



SCHOOL OF  
SOCIAL & BEHAVIOURAL  
SCIENCES  
AMRITAPURI

# CALL FOR PHD SCHOLARS | SHAPE THE FUTURE OF INCLUSIVE PUBLIC POLICY WITH AI

## PH.D. RESEARCH PROJECT

Designing policies that reflect the genuine needs of citizens is one of the greatest challenges of modern governance. Too often, there is a "listening gap" between rural communities and the halls of power. In the tribal regions of Odisha, India, the WADI programme has planted millions of mango and cashew trees. But there is a scientific puzzle: in some villages, 96% of trees thrive. In others, only 30% survive. Why?

How can we design policies that truly reflect the voices of citizens—not just the few who are heard, but also those who are often left out?

We invite applications for a **full-time PhD position in Social Data Science** under the guidance of **Dr. Victoria Ustenko (Associate Professor)** for an exciting project: **AI and Civic Participation: Computational Analysis of How Citizen Voices Travel into Public Policy.**

SWIPE RIGHT →



## WHAT YOU WILL DO:

Operationalize the Daya-Dama-Dana model (Compassion toward living beings, Restraint in consumption, and Generosity toward the commons)

- Understanding how citizens frame real-world problems in their own words
- Mapping these perspectives to existing policy agendas in areas like **environment, gender equality, and social policy**
- Building scalable methods for **inclusive and responsive policymaking**

## WHY THIS Ph.D. STANDS OUT

- **Frontier research area:** Be part of a rapidly growing field at the intersection of AI and governance
- **Build real tools:** Develop open-source toolkits for policymakers and practitioners
- **Global collaboration:** Partnership with the University of Groningen
- **Inclusive focus:** Bring rural and underserved voices into policy design

## WHO ARE WE LOOKING FOR?

Candidates with a Master's degree in areas such as:

COMPUTATIONAL SOCIAL SCIENCE | DATA SCIENCE | PUBLIC POLICY |  
POLITICAL SCIENCE | SOCIOLOGY | COMPUTATIONAL LINGUISTICS

SWIPE RIGHT →

## WITH SKILLS IN

- Quantitative research & statistics
- Python or R (text analysis preferred)
- Strong communication skills in English

Experience in NLP, topic modelling, policy research, or fieldwork. Rural contexts will be an added advantage.

### 1 Full-Time Position

Application Deadline: **14<sup>th</sup> July 2026**

*Be part of a research journey that blends technology, social insight, and real-world change.*



**READY  
TO  
APPLY?**

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