposed research project to the HUMA Team.

\*\*\*\*HUMA reserves the right to make no appointments/awards at all; to cancel the award if the conditions are not met, and to effect changes to the conditions of the award.

**The University of Cape Town reserves the right to disqualify ineligible, incomplete and/or inappropriate applications, to change the conditions of award and/or to make no awards at all.**