

Studying the impact of AI on Society, funded PhD position at Imperial College London's Data Science Institute

This is a PhD position in Data Science under the joint supervision of Prof. Nick Jennings (<http://www.imperial.ac.uk/people/n.jennings>) and Dr. Yves-Alexandre de Montjoye (<http://deMontjoye.com/>). The student will join the Algorithmic Society Lab at the Data Science Institute and a joint research project with MIT Media Lab's Scalable Cooperation group through a joint seed fund. Applications are evaluated on a rolling basis until Jan 19th.

A world we could have only envisioned a few years ago is becoming a reality. Cars are learning how to drive themselves, increasingly generic reinforcement learning algorithms are reaching superhuman level ability e.g. when playing chess [1], machine learning algorithms have started to reshape medical care e.g. accelerating skin cancer diagnosis [2]. A recent report by McKinsey found that 45 percent of all work activities could be automated using currently available artificial intelligence techniques [3].

“AI” is changing our economy and will have a radical impact on how we work, live, and interact. The goal of this PhD is to apply quantitative and empirical methods to study the impact AI is going to have on our society. The project will be defined in close collaboration with the student but could include the impact that AI will have on the labor market incl. job displacement and the need for retraining, the impact on individuals of algorithmic decision-making by governments and companies. All projects at the institute aim to generate significant real-world and policy impact.

Candidates are expected to have an MSc or MEng in economics, statistics, or a related field and interest in AI and its impact on society. A full-time PhD at Imperial College will normally take 3-4 years and is fully funded (tuition + stipend). Most students start in October.

Applications are centralized at department level (more info at <http://www.imperial.ac.uk/computing/prospective-students/courses/phd/>) but prospective candidates are encouraged to e-mail deMontjoye@imperial.ac.uk with a CV (incl. grades) and a 1 page motivation letter.

[1] <https://arxiv.org/abs/1712.01815>

[2] <https://www.nature.com/nature/journal/v542/n7639/abs/nature21056.html>

[3] <https://www.mckinsey.com/business-functions/mckinsey-analytics/our-insights/the-age-of-analytics-competing-in-a-data-driven-world>