In a collaboration with our partners Ecosia.org and the Chair for Machine Learning at Berlin's Beuth Hochschule we are planning to develop an assistance system for sustainable consumption - the so-called “Green Consumption Assistant” (GCA). The GCA shall support consumers in practicing sustainable consumption. It will be integrated in online search engines to highlight the sustainability of search results and will enrich shopping environments with sustainability information in real time. It will also highlight more sustainable consumption alternatives and offer additional information on sustainability-related subjects. To power the recommendations of the GCA we will leverage machine learning techniques to build a large-scale database with sustainability information on products and services around the globe. To create this database we will build on our partnerships with Utopia, Wikidata, Ökotest, and others that already have spent significant time creating and aggregating such data. In developing the GCA we will draw on agile and design-thinking product and software development methods. This means we will quickly build prototypes, test them, and continuously optimize their operation. At the same time, we will scientifically analyze the effects of the Green Shopping Assistant by way of empirical surveys and qualitative focus groups. The project is funded as part of the “KI-Leuchttürme für Umwelt, Klima, Natur und Ressourcen” initiative of the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety.

Research Assistant - 80% position - salary grade E13 TV-L Berliner Hochschulen

under the condition that funds are granted

Faculty I - Institute of Vocational Education and Work Studies / Socio-ecological Transformation
Reference number: I-8/20 (starting at the earliest possible / for a period of 36 months / closing date for applications 08/05/20)

Working field:
• Collaboration in a transdisciplinary research project on digitalization and sustainable consumption and Artificial Intelligence
• Development of a catalogue of sustainability criteria for products and services
• Location, acquisition, and validation of datasets on the sustainability of products and services
• Execution of representative and qualitative surveys and laboratory experiments with users of the Green Consumption Assistant. Analysis with statistical methods (e.g., SPSS)
• Preparation of brief life cycle assessment on the ecological footprint of selected products and services
• Design and implementation of design thinking workshops and focus groups

Requirements:
• Successfully completed university degree (Master, Diplom or equivalent) in the social sciences, psychology or a comparable discipline; submitted or completed PhD is a plus
• Proficiency in sustainable consumption and sustainability assessments
• Experience in agile styles of working and design thinking
• Experience in quantitative and qualitative research Methods
• Experience in conducting life cycle assessments
• Programming and statistics skills (e.g. R, Python, Stata, SPSS, or similar software)
• Good command of German and/or English required; willingness to learn either language to the required level is a prerequisite

Our Offering:
• A cutting edge research topic on sustainability and artificial intelligence with the potential to significantly impact the way sustainable consumption is practiced online
• A stimulating working environment on sustainability, user research, and digitalization together with our partners Ecosia and Beuth Hochschule
• The possibility of pursuing a PhD
• A motivated, results-driven, and caring team environment

Please send your written application with the reference number and the usual documents (in particular applications including a letter of motivation, a CV, relevant grade reports as well as a short writing sample in German or English) preferably by e-mail to sekretariat@transformation.tu-berlin.de or in writing to Technische Universität Berlin - Der Präsident - Fakultät I, FG Sozial-Ökologische Transformation, Prof. Dr. Santarius, Sekr. MAR 1-1, Marchstraße 23, 10587 Berlin.
To ensure equal opportunities between women and men, applications by women with the required qualifications are explicitly desired. Qualified individuals with disabilities will be favored. The TU Berlin values the diversity of its members and is committed to the goals of equal opportunities.

Please send copies only. Original documents will not be returned.

The vacancy is also available on the internet at http://www.personalabteilung.tu-berlin.de/menue/jobs/