

Call for Applications



LATAM Bridges in The Epistemology of Religion

<http://www.uh.edu/class/philosophy/latam/>

Mentoring Fellowships

Aug 2019 – Aug 2020

Faculty Mentors

Dr. Paul Draper – Purdue University

Dr. Daniel McKaughan – Boston College

Dr. Chris Tucker – College of William and Mary

The purpose of this fellowship is twofold: (a) providing young Latin American philosophers with an opportunity to familiarize themselves with the analytic approach to the epistemology of religion, and (b) equipping them for producing their own work in that area. Fellows will spend one year working with a mentor at an US university, and will write two papers in the epistemology of religion during their fellowship. Fellows must be fluent in English, but need not be familiar with the epistemology of religion or the methods of analytic philosophy. Fellows will be matched with the mentor that best fits their stated interests.

Fellowship Topics

Science and Religion: the differences and/or similarities between religious beliefs and theoretical beliefs, the differences and/or similarities between the epistemic standards for the evaluation of these beliefs, the epistemic significance of the cognitive science of religion, evolutionary debunking, etc.

Evidence and Religious Belief: arguments for and against religious belief, the evidential balance resulting from arguments for and against religious belief, non-evidential reasons for rational belief or disbelief, how to take seriously the higher-order evidence of our epistemic limitations and fallibility, etc.

Epistemic Virtue and Belief: the epistemic virtues of religious belief and/or disbelief, the relation between virtues and religious rationality, the virtues or vices behind the transformative experience of conversion, the proper connection between epistemic humility and theism, atheism, or agnosticism, etc.

Social Epistemology and Belief: the epistemic value of religious testimony (about miracles in particular), the epistemic significance of religious diversity and peer disagreement, the proper role of epistemic authorities and/or exemplars, the nature of epistemic communities, etc.

Application Process

A full application will include the following documents:

1. A *Cover Letter* describing your interest in, and familiarity with, one or more of the topics.
2. A *Reference Letter* from a professor or academic advisor endorsing your qualifications.
3. Proof of current enrolment at a Latin American university.

In order to be given full consideration, all of these documents must be received **by April 30th**, at the following address: labridge@central.uh.edu. The subject of all emails should read: "[Applicant's Last Name] - Mentoring Application".

Application Instructions

Applicant Profile: Applicants must be Latin American graduate students or post-docs who are currently working in, or interested in starting to do work in, the epistemology of religion. Applicants must be based in Latin American institutions. Applicants must be fluent in English: they must be capable of studying their topic in English, discussing their work with their American faculty mentor, and writing their research in English.

Funding: Fellows will receive a stipend of US\$25,000 upon arrival at their host universities. Fellows should use their stipends to make their own travel, lodge, and food arrangements. (An advance may be available on a case-by-case basis.) The project leader (Dr. Luis Oliveira) will be available for help.

Cover Letter: Cover letters should be no longer than 2 pages (single spaced) and should be saved as PDF documents. They should at least include comments on (a) the applicant's interest and current work (if any) in the epistemology of religion, (b) how this mentoring fellowship will help with the applicant's future academic plans, (c) the applicant's familiarity (if any) with analytic philosophy of religion, or analytic philosophy in general, and (d) the applicant's experience and competence with the English language. Cover letters should be sent by the applicant themselves, by April 30th, to the following address: labridge@central.uh.edu. The subject of the email should read: "[Applicant's Last Name] - Mentoring Application".

Reference Letter: Reference letters should be no longer than 2 pages (single spaced) and should be saved as PDF documents. Reference letters should be requested from current or former professors, or anyone who has had an academic relation to the applicant. Letters from relatives, friends, or non-academic acquaintances will not be accepted. Reference letters must at least answer the following questions: (a) For how long have you known the applicant? (b) In which capacity did you interact with the applicant? (c) How does the applicant compare to your other students? (d) What are the main positive research qualities you find in the applicant? (e) How would receiving this mentoring fellowship help with the applicant's work? Reference letters should be sent by the letter writers themselves (not the applicant), by April 30th, to the following address: labridge@central.uh.edu. The subject of the email should read: "[Applicant's Last Name] - Mentoring Application".

Proofs: Proof of enrolment consists in a dated transcript (official or unofficial) from the applicant's home university.

Selection Criteria: Applications will be judged by the project leader (Dr. Luis Oliveira) and by the three local co-organizers (Dr. Agnaldo Portugal, Dr. Ignacio Silva, Dr. José Tomás Alvarado). They will judge according to the following criteria:

- Evidence of serious interest in the mentoring topics.
- Potential for future work in the mentoring topics.
- English competence.
- Record of academic achievements.
- Familiarity with the epistemology of religion.
- Familiarity with analytic philosophy.

Applicants should explain how they meet these criteria in their cover letter.

All inquiries about the fellowships (or the project in general) should be sent to: labridge@central.uh.edu.