Assistant Professor in Design Futures: Technology and Racial Justice
College and Graduate School of Art

The Sam Fox School of Design & Visual Arts at Washington University in St. Louis seeks a tenure-track Assistant Professor in Design Futures with an emphasis on technology and racial justice.

We seek a talented colleague whose creative practice/research interests address human-rights centered design solutions, with a focus on technology’s role as a catalyst for racial discrimination. Areas of interest could include, but are not limited to: ethical product design, design for policy change, technology-based social practices, artificial intelligence and algorithmically assisted bias, and technology-enabled misinformation, disinformation, and censorship. Our new colleague will contribute to the undergraduate BFA curriculum in art and design (particularly in Interaction Design), the Human-Computer Interaction (HCI) minor (shared with the McKelvey School of Engineering), and help develop a new graduate program in Design Futures.

This appointment is part of a cluster hire of 12 faculty who research at the intersections of race, ethnicity, disparities, and justice across disciplines. Through this cluster of hires and the newly formed Center for the Study of Race, Ethnicity, and Equity (CRE2), the University will increase its capacity to examine some of the most pressing questions of our time; complement and advance the expertise of outstanding researchers and departments; and embed a suite of varied methodological approaches to race in the intellectual life of the campus.

Candidates’ design research should be well-defined and can be scholarly, critical, client-driven, or self-generated, with a clear focus in content areas related to issues of race and ethnicity and the potential to make significant national and international impact. Fluency in teaching design principles is required. Candidates should demonstrate capacity for teaching excellence, preferably in interaction design, human-centered design, or computer software/hardware.

A Master of Fine Arts in Design or an equivalent degree in a related field is required. This new hire will teach four courses each academic year, conduct ambitious research, and provide service to the school, university, and profession. Candidates should demonstrate ability to nurture an inclusive learning and work environment and promote a culture and ethos that values diversity, inclusion, and equitable success.

Applications should include a letter of interest, research statement, portfolio (website or PDF), and CV submitted through Interfolio. Second-round candidates will be contacted for supplementary materials including additional work samples, teaching philosophy, examples of student work and names of three references.

Review of applications will begin on October 15, 2021. Applications will be accepted until the search concludes, however, the committee will give preference to applications received before November 1, 2021. Salary for the position will be commensurate with experience. The full-time (9-month) appointment begins August 2022. Questions? Contact Jonathan Hanahan, Search Committee Chair and Associate Professor in the College of Art, jhanahan@wustl.edu.

INSTITUTIONAL BACKGROUND

The Sam Fox School of Design & Visual Arts is a global model for the transformative roles art, architecture, and design play within the research university. By successfully uniting the visual creative
The Sam Fox School distinguishes Washington University among the world's excellent research and teaching institutions. The School is an interdisciplinary community of artists, architects, designers, curators, and scholars who are focused on responding to the global realities of our times. Students and faculty engage deeply in innovative teaching, practice, exhibition, and research with a commitment to the environment, diversity, social justice, cultural expression, and the enduring value of the arts.

Washington University in St. Louis is committed to the principles and practices of equal employment opportunity and affirmative action. It is the university's policy to recruit, hire, train, and promote persons in all job titles without regard to race, color, age, religion, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, national origin, veteran status, disability, or genetic information. Each year Washington University publishes a Safety and Security brochure that details what to do and whom to contact in an emergency. This report also publishes the federally required annual security and fire safety reports, containing campus crime and fire statistics as well as key university policies and procedures. You may access the Safety and Security brochure at https://police.wustl.edu/clery-reports-logs/

The College of Art, one of the founding members of the National Association of Schools of Art and Design, offers Bachelor of Fine Arts degrees in Communication Design, Fashion Design, and Studio Art; Bachelor of Art degrees in Studio Art and Design (with concentrations in Communication Design or Fashion Design); and second majors in Studio Art or Design. The Graduate School of Art offers the Master of Fine Arts in Visual Art, through an academically rigorous, individualized course of study that encourages creative activity and collaboration across disciplines and media. The Graduate School also offers the Master of Fine Arts in Illustration & Visual Culture, which combines studio practice in illustration and writing with the study of visual and material culture. Together, the College and Graduate School of Art enroll approximately 300 undergraduate and 45 graduate students.

The College of Architecture, one of the founding members of the Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture, enrolls approximately 200 students and offers a four-year undergraduate degree leading to a Bachelor of Science in Architecture or a Bachelor of Arts in Architecture. This flexibility allows students to pursue other academic interests within the University. The nationally ranked Graduate School of Architecture & Urban Design enrolls approximately 320 students and offers design-centered programs of critical inquiry and professional preparation, including an international venue in Barcelona. The Graduate School offers professional degrees in Architecture and Landscape Architecture, along with post-professional degrees in Urban Design. Additional post-professional degrees include: Master of Science in Advanced Architectural Design and Master of Science in Architectural Studies. Along with dual degree options between the three programs, there are joint degree options with Business, Computer Science & Engineering, Construction Management, Public Health, and Social Work.

The Sam Fox School is housed in a six-building complex that includes the Mildred Lane Kemper Art Museum, home to one of the finest university collections of artwork by 19th-, 20th-, and 21st-century American and international artists. The school opened Weil Hall in 2019, a LEED Platinum, state-of-the-art center for graduate art and architecture education and an innovative making hub for the entire school.

The Sam Fox School hosts a lively series of lectures, symposia, and exhibitions and enjoys strong collaborations with the Pulitzer Arts Foundation, Laumeier Sculpture Park, the Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis, Missouri Botanical Garden, and the Saint Louis Art Museum. The School has a steadfast commitment to social justice, environmental justice, and community-based work housed in the Office for Socially Engaged Practice.
Washington University is an independent research university dedicated to challenging its faculty and students to seek new knowledge and greater understanding of an ever-changing, multicultural world. The University is counted among the world’s leaders in teaching and research, and draws students and faculty from all 50 states and more than 80 nations. The University is highly regarded for its commitment to excellence in learning. Its programs, administration, facilities, resources, and activities combine to further its mission of teaching, research, and service to society.