

Call for Applications



LATAM Bridges in The Epistemology of Religion

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

Research Fellowship

Rutgers Center for the Philosophy of Religion

August 2020 – May 2021

The purpose of this fellowship is to provide Latin American philosophers with an opportunity to complete an on-going project in the epistemology of religion. Fellows must be fluent in both written and spoken English and are expected to complete their project during their one-year residence at the Rutgers Center for the for philosophy of religion.

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 (e.g. about miracles or mystic experiences), 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 project on one or more of the topics above.
2. A *Reference Letter* from a professor or academic advisor endorsing your qualifications.
3. A *Writing Sample* of previous work.
4. 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 **no later than April 30th**, at the following address: labridge@central.uh.edu. The subject of all emails should read: “[Applicant’s Last Name] - Research Application”. Inquiries should be sent to that address as well.

Application Instructions

Applicant Profile: Applicants must be Latin American 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 both written and spoken English. The project to be completed during their fellowship year should be in English as well.

Funding: Fellows will receive a stipend of US\$50,000 upon arrival at their host institution (minus taxes). Fellows will make their own travel, lodging, and food arrangements. The project director (Dr. Luis Oliveira) will be available for help.

Cover Letter: Cover letters should be no longer than 2 pages and should be saved as PDF documents. They should at least include comments on (a) the project the applicant plans on completing during the research fellowship, (b) a timeline of how the applicant plans on completing that project, (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 should read: "[Applicant's Last Name] - Research 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) What are the main positive research qualities you find in the applicant? (d) How would receiving this research fellowship help with the applicant's work? Reference letters should be sent by the letter writers themselves (*not by the applicant*), by April 30th, to the following address: labridge@central.uh.edu. The subject should read: "[Applicant's Last Name] - Research Application".

Writing Sample: The writing sample should be a published or unpublished paper that is no longer than 25 pages (double spaced). A paper in the topics above is preferred, but not required.

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), by the three local co-organizers (Dr. Agnaldo Portugal, Dr. Ignacio Silva, Dr. José Tomás Alvarado), and by the directors of the Rutgers Center for the Philosophy of Religion (Dr. Dean Zimmerman and Dr. Brian Leftow). They will judge according to the following criteria:

- Evidence of a serious and feasible project in one of the approved topics.
- Evidence of high-quality work in the past.
- Record of academic achievements.
- Familiarity with analytic philosophy and the epistemology of religion.

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.