Open PhD Student Position in GIScience and Cartography, Ghent University

Job description

The Research Group CartoGIS (http://cartogis.ugent.be/) of the Department of Geography, Ghent University, Belgium is looking for a full-time PhD student in the field of Geographic Information Science (GIScience) and Cartography. The Group hosts more than 30 researchers, focusing on location based services (LBS), spatial cognition, transportation and mobility, computational movement analysis, and spatio-temporal data analysis. The position will start on 01.01.2021, or as soon as possible thereafter.

The selected PhD student is expected to address essential research questions that arise in the mobile information society from a GIScience and/or Cartography perspective. The precise research topic will be determined in consultation with the PhD student. Example research fields include:

- Human-centered and context-aware LBS to support effective, efficient, and affective spatio-temporal decision-making in mobile contexts; This might be also expanded to developing or extending mobile HCI or brain-computer interface (BCI) for geospatial applications.
- Computational mobility and activity analytics – analysis of location based big data (e.g., location and activity sensing data, crowdsourced data, social media data) – to study and model people's perception of, experiences and behaviors in space; One of the essential aims is to explore spatially explicit AI techniques (GeoAI) for extracting geographic knowledge from structured or unstructured location data; Another focus can be also on developing privacy-preserving and ethically-aware analytics techniques for dealing with such data.

We offer the following:

- A PhD position for 1 year, which will be extended up to a maximum of 4 years after positive evaluation. For more about PhD studies at Ghent University, please see https://www.ugent.be/phd/en and https://www.ugent.be/en/work/phd/bursaryabc.htm.
- An exciting research environment at the intersection of theory and application in the interdisciplinary field of GIScience and Cartography.
- The possibility to participate in international collaborations and conferences.

Profile of the candidate

- Highly motivated to obtain a PhD and has a passion for scientific research
- A master's degree in relevant fields, e.g., Geography (CartoGIS) and computer science
- Basic programming skills (e.g., Python or R), as well as a willingness to develop these further
- Familiarity with research in GIScience and computer science, in particular LBS, spatial cognition, or spatio-temporal data analysis and modeling will be an advantage.
- Creativity and a good sense of initiative are highly desired in this position.
- Excellent communication skills in English – both orally and written

How to apply

The application must be sent via email to Prof. Dr. Haosheng Huang (haosheng.huang@ugent.be) as **a single PDF file by 25 October 2020, with the subject mentioning "CartoGIS_PhD"**. **Early application is highly recommended**. After an initial selection based on the applications, interviews will take place.

The application has to include: 1) A cover letter (max. 2 pages) to introduce yourself and highlight the key reasons why you fit with the position; Please also describe the potential research topic(s) or question(s) you are interested in pursuing in the above research fields; 2) A CV, with contact details of one referee (preferably your supervisor or colleague closely associated with your recent work); 3) Academic degree and transcripts (both bachelor and master), or interim document if pending;

Only complete applications will be considered. Please contact Prof. Huang in case of questions.