Position

Survey Research Assistant/Technical Associate 1, starting in 2024 for 1-2 years

Location

Cambridge, Massachusetts, USA

Job Description

We're seeking a talented Survey Research Assistant/Technical Associate 1 to evaluate the impact of Artificial Intelligence and other emerging technology adoption across U.S. firms. In this role, you'll assist in developing and designing surveys, implementing surveys using survey software platforms, and conducting data analyses and creating data visualizations. Our innovative survey projects help shape our understanding of technological adoption and economic impacts.

Project Overview

Broadly, our research maps technology usage (software, Artificial Intelligence, algorithms, hardware) among U.S. firms to uncover insights into its trajectory and impact on the national economy. We're seeking a skilled data analyst with a strong statistical background, survey experience, and expertise in R for advanced data wrangling, analysis, and visualization.

Key Responsibilities

- Support the entire survey lifecycle, from conceptualization to data collection and analysis
    - Implement complex surveys using advanced survey software platforms (ex. Qualtrics)
    - Clean, wrangle, and manipulate complex survey data using R
    - Conduct advanced statistical analyses using R
    - Create compelling data visualizations to effectively communicate research findings
- Maintain meticulous records of procedures and analyses
- Meet project deadlines and deliver high-quality outputs
- Contribute actively to weekly progress meetings

Required Qualifications

- Availability to work full time
- Bachelor's degree in a relevant field (e.g., Social Sciences, Statistics, Data Science, Economics)
- Excellent English communication skills (verbal and written)
- Ability to work across multiple internal teams and make meaningful contributions to group/ interdisciplinary projects
- Exceptional attention to detail and commitment to producing accurate, high-quality work
- Excellent organizational and documentation skills
- Ability to work independently, troubleshoot issues, and propose solutions
- Relevant research and/or work experience in survey research
  - Strong foundation in survey methodology and quantitative research methods
  - Experience with complex survey sampling techniques and survey weighting
  - Experience implementing complex surveys into survey software platforms (e.g., Qualtrics)
- Strong data analysis and visualization skills
  - Proven experience in survey data analysis (coding examples required for application)
  - Advanced proficiency in R, including data wrangling/cleaning, and visualizations
  - Advanced ability to present complex information clearly

Preferred Qualifications

- Master's degree in a relevant field (e.g., Social Sciences, Statistics, Data Science, Economics)
- Coursework or experience in artificial intelligence, algorithms, hardware, software, and/or economics

Appointment

The Survey Research Assistant/Technical Associate 1's primary appointment would be at the MIT Sloan School of Management, as part of the Initiative on the Digital Economy.

To apply

1. Please submit your resume/CV, cover letter, relevant transcripts, and code examples (annotated .Rmd files preferred) to Brittany Harris at bsharris@mit.edu.
2. Selected candidates will be interviewed via Zoom. We are recruiting on a rolling basis and may close applications early if we find a suitable candidate, so please apply as soon as possible to maximize your chances.

About MIT FutureTech

Led by Dr. Neil Thompson, MIT FutureTech is an interdisciplinary group of computer scientists, engineers, and economists who study the foundations of progress in computing and Artificial Intelligence: the trends, implications, opportunities and risks.

Our work is supported by grants from Open Philanthropy, the National Science Foundation, Microsoft, Accenture, IBM, the MIT-Air Force AI accelerator, and the MIT Lincoln Laboratory.

The following are examples of our recent work:

- How industry is dominating AI research
- The Quantum Tortoise and the Classical Hare: A simple framework for understanding which problems quantum computing will accelerate (and which it will not)
- A workshop on AI scaling and its implications for AI development, automation, and more
- The Great Inflection? A Debate About AI and Explosive Growth
- There's plenty of room at the Top: What will drive computer performance after Moore's law?
- Deep Learning's Diminishing Returns: The Cost of Improvement is Becoming Unsustainable
- America's lead in advanced computing is almost gone
- The Decline of Computers as a General Purpose Technology: Why Deep Learning and the End of Moore's Law are Fragmenting Computing
- How Fast Do Algorithms Improve?

About Dr. Neil Thompson, the Director of MIT FutureTech

Dr. Thompson is the Director of MIT FutureTech. Prior to starting FutureTech, Dr. Thompson was a professor of Innovation and Strategy at the MIT Sloan School of Management. His PhD is in Business & Public Policy from Berkeley. He also holds

Master's degrees in: Computer Science (Berkeley), Economics (London School of Economics), and Statistics (Berkeley). Prior to joining academia, Dr. Thompson was a management consultant with Bain & Company and worked for the Canadian Government and the United Nations.

About the MIT Initiative on the Digital Economy (IDE)

The MIT Initiative on the Digital Economy is a team of internationally recognized thought leaders and researchers examining how people and businesses work, interact, and prosper in a time of rapid digital transformation. It is housed at the MIT Sloan School of Management.

About the MIT Computer Science and Artificial Intelligence Lab (CSAIL)

CSAIL is one of the world's top research centers for computer science and artificial intelligence (currently ranked #1). It has hosted 9 Turing awards winners (the "Nobel Prize of Computing") and has pioneered many of the technologies that underpin computing.