

**2 PhD candidates “social studies of medicine” at the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences,
Department Technology and Society Studies, Maastricht University
1.00 fte, 4 years**

Applicants are invited for two 4 year PhD positions within the project “**The birth of the digital doctor? A comparative anthropology of medical techno-perception**”. The project is funded by the European Research Council (Starting Grant), awarded to the principal investigator, Anna Harris.

Reference number: AT2016.76

Research project

Digital technologies are reconfiguring medical practices in ways we still don’t understand. *The birth of the digital doctor? A comparative anthropology of medical techno-perception* seeks to examine the impact of the digital in medicine by studying the role of pedagogical technologies in how doctors learn the skills of their profession. It focuses on the centuries-old skill of physical examination; a sensing of the body, through the body. Increasingly medical students are learning these skills away from the bedside, through videos, simulated models and in laboratories. A research team of three ethnographers and a historian will interrogate how learning with these technologies impacts on how doctors learn to sense bodies.



Simultaneous, comparative fieldwork will be undertaken with medical students and teachers in medical schools and teaching hospitals in: Budapest, Hungary; Maastricht, Netherlands; and Tamale, Ghana. A historian will conduct oral histories at each site. Focus will be on both spectacular and mundane technologies in medical education. Through this rich case of doctors-in-training, the historically-attuned anthropological study aims to address a key challenge in social scientific scholarship regarding how technologies, particularly those digital and virtual, are implicated in bodily, sensory knowing of the world.

Job description

This is an exciting opportunity to join a new research team to carry out collaborative ethnographic fieldwork about medical practices. In particular we are looking for two PhDs to conduct the ethnographic studies in Budapest (1 PhD) and Tamale (1 PhD). Incorporating innovative digital-sensory methodologies, each ethnographer will attend during fieldwork to doctors’ learning and teaching with technologies old and new. Each researcher will work both independently and in collaboration with each other and the principal investigator (PI) of the project, Anna Harris, who will also be conducting the ethnography in Maastricht. The PhD candidates will have the opportunity to expand on the details of their own projects based on their expertise, the material

they gather and their own research ideas, all in consultation with the PI and their promoter (principal supervisor).

Requirements

Ethnographically experienced social scientists with a Master's degree (in anthropology or another discipline relevant to the project) are invited to apply. The PhD candidates will be based in Maastricht and will spend 10 months doing fieldwork in Hungary or Ghana. Excellent communication and writing skills in English are a prerequisite, since the candidates will be engaging on an international level, collaborating with other team members in English and producing English-language publications. For the ethnographer undertaking the Ghanaian ethnography, some experience living in, or doing research in, developing countries will be considered favorably in the selection process.

Maastricht University

Maastricht University is renowned for its unique, innovative, problem-based learning system, which is characterized by a small-scale and student-oriented approach. Research at UM is characterized by a multidisciplinary and thematic approach, and is concentrated in research institutes and schools. Maastricht University has around 16,000 students and 4,000 employees. Reflecting the university's strong international profile, a fair amount of both students and staff are from abroad. The university hosts 6 faculties: Faculty of Health, Medicine and Life Sciences, Faculty of Law, School of Business and Economics, Faculty of Humanities and Sciences, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, Faculty of Psychology and Neuroscience.

Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences

The Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (FASoS) has about 250 staff members, and over 1,800 students. More than 75% of the students are non-Dutch (almost 100 different nationalities). All programmes are offered in English and some are also offered in Dutch. FASoS offers two 3-year Bachelor's programmes: Arts and Culture and European Studies. It also offers six different 1-year Master's programmes and two 2-year research Master's programmes. The Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences is housed in several recently renovated 18th-century buildings in the historic city centre of Maastricht. Its Graduate School takes in around 10 PhD students each year. Research is organised around four programmes:

1. Politics and Culture in Europe.
2. Maastricht University Science, Technology and Society Studies.
3. Globalisation, Transnationalism and Development.
4. Arts, Media and Culture

Our Graduate School of Arts and Social Sciences offers the opportunity to pursue a PhD in the interdisciplinary field of arts and social sciences. You receive a coherent program of introductory courses, intensive supervision and frequent discussion with the senior researchers inside and outside the Faculty. The Programme can be characterized by its international and interdisciplinary nature and the emphasis on cultural and societal issues of the modern world. Further information on the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences and its Graduate School may be accessed on: <http://www.maastrichtuniversity.nl/fasos>

What we have to offer

We offer a dynamic and challenging job in an internationally-oriented organisation where young people receive an advanced education and scholars conduct exciting research. The PhD

candidates will have the unique opportunity to carry out research within one or more of the four themes within the research programme. They will be part of an international network of top universities and renowned scholars within the field.

We offer two 4 year full-time appointments as PhD students. The first year will be a probation period and after a positive assessment each position will be extended by another 3 years.

Remuneration will be according to standard salary levels for PhD students starting with a salary of € 2.174,- with a yearly growth to € 2.779- gross a month (based on a full-time appointment.) Each year the standard salary is supplemented with a holiday allowance of 8% and an end-of-year bonus of 8.3%.

You have to be willing to move to (the vicinity of) Maastricht. If you do not already live in Maastricht (or its direct surroundings) you will be eligible for an allowance for moving costs. If you do not already live in Maastricht (or its direct surroundings) you might be eligible for an allowance for alternative housing. Other secondary conditions include e.g. a pension scheme and partially paid parental leave. You will be provided with shared office space and a PC.

Starting date: 15 August 2016 (or as soon as possible thereafter)

Information

Further information on the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences is available on our website: www.maastrichtuniversity.nl/fasos

Any inquiries about the position or the project may be addressed to Anna Harris: a.harris@maastrichtuniversity.nl

Maastricht University's Terms of Employment are laid down in the Collective Labour Agreement of Dutch Universities (CAO). Furthermore, local university provisions apply as well. For more information please see the website: www.maastrichtuniversity.nl/employees/A-Z.

Application

Interested candidates are invited to submit:

1. A letter of motivation summarising relevant experience and reasons for interest in the position (please also specify which of the ethnographic sites are preferred (Budapest or Tamale), or if there is no preference)
2. A CV
3. A grade transcript of previous education at Master's level
4. A sample of their best writing (e.g. published article, blogpost, thesis chapter), preferably single-authored

The deadline for submitting your application is 10 April 2016

All applicants will be notified within one month following the deadline as to whether or not they have been selected for an interview with the search committee. Short-listed candidates will be asked to write a research proposal of 1,000 words (further details will be supplied) and provide two references. Interviews will take place in Maastricht or via Skype.

Please send your application electronically to the Secretariat of the Faculty Office: Pzfdcwvacatures@maastrichtuniversity.nl