



Applications are invited for the following postdoctoral research opportunity:

Position title: Postdoctoral Fellow in Digital Culture and Quantified Aging

Supervisor: Dr. Barbara L. Marshall, Department of Sociology, Trent University

Location: Trent University, Peterborough, ON

We are seeking an emerging researcher to work with us on a SSHRC-funded project on “Digital Culture and Quantified Aging”. This project is funded by a 5-year Insight Grant (2017-2022), and the research team includes Dr. Barbara L. Marshall (Trent University, Principal Investigator), Dr. Stephen Katz (Trent University, Co-investigator), Dr. Isabel Pedersen (UOIT, Co-Investigator) and Dr. Wendy Martin (Brunel University London, Collaborator). We anticipate a start date in the spring of 2018 for this one-year position (with the possibility of extension).

About the project: The objectives of the project are to trace the origins and development of the digital, or algorithmic, measurement of 'age' and age-related characteristics; analyze the conceptualization, design, marketing and consumer take-up of tracking and measuring technologies aimed at aging individuals; and explore how these technologies become part of the speculative futures of aging, anti-aging, and revisions of care in aging societies. Interpreting ‘technologies’ broadly, we ask how these are reshaping concepts of age and ‘success’ in aging, how they connect to dividing practices and what forms of age governance emerge in self-tracking economies. Planned research activities include:

- historical and documentary research
- field research at technology and consumer electronic trade shows
- textual and visual analysis of marketing and informational materials
- discourse analysis of professional and popular literatures
- interviews, focus groups and social network analysis with users
- creation of a special *quantified aging* open access resource in a collective access database at UOIT
- sociological critique of frameworks and terminology in mainstream age-technology studies
- exploration of new theoretical areas in affective processes and governance, body aesthetics and gendered virtualities around aging.

About the position: This postdoctoral fellowship entails a yearly salary of \$40,500. The successful candidate will be based at Trent University in Peterborough, but the position may involve some research travel and some activities may take place in Toronto and at the University of Ontario Institute of Technology (UOIT) in Oshawa.

The successful candidate will be expected to participate as a full team member during their tenure, engaging in independent research related to the overall project goals as well as supporting and participating in collaborative work led by other team members. This will include engaging in both primary and secondary research, organizing data and conducting qualitative data analysis. Other activities will include liaising with team members at scheduled meetings, network development with relevant technology enterprises and stakeholders, writing and presenting papers on the research, producing summaries of research for public dissemination, organization and management of meetings and workshops, and other tasks related to grant administration and knowledge mobilization. The successful candidate will be expected to apply for membership and be active in the Trent Centre for Aging and Society.

This position will be of particular interest to a candidate from the social sciences with a background and/or interest in science and technology studies and who is willing to participate in research with both designers and users. Training will be provided by Drs. Marshall and Katz as required in preparation of applications for ethics review, observational fieldwork, interviewing and transcription and qualitative analysis. Specialized training will be provided by Dr. Pedersen on the development of a metadata scheme and keywords in relation to the development of the UOIT collection, and by Dr. Martin in visual research techniques and analysis.

Eligibility: The successful candidate will have a completed Ph.D. before beginning the position and will have received their Ph.D. within 5 years of the fellowship start date.

Application: In a single email addressed to bmarshall@trentu.ca, with the subject line “postdoctoral fellowship application” please provide the following three components as individual pdf attachments.

- A letter (maximum 3 pages) which outlines your suitability and expertise, including planned research that aligns with the project goals, and which indicates your preferred start date.
- A CV.
- A list of three references with complete contact information, who could be called upon to write letters of recommendation.

Review of applications will begin on February 1, 2018 and applications will be considered until the position is filled.