

April 16th, 2018

To whom it may concern,

I am writing this letter to strongly recommend Stephanie Sadownik for the position of Program Officer with the Ontario College of Teachers.

I have recently started collaborating with Stephanie as part of my research under a 2016 SSHRC Knowledge Synthesis (KS) grant. This grant studies the ethical challenges faced by researchers in Canada during the conduct of fieldwork on emerging interactive technologies. The main goal of this knowledge synthesis investigation is to review the state of knowledge about ethical issue of conducting research with human participants and identify gaps that Canadian researchers may have in applying ethics policies to techno-centric fieldwork. This grant had provisions for a senior research assistant – Stephanie was hired for this since her multidisciplinary research experience and strength in using diverse research methods stood out from among many qualified candidates.

For the past almost two years I have been working closely with Stephanie and I continue to be impressed by her research ability and particularly by her work ethic. Our research project is challenging as it requires synthesizing a very large body of literature across many fields, from computer science, to psychology, and to social science, while investigating occurrences of possible “ethical dilemmas”. Stephanie has demonstrated an impressive ability to step outside the confines of a single discipline while still maintaining academic rigour – a skills that in my view as an experienced educator is very important not only for research but also for teaching. I dare say that, as we are getting close to concluding this research, Stephanie is now an expert in the field of ethics, particularly as it pertains to challenges raised by current and emerging digital technologies, which has prompted me to ask her to be an external reviewer for papers submitted to our 2017 ACM SIGCHI Workshop on Ethical Encounters in Human-Computer Interaction, a task she has accomplished admirably.

During our work together Stephanie has also demonstrated significant initiative, as well as personal skills. Our project required us to conduct interviews with several researcher about sensitive topics – Stephanie did an admirable job of balancing the need to collect accurate data with respect and understanding for the particular circumstances of each of our interviewees. Stephanie’s hard work, professional ethic, and punctuality lead to early successes for this project that exceeded our initial expectations. This work is already producing results – in addition to a public research report made available to SSHRC, we have co-authored an invited book chapter titled “Field studies of interactive technologies for marginalized users: a Canadian ethics policy perspective”, to appear in B. Barbosa-Neves and F. Vetere, editors, Ageing and Emerging Technologies: designing and evaluating emerging technologies for older adults. Springer, 2018

Based on the tremendous contributions that Stephanie brought to this research project, her work ethic, and her ability to interact with people in difficult or sensitive settings, I am confident that she can successfully transfer these skills to an educational setting. For this, I strongly recommend Stephanie for the position of Program Officer with the Ontario College of Teachers.

Sincerely,


Dr. Cosmin Munteanu

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