

25th July 2024

Dear British Postgraduate Philosophy Association,

I would like to apply for both Democracy and Outreach Officer and Diversity and Inclusion Officer, because I would like to expand the profile of postgraduate philosophy and its relevance to science and politics, as well as increasing its accessibility to disabled and low income students. Without philosophy as a basis for the pursuit of unbiased truth and knowledge, both science and politics can be lead astray by ideological constraints and bias against truth-seeking studies and policy testing. Based on my experience as a disabled student from a single-parent household in London, I believe it is imperative that we bring previously unheard voices into the philosophy of science, medicine, psychiatry, biology and physics which may deeply further our understanding of ourselves and our place in the universe. Studying at Berkeley, University of California, solidified my passion for interdisciplinary studies, which are crucial for pooling the overall lessons from neuroscience, cognitive science, physics, evolutionary biology, philosophy, history, psychiatry, and AI. It is only by bringing these areas together that philosophy will maintain its standing as a crucial academic pursuit in the maintenance democracy. Philosophy has lost some relevance and viability in the global capitalist market, I hope that I can use my skills and unique life experience to build the relevance of philosophy to other subjects and academia as a whole.

If selected for Diversity and Inclusion Officer, I would be dedicated to creating access for disabled, low-income, and disadvantaged students, and making sure there are safe spaces for everyone, regardless of gender, sexuality, disability, race, political affiliation. We must cultivate a space free from fear of judgement, where all are able to safely participate and not be judged based on identity delineations frequently used instrumentally by those who do not understand their true relevance or implications for life outcomes. You should be judged on your expertise, and your desire to learn, not primarily your identity. Balancing the relevance (or not) of identity to knowledge is crucial to maintain the integrity of academia within a changing global world. The fallacy of groupism and group-think are phenomena that philosophy is uniquely able to shed a light on, that science and politics may find more difficult. Discrimination has no place in philosophy, academia or democracy, and there must be viable ways for students to voice legitimate concerns, without fear of judgement. We must increase the outreach and relevance of postgraduate philosophy to academia and industry, in order to train academics and the public at large to think for themselves and not fall victim to ideological capture. I believe I am qualified due to my volunteering work at UC Berkeley, my academic publications and recent presentation of my undergraduate research at the London Universities Philosophy Conference (at UCL) in March 2024.

I graduated from King's College London, and Berkeley, University of California in 2023, and am currently a Master's student in Philosophy at UCL, with interests in the philosophy of science, mind, psychiatry, and physics (including space and time, and quantum theory). Supervised by Professor Neil Vickers (co-director of the Centre for the Humanities and Health), my undergraduate dissertation '*The Prism of Time: contemporary perspectives in the philosophy, psychology and physics of time*' incorporated quantum/relativistic physics, neuroscience and evolutionary biology and recently won POLIS' *Matei Gheorghiu Prize* in Philosophy 2024. I presented my research at the London Universities Philosophy Conference (at UCL) in March 2024, and part of my dissertation is soon to be published in *POLIS* Vol. 2. — *Philosophers of London in Solidarity*. I have also had work published on Freud's death drive in *Wild Court*, as well as a paper on authenticity and adaptation in Sartre's 'Nausea' in UCL's *Phi Magazine* (Φ), and a paper '*The Digitalisation of Time*' published recently in *Bentham Digest* (UCL's philosophy journal). I recently attended the 'Philosophy and Psychiatry Summer School – Mind, Value, and Mental Health' at Oxford in July, further cementing my passion for the intersection of philosophy and neuroscience/

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medicine, which can have real world benefits to psychiatric understanding and practice. I would love to be considered for these two roles, it would be an immense honour to work with the Association to raise the profile of postgraduate philosophy globally, in academia and industry.

We desperately need a greater number of differing voices in philosophy, those across race, gender, physical ability, income, political affiliation, and sexuality, which will expand our knowledge of consciousness and our place in the universe; voices which can make links across science and the ideological spectrum towards a universal search for truth in the face of ignorance and confusion, that will hopefully find a place for both humanity and artificial intelligence without self-annihilation. I believe that philosophy should maintain its place within academia and society, if we are to make real progress answering tough questions that may help us to live better lives.

Thank you for your consideration,

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