Ph.D. and Post-Doctoral Opportunities in Social-Moral Development

Emphasizing Information Technology and the Human Relationship with Nature

Department of Psychology and The Information School
University of Washington

Want to bring a social and moral developmental research perspective to the design of new information technologies?

Interested in how technologies mediate or augment the child's experience of nature?

OVERVIEW

As part of a new five-year 2.5 million dollar ITR grant from the National Science Foundation, a large-scale effort to extend and validate Value Sensitive Design is underway at the University of Washington. Value Sensitive Design is an emerging approach to the design of information and computer systems that accounts for human values in a principled and comprehensive manner throughout the design process. Value Sensitive Design particularly emphasizes values with moral import, including privacy, trust, moral responsibility, accountability, honesty, environmental sustainability, intellectual property, universal usability, freedom from bias, and democracy.

One major goal is to investigate how information technologies can (or cannot) be integrated into children's lives to enhance their physical health, psychological wellbeing, and social and moral development. In this context, we are particularly interested in technical augmentations of nature, and children's experiences of the "natural". For more information on current projects, please see: http://faculty.washington.edu/pkahn/

KEY FACULTY

Peter H. Kahn, Jr, Ph.D. (Department of Psychology)
Batya Friedman, Ph.D. (The Information School), and
Alan Borning, Ph.D. (Department of Computer Science and Engineering)

PH. D. AND POST-DOC OPPORTUNITIES

Available through the Department of Psychology and the Information School. Please visit their respective websites for more information, including application deadlines.

http://web.psych.washington.edu/graduate/
http://www.ischool.washington.edu/phd/

PROJECT SPACES INCLUDE:

- **Personal Robots in Children's Lives**
  Investigate the psychological benefits (and limitations) of humanoid and animal robots in the lives of children; also engage in a value sensitive redesign of a personal robot.

- **Display Technologies Across the Lifespan**
  (a) Uncover benefits (and limitations) of natural information mediated by display technologies, (b) integrate natural displayed information into the normal (if not enhanced) flow of information in situ, and (c) bring to the forefront the additional value considerations that emerge when cameras linked to the Web increasingly capture, record, and display human activity in public venues.

- **Moral Development and Information Systems**
  Investigate the values of honesty and intellectual property in children's online interactions. Engage in a value sensitive redesign of a Web browser to support a culture of citation for children.

- **UrbanSim: A Large-Scale Computer Urban Simulation Package**
  UrbanSim is a large-scale computer simulation that predicts patterns of urban development for periods of twenty years or more, under different possible scenarios. (a) Redesign UrbanSim's interaction model and interface to support the mediation of transportation and land use conflicts, and (b) increase the public's access to the simulation results to support the democratic legislative and voting process.

- **Value Sensitive Design in Industry**
  Develop and integrate Value Sensitive Design through industry partnerships with Sun Microsystems, Microsoft, and Openwave Systems.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Please contact Dr. Peter Kahn by email at:
pkahn@u.washington.edu

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