



**Australian
National
University**

Position Description

College/Division:	ANU College of Arts & Social Sciences
Faculty/School/Centre:	Research School of Social Sciences
Department/Unit:	School of Philosophy
Position Title:	Research Fellow
Classification:	Academic Level B
Responsible to:	Professor Seth Lazar
Number of positions that report to this role:	0

PURPOSE STATEMENT:

This position is located within the Australian Research Council Linkage Project 'Socially Responsible Insurance in the Age of AI', led by Professor Seth Lazar, with associate lead Jenny Davis (Sociology, ANU), Damian Clifford (Law, ANU), Kimberlee Weatherall (Law, Sydney), Chris Dolman (IAG), and Tiberio Caetano (Gradient).

This project aims to discover the social costs and benefits of using Artificial Intelligence in insurance, and to design practical interventions based on foundational research that help realise the benefits while mitigating the costs. It expects to generate new advances drawing on philosophy, law and sociology, working closely with practitioners at the forefront of deploying AI in insurance.

Our method is the normative sociolegal study of technology, drawing on philosophy, sociology, law and computer science. Sociology is vital for developing a clear picture of Australians' revealed attitudes to novel uses of data for insurance, and for creating workshops to facilitate responsible design by industry practitioners. Moral and political philosophy are crucial to enable the diagnosis of the social functions of insurance and the moral costs and benefits of deploying AI in this sector. Law affords an alternative lens on concepts like privacy and power; it is also critical to understanding and reshaping the regulatory regimes governing whether and how AI is adopted by insurers in Australia.

The research fellow contributes to this research program, drawing on a background in philosophy, sociology, law, computer science, or a related field. The position description applies to two roles; one position has a technical focus, and one with a humanistic focus. Both researchers will have a base in their home discipline at ANU, and will become part of the Machine Intelligence and Normative Theory Lab (mintresearch.org), and the Humanising Machine Intelligence project (hmi.anu.edu.au). One will also be part-seconded to the Gradient Institute (gradientinstitute.org).

KEY ACCOUNTABILITY AREAS:

Position Dimension & Relationships:

The Research Fellows will become members of the Machine Intelligence and Normative Theory (MINT) Lab, as well as the Humanising Machine Intelligence (HMI) Grand Challenge research community. The MINT Lab is a new research group led by Seth Lazar to unify overlapping projects on the moral and political philosophy of data and AI. HMI is a cross-university research project uniting philosophy, computer science, law, political science and sociology in the study and design of democratically legitimate AI. One of the Research Fellows will in addition be seconded to the Gradient Institute, a leading Australian research group focused on developing ethical Machine Learning systems.

The key responsibilities of the research fellows will be to contribute to disciplinary and collaborative multidisciplinary research on the ethical dimensions of AI systems, with particular (though not exclusive) attention to their deployment in the insurance sector. The project description can be found here: <https://mintresearch.org/lp21> (the project team welcomes suggestions for additional research directions that build on these). The research fellow may also have opportunities to contribute in a reduced capacity to undergraduate or graduate teaching related to AI and ethics.

Role Statement:

Specific duties required of a Level B Academic may include:

- the conduct of research either as a member of a team or independently, and the production of conference and seminar papers, publications, and/or practical interventions from that research;
- supervision of research-support staff involved in the staff member's research;
- guidance in the research effort of junior members of research-only academic staff in his/her research area;
- involvement in professional activities including, subject to availability of funds, attendance at conferences, and seminars in the field of expertise;
- administrative functions primarily connected with his/her area of research;
- occasional contributions in the teaching program within the field of the staff member's research, and co-organizing seminar series and workshops;
- co-supervision, or where appropriate supervision, of major honours or postgraduate research projects within the field of the staff member's area of research;
- attendance at meetings associated with research or the work of the organisational unit to which the research is connected and/or departmental and/or faculty meetings and/or membership of a limited number of committees; and
- other duties as allocated by the supervisor or the Vice-Chancellor consistent with the classification of the position.
- Comply with all ANU policies and procedures, and in particular those relating to work health and safety and equal opportunity

Skill Base

A **Level B Academic** will normally have completed a relevant doctoral qualification or have equivalent qualifications or research experience.

In addition he/she may be expected to have had post-doctoral research experience that has resulted in publications, conference papers, reports or professional or technical contributions that give evidence of research ability.

See the [classification descriptors for professional staff](#)¹ and [minimum standards for academic staff](#)²

SELECTION CRITERIA:

1. PhD degree in relevant discipline at the time of appointment.
2. Demonstrated capacity to pursue research at the highest levels of international scholarship.
3. Capacity to contribute to the intellectual life of the MINT lab and HMI community, and to advancing the Linkage Project 'Socially Responsible Insurance in the Age of AI'.
4. Capacity to foster inclusive, respectful and productive working relationships with staff, students and colleagues at all levels
5. A demonstrated understanding of equal opportunity principles and a commitment to the application of equal opportunity policies in a University context.

The ANU conducts background checks on potential employees, and employment in this position is conditional on satisfactory results in accordance with the [Background Checking Procedure](#) which sets out the types of checks required by each type of position.

Supervisor/Delegate Name:	Prof Seth Lazar	Date:	23/01/2023
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References:

[Professional Staff Classification Descriptors](#)

[Academic Minimum Standards](#)

¹[Schedule 5 - Professional staff classification descriptors - Human Resources - ANU](#)

²[Schedule 4 – Minimum standards for academic levels \(MSAL\) - Human Resources - ANU](#)



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Pre-Employment Work Environment Report

Position Details

College/Div/Centre	CASS	Dept/School/Section	School of Philosophy
Position Title	Research Fellow	Classification	Level B
Position No.		Reference No.	

In accordance with the Work Health and Safety Act 2011 (Cth) the University has a primary duty of care, so far as reasonably practicable, to ensure the health and safety of all staff while they are at work in the University.

- This form must be completed by the supervisor of the advertised position and appended to the back of the Position Description.
- This form is used to advise potential applicants of work environment and health and safety hazards prior to application.
- Once an applicant has been selected for the position they must familiarise themselves with the University WHS Management System via Handbook guidance <https://services.anu.edu.au/human-resources/health-safety/whs-management-system-handbook>
- The hazards identified below are of generic nature in relation to the position. It is not correlated directly to training required for the specific staff to be engaged. Identification of individual WHS training needs must be in accordance with WHS Local Training Plan and through the WHS induction programs and Performance Development Review Process.
- 'Regular' hazards identified below must be listed as 'Essential' in the Selection Criteria - see 'Employment Medical Procedures' at http://info.anu.edu.au/Policies/_DHR/Procedures/Employment_Medical_Procedures.asp

Potential Hazards

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Please indicate whether the duties associated with appointment will result in exposure to any of the following potential hazards, either as a regular or occasional part of the duties. 			
TASK	regular	occasional	
key boarding	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
lifting, manual handling	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
repetitive manual tasks	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Organizing events	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
fieldwork & travel	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
driving a vehicle	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
NON-IONIZING RADIATION			
solar	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
ultraviolet	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
infra red	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
laser	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
radio frequency	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
CHEMICALS			
hazardous substances	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
allergens	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
cytotoxics	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
mutagens/teratogens/	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
carcinogens	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
pesticides / herbicides	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
TASK	regular	occasional	
laboratory work	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
work at heights	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
work in confined spaces	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
noise / vibration	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
electricity	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
IONIZING RADIATION			
gamma, x-rays	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
beta particles	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
nuclear particles	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
BIOLOGICAL MATERIALS			
microbiological materials	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
potential biological allergens	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
laboratory animals or insects	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
clinical specimens, including blood	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
genetically-manipulated specimens	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
immunisations	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
OTHER POTENTIAL HAZARDS (please specify):			
Supervisor/Delegate Name:		Seth Lazar	Date: 23/01/2023