

Postdoc research position in the inter-university Centre for Frugal Innovations in Africa

The Centre for Frugal Innovations in Africa (CFIA), a research centre of Leiden University, Delft University of Technology and Erasmus University Rotterdam seeks to fill a postdoc-position for research on *Frugal Innovations and Responsible Entrepreneurship: Case Studies in the Water and Health Sectors in East Africa*. This project is funded and supported by the Netherlands Scientific Research Organization (NWO) and three private partners, Philips N.V., OASEN and Hatenboer-Water BV. In addition to a team of senior researchers, the research team consists of a PhD candidate and two postdoctoral researchers (in management and philosophy/ethics respectively). The current vacancy is for the philosophy/ethics postdoc position.

Description research project

The research project aims to build a framework of frugal innovations integrating 1) ethical and social elements in the product development cycle (PDC) and 2) inclusive business models. The framework should provide a scientific underpinning of frugal innovations design and production and be applied to investigate how (re-)designed inclusive business models contribute to commercially successful performance of Dutch companies in the sectors “Life Sciences and Health” and “Water” in Kenya and Uganda.

Frugal innovations are simple (re-)designed products, services or systems supplied at very low prices to potentially very large numbers of low-income consumers in developing countries. As price sensitivity of these low-income groups is very high, price change is not a valid instrument to influence the sales of the (re-)designed products, services or systems. A commercially successful performance can be achieved by improving the match between the characteristics of the frugal innovation and the low-income consumers by including “their” ethical and social values in design and implementation. This requires the investigation and design of new inclusive business models – integrating local entrepreneurship in the international value chain – connecting profits with local economic and social development. For more information on Frugal Innovations please visit www.cfia.nl.

Task description

Together with another postdoc, the selected candidate will support a PhD candidate on building the integrative model of the product development cycle incorporating inclusive business models for African markets. The model is integrative as it includes

perspectives from engineering (β), ethics (α) and business model development (γ). The main contribution of the postdoc is on the ethical parts of the integrative model. Together with the other postdoc, the selected candidate is also expected to support the PhD candidate in work on the case studies and will be in contact with the staff from the private parties and the other members of the research team. Further, the candidate will author working reports for the private partners as well as co-author high-quality scientific journal articles.

Requirements Postdoc

- PhD in ethics or philosophy.
- Affinity with technology and innovation processes in developing countries
- Excellent command of English
- Strong communication skills in order to communicate with the private partners.
- Willingness to travel in/to Africa.
- Especially qualified candidates from African countries are invited to apply

Employment conditions

Salary and secondary employment conditions will be in scale in accordance with the Collective Labour Agreement (CAO) for Dutch universities. The selected candidate will be employed for 0.8 fte (scale 10) with a fixed term of 22 months.

The candidate will be employed by and formally based in the Department of Values, Technology and Innovation at Delft University of Technology.

Application

Candidates interested in the position should submit no later than November 1st a cover letter, curriculum vitae and a text of no more than 500 words in which the candidate provides some ideas how to deal with the central theme of the research from the ethical perspective. A description of the project can be [downloaded](#).

The documents should be submitted to mrs. El Arkesteijn:

E.Arkesteijn-vanSchaik@tudelft.nl

For more information on the positions, please contact:

dr. Neelke Doorn, e-mail: N.Doorn@tudelft.nl

or

Prof.dr. C.P. van Beers, e-mail: c.p.vanbeers@tudelft.nl