



African AI Governance, Ethics, and Leadership Wits MIND Postdoctoral Fellowship Framework

Host(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Professor Geci Karuri-Sebina, Southern Centre for Inequality Studies. • Professor Benjamin Rosman, Director, Machine Intelligence Neural Discovery (MIND) Institute, University of the Witwatersrand
Funding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The fellowship provides R350,000 per annum (tax-free) for a fixed, consecutive two-year period. • The fellowship is administered by the MIND Institute, funded by the University of the Witwatersrand Research Council. • The fellowship is based in Johannesburg and is conducted in person on the University of the Witwatersrand campus. • Subject to standard University rules and requirements, as well as research achievements.
Eligibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PhD awarded within the past five (5) years. • Must be 35 years or younger. • May not hold full-time salaried employment during the tenure of the fellowship.
Closing date	Open until the postdoctoral fellowship is filled.
Focus	<p>AI governance opportunities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Defining AI policy and legislative contributions and innovations locally and globally, considering the African socio-economic and social imperatives, sustainable development needs and goals, political and policy environments, culture and diversity. • Enabling assessment, development and deployment of human-centred AI, designed to benefit humanity (and our biosphere), and enhance human capabilities. • Strengthen context-relevant governance insight regarding ethical AI development and use, security, safeguards and consideration of existential risks. • Advocacy around key African perspectives on AI digital diplomacy and geopolitics; digital rights and inclusion; trust, accountability and transparency.
Research Experience	<p>Demonstrable research and/or professional experience in relevant areas of AI governance, which may include any of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy, regulation, and Ethical AI, particularly within African socio-economic and cultural contexts. • Human-Centred & Societal Impact of AI Digital Governance & Rights, which may include engagement with issues of digital inclusion, access, equity, digital rights, algorithmic fairness, and socio-technical justice, especially in African contexts. • AI in Global Contexts, e.g. insight into global AI governance debates, geopolitics, and Africa’s role in shaping international norms, or experience in international relations/diplomacy related to technology. • Interdisciplinary and cross-cultural engagement: proven ability to work across disciplines (e.g., law, philosophy, political science,

	<p>computer science); sensitivity to cultural diversity and inclusion in research and policy design.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public engagement and advocacy: experience in public communication, stakeholder engagement, or advocacy around AI governance issues; ability to translate complex technical and policy issues for diverse audiences. • Publication and thought leadership: strong record of publishing in relevant journals or policy platforms; contributions to white papers, policy briefs, or public consultations or similar on AI governance. • Project and resource management: demonstrable experience managing successful research projects, including budgets, project management and staffing. • Student supervision: experience supervising postgraduate students.
Expectations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Primarily to conduct in-depth and cutting-edge research in the field of interest, working independently and as part of multiple dynamic teams, which might be structured or ad hoc. • To publish research in accredited journals (an average of at least two peer-reviewed research publications per year; ideally, publications should be international and on the ISI index). • Mentor and co-supervise Doctoral and Master's students. • To come up with and apply innovative ideas, contributing to the research ethos and vision of the MIND Institute (e.g., participation in research leadership and management, dialogue, debate and ideation, delivery of seminars and general support for the academic programme). • Contribution to the operation and sustainability of the MIND Institute laboratories and facilities, where applicable or appropriate. • Support the University's strategy to achieve and maintain the position of an internationally acclaimed research-intensive University. • Contribute to the sustainability and fundraising efforts of the MIND Institute through grant and funding applications, as well as partnerships and stakeholder relationships. • Build your own research profile as well as that of the MIND Institute through presentations, PR opportunities, social media and online presence.
Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Professional and research independence development: mentorship, training and guidance from experienced researchers. • Strengthen CV through targeted research outputs • Gain experience with teaching, supervision, mentorship and other academic activities. • Gain innovative project concept, design and management experience. • Engage in cutting-edge research and contribute to the field of development of African-led AI.
Queries	<p>Prof Geci Karuri-Sebina, Geci.Karuri-Sebina@wits.ac.za MIND Grant Manager, info.mind@wits.ac.za</p>