

MIT CSAIL/QCRI Postdoc position – Qatar Airvatar Project

On June 27, 2012, Qatar Foundation (on behalf of the Qatar Computing Research Institute, QCRI) signed a seven-year, US\$35M research collaboration agreement with MIT (on behalf of the Computer Science and Artificial Intelligence Laboratory, CSAIL). The goal of the collaboration is to conduct research collaboratively related to multidisciplinary core computer science topics.

The CSAIL-QCRI Joint Postdoc Program has been recently devised to help QCRI with its capacity building efforts. Under this program, CSAIL will offer postdoc appointments to candidates to work on CSAIL-QCRI joint research projects. The appointment will require that the candidate spend nominally half the time at CSAIL and the other half at QCRI during any given year. Moreover, during the candidate's stay at Doha, QCRI will cover the accommodation expenses.

We are looking for a postdoc to work on the Qatar AIRvatar (Advanced Identity Representation/Avatar) project. The work will broadly focus on users' perceptions and habits regarding avatar creation, game play, and social media use in the Middle East. Our goals are: (1) articulation of base principles and best practices for developing technologies that empower people to enact traditional values and cultural norms, (2) new computational techniques for understanding user values and practices in virtual identity systems, and (3) a novel application illustrating the efficacy of our discovered design principles.

What you need:

1. A PhD in Computer Science, Human Computer Interaction, or related fields
2. A strong desire to work in a dynamic, culturally diverse environment
3. Ability to move between Boston area and Doha; the postdoc requires you to spend half your time at MIT, and half your time at QCRI
4. Software development skills; proficiency in Python and R for data analysis and Javascript front-end web development.
5. Familiarity with artificial intelligence and machine learning concepts.
6. Experience in data-driven research; familiarity with working with or building systems for data collection and data analysis.
7. Interest in qualitative methods; if you've never worked with them, that's fine, but we need someone willing to learn, and who understands the importance of qualitative research
8. Willingness to work closely with D. Fox Harrell, Sarah Vieweg, Haewoon Kwak and other excellent and interesting faculty and researchers

To apply, send the following to svieweg@qf.org.qa and/or hkwak@qf.org.qa

1. Your CV
2. A cover letter that outlines why you're interested in the position, and why you want to work with us
3. Names and contact information for three or more references