DESCRIPTION

The College of Information Sciences and Technology (IST) (http://ist.psu.edu) and the Department of Statistics in the Eberly College of Science (http://stat.psu.edu) at The Pennsylvania State University invite applications for an open-rank tenure-track faculty position in data ethics, to begin August 2018. The tenure home of this position, either the College of IST or the Department of Statistics within the College of Science, will be determined based on the strengths and research interests of the successful candidate, as well as the preference of the candidate. The successful candidate will have a strong record in data ethics in one or more data-related research areas with an intrinsic data ethics component, along with a demonstrated interest in applying this work to serve the public interest. Data-related research areas of interest include, but are not limited to, statistics or informatics of privacy; reproducibility of research; standards for openly sharing data and code; ethics implications of machine learning models, personalized medicine, genomics, environmental research, and socio-technical systems; and technological innovations for ensuring fairness of machine learning models. This position is part of a transformative series of thirteen tenure-track appointments in ethics designed to ensure that Penn State becomes a leader in ethics-informed interdisciplinary research and the integration of ethical literacy throughout the Penn State curriculum. The successful candidate will be affiliated with the Rock Ethics Institute at Penn State (http://rockethics.psu.edu/). We are seeking candidates who will build on the Institute’s tradition of excellence in collaborative, interdisciplinary ethics research and ethically informed decision support for significant societal issues, as well as their success in integrating ethics into the curriculum. More specifically, we are looking for individuals who will be effective in working on and leading interdisciplinary teams that embed ethical analysis into research projects related to data sciences, and who have experience and interest in integrating ethics into undergraduate and graduate curriculum. Faculty who are hired will receive a one-course release for the first five years for enhancing existing ethics research and curricular initiatives as well as building new initiatives and programs aligned with the Institute’s mission. We envision the successful candidate to take a leadership role in data ethics research in collaboration with related research activities at Penn State such as the NIH-funded Biomedical Big Data to Knowledge (B2D2K) Training Program and the NIH-funded Penn State Clinical and Translational Science Institute (CTSI). The College of IST and
Department of Statistics both already have a significant number of faculty members active in data-related research, which will provide plenty of opportunities for collaborations regarding data ethics. We also envision that the successful candidate will take an active role in establishing a strong ethical component in a newly formed undergraduate major in data sciences. This major, co-administered by three colleges at Penn State—IST, Science, and Engineering—provides a unique opportunity to enhance data ethics education that would be accessible to students within the new major as well as students from related majors across the university. The Pennsylvania State University is the land grant institution of Pennsylvania. In the 2013 institutional rankings of total research expenditures in science and engineering released by the National Science Foundation, the Penn State placed 17th overall nationally, and was placed 2nd (tied with the Massachusetts Institute of Technology) for the total number of disciplines that are ranked among the top ten nationally. To apply, please upload (1) a cover letter that clearly explains how the applicant’s work relates to the Rock Ethics Institute’s mission and how a position within the Institute is likely to augment their own work, (2) a curriculum vitae, (3) a three- to five-page research statement, (4) a one-page teaching statement, and (5) contact information of three to five professional references. IN ADDITION, interested applicants should submit the following material to https://academicjobsonline.org/ajo/jobs/9332: (1) a cover letter that clearly explains how the applicant’s work relates to the Rock Ethics Institute’s mission and how a position within the Institute is likely to augment their own work, (2) a curriculum vitae, (3) a three- to five-page research statement, (4) a one-page teaching statement, and (5) contact information of three to five professional references. Review of applications will begin immediately and continue until the position is filled, with priority given to applications received by October 15, 2017. Inquiries about the position may be directed to facultyrecruiting@ist.psu.edu and/or depthead@stat.psu.edu.