Research and Post graduate studies at the Faculty Informatics & Design, Cape Peninsula University of Technology, Cape Town, South Africa

The Faculty of Informatics and Design, at the Cape Peninsula University of Technology, are considering applications for self-funded Masters or doctoral candidates to join an EU project titled: PARTY - Participatory Tools for Human Development with the Youth. Successful candidates will join a research group within the faculty, comprise of postgraduate candidates and researchers.

The project aims to explore challenges faced by the marginalized youth in developing countries, such as unemployment. Unemployment is influenced by a number of factors including levels of education, gender, self-esteem, geographic location, physical ability and transport. The objective of the project is to contribute to solving the issues related to the youth unemployment in developing countries by creating participatory tools for human development that enable transformational change for the youth. Based on a service design approach, the project will provide tools for the marginalized youth suitable for daily use, enhancing regional democracy, increasing equal opportunities and contributing to human and service development with a particular target group: the San people in South Africa and Namibia. The San are faced with various social, cultural and political difficulties, and their communities are among the poorest in their countries, which are among the most unequal societies in the world. The tools aim to support the youth’s motivation and abilities to participate in the development of their own community towards a wider integration into their national socio-economic systems. The project focuses on the means and methods that assist in reaching the target group.

Please note:
- All local candidates must meet CPUT criteria to qualify for postgraduate studies within the fields of Design or ICT to apply.
- International students registered at their home institutions are welcome to utilize this opportunity through any exchange programs in which their university and CPUT participates
- Candidates will work on their thesis as well as contribute to the project administration and management.
- For more information on the project contact Prof Retha de la Harpe (delaharper@cput.ac.za) or Vikki du Preez (dupreezv@cput.ac.za). For information regarding postgraduate criteria and study in the Faculty of Informatics and Design please contact Veda Naidoo (naidoove@cput.ac.za)

Digital Service Design Research Chair and Post Doc Opportunities

The Faculty of Informatics & Design (FID), Cape Peninsula University of Technology (CPUT) in Cape Town South Africa presently hosts the largest number of design sub-disciplines in the Western Cape, South Africa. These include a unique mix of design, journalism, media, environment and information technology (http://www.cput.ac.za/academic/faculties/informaticsdesign). A proposed Service Design for Development (SD4D) research niche area has been established and will align closely to the CPUT Strategic Research Plan as well as contributing towards the institutional vision “to be at the heart of Technology Education and Innovation in Africa”. Service design thinking encourages research and practice that support value co-creation and innovation with the researcher in the role of facilitator and communicator. The niche area will
include projects and research focused on a number of key areas including Energy, Climate Change and Environmental Impact, Human and Social Dynamics (including Issues Related to Service Delivery), Economic Growth and International Competitiveness, as well as Digital Service Design and Community Informatics. The purpose of these projects is to develop capacity for the focus area of design for sustainability to produce tangible benefits in response to key social and economic challenges facing staff, students and communities in the Western Cape region, the country, the continent and the world.

The research, technology and innovation vision for CPUT is to unlock the potential of staff, students and partners to excel in research, technology and innovation that offer solutions to the needs of society. As a result, the institution is seeking to appoint an innovative leader in their field and established scholar in the area of Service Design as a research chair within the faculty. The position will offer the candidate an exciting opportunity to explore the relationship between technology, service design, innovation and social development within an African (local relevance) and international (global recognition) context.

More information can be obtained from the CPUT website (http://www.cput.ac.za/research) and specifically from the Research, Technology and Innovation Blueprint. Interested persons are welcome to contact Prof Retha de la Harpe at delaharper@cput.ac.za