

## Call for Applications



### **LATAM Bridges in The Epistemology of Religion**

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

*\*Winter Seminar\**

*Universidade de Brasília, Brazil*

*July 8-19, 2019*

For two weeks, 15 participants will attend morning and afternoon seminars in the epistemology of religion by 8 leading analytic philosophers working in that field.

#### **Week 1**

##### **Mon/Tue – Science and Religion**

Topics here *may* include: 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.

##### **Thu/Fri – Evidence and Religious Belief**

Topics here *may* include: 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.

#### **Week 2**

##### **Mon/Tue – Epistemic Virtue and Belief**

Topics here *may* include: 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.

##### **Thu/Fri – Social Epistemology and Belief**

Topics here *may* include: 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 seminar topics.
2. A Reference Letter from a professor or academic advisor endorsing your qualifications.
3. CV and Proof of current enrolment or employment at a Latin American university.

In order to be given full consideration, all of these documents must be received **by April 30<sup>th</sup>**, at the following address: [labridge@central.uh.edu](mailto:labridge@central.uh.edu). The subject of all emails should read: “[Applicant’s Last Name] - Seminar Application”.

## Application Instructions

*Applicant Profile:* Applicants must be Latin American graduate students, post-docs, or early-to-mid career scholars (within 15 years of having received their PhDs), 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 will be required to read approximately 16 papers in advance of the seminar, all written in English, and will be expected to be able to discuss them, in English, during seminar sessions.

*Funding:* Participants will receive a stipend of U\$2,000 upon completion of the seminar. The seminar organizers will cover hotel and food expenses for the duration of the seminar, but participants will make their own travel arrangements. (An advance may be available on a case-by-case basis.)

*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 the seminar 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 30<sup>th</sup>, to the following address: [labridge@central.uh.edu](mailto:labridge@central.uh.edu). The subject of the email should read: "[Applicant's Last Name] - Seminar 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, colleagues, 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) How would participating in this seminar help the applicant's work? (e) Is the applicant fluent in English and therefore capable of reading and discussing philosophy in English? Reference letters should be sent by the letter writers themselves (not the applicant), by April 30<sup>th</sup>, to the following address: [labridge@central.uh.edu](mailto:labridge@central.uh.edu). The subject of the email should read: "[Applicant's Last Name] - Seminar Application".

*Proofs:* Proof of enrolment consists in a dated transcript (official or unofficial) from the applicant's home university. Proof of employment consists in a dated and signed letter from the department chair, in university letterhead.

*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 seminar topics.
- Potential for future work in the seminar 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 seminars (or the project in general) should be sent to: [labridge@central.uh.edu](mailto:labridge@central.uh.edu).