

Vacancy: Research Assistant (Part Time)

A vacancy is open for a part-time Research Assistant (RA) to assist a GRF funded philosophy research project 'How Proper Name Refers'. Details are as follows.

Project: 'How Proper Name Refers: Is Causal Descriptivism Defensible?'

Principal Investigator (PI): Dr Siu-Fan Lee, Hong Kong Baptist University

Project Description

This project studies causal processes involved in reference and intentionality. It focuses not only on the question of to *what* a proper name but *how* it refers. Empirical research is to be set up and conducted to examine causal and descriptive elements at every stage of a name-use practice, including initiation and transmission. They will then be used to revisit distinctions between semantics and meta-semantics, reference-fixing and meaning-giving, etc. It is expected that the results will provide fresh perspectives on philosophy of names.

This project adopts the methodology of experimental philosophy and is interdisciplinary in nature. Literature in philosophy, linguistics, psychology and cognitive sciences will be consulted. Keywords in philosophical discussions include causal theory of names, direct reference theory vs. descriptivism, aboutness, philosophy of mind, and knowledge of meaning.

Job description

Duties: This RA will work closely with the PI and participate in different stages of this project including literature review, questionnaire setting, information collection, verification and following up of results in surveys, analyses of questionnaires, argumentation and theory building. The post is suitable for candidates wishing to pursue an academic/research career. The research experience of this exciting and pioneering project will constitute solid proof for suitability of further studies in local or overseas universities.

Terms: This is a half time position (0.5 FTE, 20 hours per week). Salary is commensurate with qualification and working experience. The post is offered initially for 1 year and is possibly extendable upon mutual agreement and satisfactory performance. The job is available now and can commence from any time mutually agreed with the PI.

Requirement: Candidates must hold (or expected to hold soon) an undergraduate or MA degree in philosophy or a relevant discipline. Desire to pursue a postgraduate research degree (MPhil or PhD) is preferred. Interest in or knowledge of empirical research and statistical tools such as SPSS is advantageous. Suitable candidates may enrol to a research degree under the supervision of the PI (and apply for a separate studentship).

How to Apply

Interested parties please apply and send a CV to the PI directly. Application is accepted until the post is filled. The PI reserves the right not to fill the vacancies if no suitable candidate is available. The initial deadline for application is **31 March 2018**. Interested parties should apply before that date to allow full consideration. All enquires are welcome.

Email: sflee@hkbu.edu.hk

PI's website: http://rel.hkbu.edu.hk/info_siufan.html