Tier 1 Canada Research Chair in Critical Surveillance and Security Studies

Located on the traditional and unceded territory of the Anishinabe-Algonquin people, the University of Ottawa is seeking candidates for a Tier 1 Canada Research Chair (CRC) in Critical Surveillance and Security Studies. The selected candidate will hold a tenure-track faculty position in the Faculty of Social Sciences, Department of Criminology. Candidates are expected to establish a strong, extramurally funded, and collaborative research program in the broadly defined field of critical surveillance and security studies and big data analytics/artificial intelligence used in policing, national security and other governance contexts and significant experience in the social sciences or humanities. The research program undertaken by the Chair will result in knowledge development and dissemination as well as undergraduate and graduate student training and education. Rooted in local, regional, national and/or international research partnerships with different agencies and organizations, this CRC will produce empirical and theoretical knowledge on the social impacts of using algorithmically-driven data systems for security purposes or for security screening, with a view to contributing to knowledge that can inform policies and practices that advance trustworthiness, democratic accountability, respect for persons, and human security. A research emphasis on intersectionality (i.e., considerations of ethnicity, gender, class, sexuality, ability and mobility etc.) is especially valued.

Tier 1 Chairs, tenable for seven years and renewable once, are for outstanding researchers acknowledged by their peers as world leaders in their fields. For each Tier 1 Chair, the institution receives $200,000 annually for seven years. Nominees for Tier 1 Chair positions must be full professors or associate professors who are expected to be promoted to the full professor level within one or two years of the nomination. Alternatively, if they come from outside the academic sector, nominees must possess the necessary qualifications to be appointed at these levels. New CRC nominees are also eligible for infrastructure support from the Canada Foundation for Innovation (CFI) to help acquire state-of-the-art equipment essential to their work.

The University recognizes the legitimate impact that leaves (e.g., parental leave, leave due to illness) can have on a candidate’s record of research achievement and that these leaves will be taken into careful consideration during the assessment process.

The University of Ottawa provides researchers with opportunities to develop partnerships with a range of institutions, community organizations and federal, provincial and municipal government agencies. The University’s downtown campus is located near Parliament, the Supreme Court of Canada, Library and Archives Canada, and the national headquarters for: most federal government agencies, including the Canadian Security Intelligence Service, the Communications Security Establishment, Canada Border Services Agency, the Office of the Privacy Commissioner, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, the Treasury Board, Immigration, Refugee and Citizenship Canada, the Office of the Privacy Commissioner of Canada and the Office of the Information Commissioner of Canada, and many different civil society organizations that are engaged in surveillance and security issues. The University is also host to a variety of research centres that the Chair may become involved with, including, but not limited to: The Centre for
Preferential Hiring:
The University of Ottawa is committed to ensuring equity, diversity and inclusion in the scholarly and leadership environments of our students, staff, and faculty. Accordingly, we strongly encourage applications from members of the four designated groups such as Indigenous peoples, visible minorities, persons with disabilities, and women, as defined in the Employment Equity Act, as well as from all qualified candidates with the skills and knowledge to productively engage with equitable, diverse and inclusive communities. As part of this preferential hiring process, applications from members of the four designated groups will be prioritized and assessed first for the vacancy. Candidates who wish to qualify for preferential consideration are asked to fill the following self-identification form: https://research.uottawa.ca/sites/research.uottawa.ca/files/crc_self-identification_questionnaire_ovpr.pdf. The purpose of this measure is to increase the representation of members of the four designated groups in the allocation of Canada Research Chair positions.

Required Qualifications

An in-depth knowledge of the field of critical surveillance and security studies with an emphasis on the social impacts of the securitization of algorithmically-driven data systems, with a view to contributing to knowledge that can inform policies and practices that advance trustworthiness, democratic accountability, respect for persons, and human security; a PhD in criminology or a related discipline (social sciences, philosophy, etc.); outstanding independent research achievements in the CRC’s identified area(s) and evidence of interdisciplinary collaborations; a solid record with respect to the teaching and training of students at the graduate level; the ability to and a solid record of obtaining external research funds; excellent communication skills in either French or English.

Given that the Department of Criminology is committed to bilingualism, the selected candidate will need to be able to communicate in at least one of the Official Languages and to commit to developing language skills in the second Official Language within the first three years of the appointment with a view to becoming fluent in the medium term.

Rank and Salary

Regular tenure-track academic appointment in the Faculty of Social Sciences. Academic rank will be at the Associate or Full Professor level and commensurate with the career stage and track record of the successful candidate. This position is governed by a collective agreement between the University of Ottawa and the Association of Professors of the University of Ottawa.

Application Package
- A cover letter;
- An up-to-date curriculum vitae (please include career interruptions such as parental or sick leaves that may have impacted your record of research. These will be taken into consideration in the selection process);
- A research plan (2 to 3 pages);
- A statement of teaching interests (1 to 2 pages); and
- The names of three people who may be contacted by the University for letters of reference which will follow the Canada Research Chairs guidelines (i.e. all three arm’s length with no Conflict of Interest and one international).
- Self-identification form (see Preferential Hiring section above).

Deadline: February 8, 2021

Posting no.: 20076-CRC

The selection process will begin in January and will continue until the position is filled. Only candidates selected for an interview will be contacted. Please send the application package to the following address or by email to:

Dr. Sylvain Charbonneau, Vice-President, Research
University of Ottawa
550 Cumberland St., room 246
Ottawa, ON K1N 6N5 CANADA
rcca-coord@uOttawa.ca

If you are invited to continue the selection process, please notify us of any particular adaptive measures you might require by contacting the Office of the Associate Vice-President, Faculty Affairs at 613-562-5958. The Canada Research Chairs Program imposes no restrictions on nominees with regard to nationality or country of residence. Procedures to allow non-Canadian chairholders to work in Canada have been established by Employment and Social Development Canada and Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada.

The University of Ottawa is justly proud of its 160-year tradition of bilingualism. Through its Official Languages and Bilingualism Institute, the University provides training to staff members and their spouses in their second official language. At the time of tenure, professors are expected to be able to function in a bilingual setting. In certain cases, professors must have the ability to teach in both official languages to be granted tenure.

Notice of Collection of Personal Information

In accordance with the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (Ontario) and with University Policy 90, your personal information is collected under the authority of the University of Ottawa Act, 1965 and is intended to be used for the purpose of and those consistent with your employment application and the administration of your employment relationship, if established. If you have any questions regarding this collection of personal information, please
contact the Office of the Vice-Provost, Faculty Relations at 613-562-5958 or by email at vra.affairesprofessorales@uottawa.ca.