PhD Scholarship opportunities at the University of South Australia

We are currently interested in receiving applications from potential Higher Degree Research candidates to undertake research into how humans and machines can write collaboratively, and the possibilities such hybrid writing interactions might raise.

Human-machine collaborations in and through creative writing

Description

Ongoing developments in ICT, including machine-learning, networking technologies and social media, continue to open up new platforms, genres and practices in the making and sharing of writing and other creative arts practices. Amongst emerging possibilities is that of human-machine creative collaboration (co-creation). There has been significant recent research in the area of electronic literature, considering the impact of technology on creative writing and its diffusion. However, there has been little research to date on the processes and implications of human-machine co-authorship. This program of research will explore human-machine collaboration in creative writing in order to gain insights into how such collaborations might operate, the creative challenges and potential benefits that can result, and the novel insights that could eventuate.

The program of research will employ hybrid methods from research in the creative arts and writing, literary studies and Human Computer Interaction. It will include a practice-based element of literary creation in which the PhD candidate will develop collaborative machine-writing systems and processes. These processes and technologies might incorporate technical systems such as social media, augmented and virtual reality, generative software, and/or machine-learning algorithms. The PhD candidate will investigate how emerging technologies affect interaction, collaboration, creativity and knowing, and how creative practices that link the arts and sciences might contribute to social transformation.

The candidate will lead the design of the specific project and its aims, but the research could address questions such as:

• What forms can human-machine co-authorship take and what are the potential outcomes?
• What are the affects of human-machine co-authored works and how are they received?
• What are the implications of human-machine co-creation for creativity and authorship in the arts and sciences?
• How can human-machine collaboration offer insights into humanities broader relationship with natural and technical systems? (e.g. Ecosophy)
• What possibilities might human-machine collaboration raise regarding socio-technical evolution and the emergence of cyborg identity, including possible implications for queer writing or becoming?

The research will focus on practice-based experimentation with human-machine collaboration in creative writing. The successful candidate’s research will seek to contribute to the fields of creative writing and the arts, literary and cultural studies, machine-learning and human-computer interaction. Depending on the candidate’s specific project aims, scope also exists for this research to inform contemporary knowledges around sustainability, embodiment or queer identity, among other pertinent sites of inquiry.

Research Environment

Research will be undertaken within the Digital Transformations research group of the School of Art, Architecture and Design at the University of South Australia. The group hosts state of the art technologies for Virtual and Augmented Reality, motion capture and other interactive systems. The Principal Supervisor will be Professor Simon Biggs, an internationally recognised researcher and practitioner in interactive media in the creative arts and electronic literature and Director of Digital Transformations. The co-supervisor will be Dr Amelia Walker, lecturer in Creative Writing, a poet whose research explores creative writing and cognition and who works on the peer-reviewed writing journals TEXT and Writing From Below. Scope exists for an external industry advisor to join the supervisory team.

Eligibility

Applications will be reviewed according to the University’s merit selection process. It is important to contact the proposed Principal Supervisor in advance of application to discuss eligibility.

University of South Australia PhD scholarships are open to Australian and New Zealand Citizens and Permanent Residents of Australia:

It is expected applicants will fulfil the requirements of candidature for a PhD place at the University of South Australia, which means holding a first class Honours degree (or equivalent). The Scholarship will be awarded on the understanding that the candidate be studying full-time and resident in Adelaide, South Australia, for the duration of the PhD.

The candidate will benefit from a full fee waiver (for eligible Australian residents) and an annual living stipend of AUS$27,596 for the three-year duration of the studentship.
How to apply

Prior to application please refer to the following guidance on applying for a creative arts PhD at the University of South Australia: https://aad.unisa.edu.au/research/prospective-higher-degree-research-student-information/

Proposals for the studentship must include:

• A project proposal, including rationale, proposed methodology and methods, anticipated outcomes and a timeline.
• A full curriculum vitae.
• A portfolio of creative work, if relevant.
• Evidence of academic achievement (i.e. full academic transcripts).
• The names and contact details of two academic referees.

Applications should be made through the University of South Australia’s Higher Degree application portal: https://unisa.edu.au/research/Research-degrees/How-to-apply/

The application call will remain current until a suitable candidate is recruited.

Further information

If you are interested in this opportunity you are encouraged to contact Professor Simon Biggs to discuss your proposal, eligibility and application process:

By email:

Simon.Biggs@unisa.edu.au

or by mail at:

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