Summer Institute on Practical Normativity: Reasons
Princeton, 3-16 August 2018

Call for Applications

OVERVIEW

Practical Normativity: Reasons is the first of three Summer Institutes that will take place over the next three years—at Princeton (2018), at ANU (2019), and at HU Berlin (2020)—funded by grants from the Princeton-Humboldt Strategic Partnership and the Australian National University. These Summer Institutes are intended to bring together faculty and students from all three participating institutions. They will cover problems in the general area of practical normativity, where this area includes, but is not limited to, questions about the nature of reasons; about how we are to distinguish between moral and non-moral reasons; about how conflicts between moral and non-moral reasons are to be adjudicated; about the nature and scope of requirements of rationality; and about the relationship between requirements of rationality and reasons. Practical Normativity: Reasons will take place on the Princeton campus 3-16 August 2018. Participation will be by application.

PARTICIPANTS

At the first Summer Institute, there are places for up to eight students from Princeton, six students from Humboldt, and six students from ANU. Those eligible to apply will be either MA or PhD students, or in exceptional circumstances, undergraduates. Those eligible to apply from Humboldt will additionally be HU students of ‘Philosophie’ or ‘Philosophie/Ethik’, or will hold a position or fellowship in the HU philosophy department. For students from Princeton, participation in the Summer Institute will count as taking a PHI 500 level course. For HU students, participation in the Summer Institute will count as having attended a ‘Hauptseminar’.

STRUCTURE

The aim is to have the Summer Institute focused on topics and readings that are of most interest to the participating students and faculty. After a welcome event in the evening on Friday 3 August 2018, the day students and faculty from Humboldt and ANU arrive in Princeton, there
will be two full five-day academic programs (Saturday 4 August – Wednesday 8 August, and Saturday 11 August – Wednesday 15 August) with a break of two days in between (Thursday 9 August and Friday 10 August). Each five-day program will be divided between literature reviews (3 x 2 hour sessions); student presentations on literature (3 x 1 hour sessions); student presentations of research (4 x 1 hour sessions); faculty-presentations of research (2 x 2 hour sessions); mentoring sessions (3 x 1 hour sessions); and individual supervision (3 x 1 hour sessions) as follows:

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<th>Days 1 and 6</th>
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<td>student presentations on literature</td>
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<td>individual supervision</td>
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APPLICATIONS

Applicants must submit (a) a proposal—half a page single spaced maximum—for a 30 minute talk on a relevant project that they would be willing to present if selected, and (b) the titles of 3-4 important papers from the current literature on reasons, broadly construed, that they wish to have discussed in a literature review session and about which they are willing to give a presentation.

These materials must be submitted to both Thomas Schmidt and Michael Smith: <T.Schmidt@philosophie.hu-berlin.de> and <msmith@exchange.Princeton.EDU>. On the basis of these proposals, and after consultation with other participating faculty, they will choose the students to participate in the Summer Institute and put together a detailed program. The aim, to repeat, is to reflect the specific research interests of participating students and faculty.

All participating students will have the cost of their meals covered during the Summer Institute. Students and faculty from Humboldt and ANU will also have their travel and accommodation costs covered by their respective institutions. Applications must be received by 21 January 2018. Successful applicants will be notified 1 February 2018.

Please do not hesitate to contact one of us if you have any questions.

Michael Smith
11 December 2017

Thomas Schmidt
11 December 2017