



Telephone:

Email:

30th November 2023

Dear Professor [REDACTED]

I am excited to apply for the position of Research Associate on the [REDACTED] project. I was recently awarded a **PhD in philosophy** at the University of [REDACTED] and work on virtue and vice epistemology, moral psychology, and value theory. My thesis, [REDACTED], provided novel accounts of individual and collective arrogance, early outputs of which have been published in *Synthese*.

My doctoral thesis explored questions regarding the nature of moral and epistemic arrogance, which involved integrating **research in value theory, virtue and vice theory, and moral psychology**. The thesis makes two key contributions: (i) a distinctive account of individual arrogance, which argues that arrogance centrally involves the practice of making undue assumptions of license and does not rest on the influential 'motivationalist' stance towards vice; and (ii) a novel account of collective vice, whereby group dispositions toward vices like arrogance are understood with reference to the social norms that operate within them. I also develop a distinctive argument for how arrogance can sometimes involve feeling similar to others, rather than simply feeling different or superior, as had previously been suggested.

My contributions to research include **my *Synthese* article**, [REDACTED], and presentations at national and international conferences, including at the Mind and Aristotelian Society's Joint Session in 2019 and 2023. I was also invited to speak at the *Epistemic Vice: Individual and Collective* workshop at [REDACTED] University, co-organised by Dr Robin McKenna and Dr Ian James Kidd in December 2019. I am currently working on two further research papers based on my PhD research and will be targeting top-tier philosophy journals. I was awarded a publication scholarship by the University of [REDACTED] in July 2023 in order to pursue this work.

I also engage in **cross-disciplinary research**. From autumn 2018 to spring 2019, I worked as a researcher on the [REDACTED] project at [REDACTED] with colleagues in philosophy and psychology. I organised and conducted interviews with participants and collected feedback on the efficacy of our training events. In 2022, I conducted inter-disciplinary research for [REDACTED], a [REDACTED], on a project seeking to assess the [REDACTED]. This involved seeking out literature from a variety of sources in various disciplines (e.g., geography, politics, public policy), to create a detailed literature survey and report.

Thanks to my academic work, and earlier careers, I have rich experience working in teams and a **proven ability to communicate effectively and persuasively**. From 2014-2016, I worked as [REDACTED], organising a team to raise

money, share vital safety advice, and spread awareness of the charity's work. Working remotely, I independently project-managed a brand-new fundraising campaign in east England, line-managing 15 members of staff and coordinating the team's operations for a summer campaign. Effective and persuasive communication and teamwork were vital, working closely with colleagues to ensure activities ran smoothly across a large geographical area. I **worked without close supervision and had to prioritise my workload and meet essential deadlines** to ensure the campaigns were a success. I surpassed targets and raised over £650,000 in my area over two years.

My **passion and ability for generating high-quality academic writing** at a steady, high pace is demonstrated by my research output during my PhD. During this time, I balanced a number of other commitments – teaching, administrative, professional, and parental – alongside academic writing. I completed my PhD within my funded period and had my first academic article published, while co-convening and teaching a 3rd year / MA module and actively contributing to the department's research culture through engagement with events and seminars. I participated in several [REDACTED] reading groups that, combined with my research interests, mean that I have **knowledge of the status of research in value theory and virtue ethics**. I regularly attended the department's long-standing Feminism reading group, the [REDACTED] reading group (which I convened from May 2020 to July 2021) and an interdepartmental reading group on [REDACTED] (which I co-convened).

My collaborative and outreach work includes extensive involvement with [REDACTED] through which I **have demonstrated creativity, innovation, and teamwork**. From 2018-2019, I overhauled the Centre's website, designing, building, and editing content on a new web platform. In 2021, I was invited by the Centre's co-directors to submit a faculty funding bid to run a series of [REDACTED] events for student and general audiences. Working with a fellow PGR student, I won ~£8,000 of funding for the Centre's [REDACTED] series of five in-person, online, and hybrid events. I helped schedule a well-attended, illuminating series of events that attracted audiences beyond the academy.

I am also **committed to developing research and collaboration networks**. As co-organiser of the [REDACTED] reading group in 2021, I developed strong research relationships between [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]'s philosophy departments, as well as welcoming other interested researchers into the group. Through links developed through the reading group, I organised a one-day workshop in 2022 with colleagues working in this field. During my Master's in 2018, I organised my first research workshop on [REDACTED] at [REDACTED], welcoming postgraduate and senior researchers from inside and outside the [REDACTED] department. I contributed to the enhancement of research activities at Sheffield in my roles as co-organiser of [REDACTED]'s annual postgraduate philosophy conference in 2020 and the annual Minorities and Philosophy (MAP) lecture in 2021. The research strengths within [REDACTED] – in areas such as epistemic virtue, feminist philosophy, belief and rationality, as well as the project on [REDACTED] – are all directly relevant to my research. The opportunity to engage with fellow researchers in these areas and collaborate to develop these is an exciting prospect.

The research expertise and experience outlined here are just highlights that demonstrate my suitability for this role. My CV provides fuller details of my research, administrative, and teaching activities. Thank you for taking the time to review my application.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]