

FIRST CALL FOR WORKSHOP PARTICIPATION, EARLY CAREER RESEARCHERS

**NEUROPHILOSOPHY: THE STATE OF THE ART
THE FINAL MEETING OF THE McDONNELL PROJECT IN PHILOSOPHY & THE NEUROSCIENCES**

**CALIFORNIA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY, PASADENA, CALIFORNIA
18 – 20 JUNE 2005**

To honour the end of the McDonnell Project, there will be a final public conference and workshop, to be held at Caltech just prior to the 9th Annual Meeting of the Association for the Scientific Study of Consciousness (ASSC9). In keeping with the general aims of the McDonnell Project, the purposes of the conference and workshop are to facilitate collaboration between philosophers and neuroscientists, to communicate new research in neurophilosophy, and to encourage a new generation of researchers in this burgeoning and exciting field.

The McDonnell Project conference will be held from June 21st – June 23rd 2005. It will host a distinguished group of philosophers and neuroscientists, drawn both from within the Project and from the larger community, who will present their most recent research as well as speculating on the present and future prospects of neurophilosophy.

Prior to the McDonnell Project conference, from June 18th – June 20th 2005, there will be a 3-day workshop for early career researchers (senior undergraduates, postgraduates and junior postdocs) from both the neurosciences and philosophy. We expect to host 20-25 workshop participants. The workshop will be taught by a subset of the conference speakers, and will involve hands-on research at the new Caltech Brain Imaging Center.

Sessions will consist of seminars/tutorials of 2–4 hours duration. About half the sessions will take a theme from neurophilosophy, introducing the relevant philosophy and exploring work that exemplifies fruitful interaction between philosophy and neuroscience. The identified themes are: neural representation and computation, social neuroscience, neuropsychiatry, colour perception, theory building in neuroscience, and subjectivity and consciousness. The remaining sessions will be tailor-made for those with little or no experience in the methods of neuroscience. They will provide a brief overview of neuroscience, its history and techniques, the current state of the art, and future directions. A principal focus will be to consider which research questions can be fruitfully addressed using the current methods of neuroscience, and which await future developments.

Applications For Workshop Attendance

The McDonnell Project invites applications for workshop attendance by early career researchers (senior undergraduates, postgraduates, and junior postdocs).

We would like the specific content and direction of the workshop to be led primarily by the interests and goals of the workshop participants.

To this end, we invite submissions that must include:

- (1) a CV, which states clearly the applicant's present educational/academic level,
- (2) a summary of no more than 3 pages that states:
 - (a) A brief summary of your current research aspirations and plans.
 - (b) A specific suggestion for at least one topic of study. You should explain how this topic is of clear interest to both philosophy and neuroscience, with reference to some appropriate background literature in both philosophy and the neurosciences. Ideally, the applicant will add some brief comments about how this topic might lend itself to the kind of hands-on study to be conducted at this workshop (it is one goal of the workshop to show how philosophical theories can have empirically testable consequences for neural function). But those applicants without a strong empirical background are not expected to do so (nor will it harm their chances of acceptance).

Please Note: The purpose of the above application is to find out the specific interests of the potential applicants and to discern their general background knowledge of the topic, so that an appropriate topic (and level of explication) can be chosen. It is not the case that each participant will be working, individually, on his or her suggested topic at the workshop. Rather, given that the workshop spans only a few days, all participants will be discussing one focused subject and planning, together, an experiment in neuroimaging.

All submissions should be submitted as either MS Word or PDF files, attached to an email sent to Dr. Anthony Atkinson: a.p.atkinson@durham.ac.uk.

Deadline: Submissions should be received by Friday 18th March 2005.

Accommodation And Travel Expenses

For all those chosen to attend the workshop, the McDonnell Project will provide accommodation for up to 4 nights (Sat June 17th – Mon June 20th, inclusive) in student dorms at Caltech, and a contribution towards travel. Workshop attendees are expected to provide for their own meals (there are a number very good, affordable restaurants nearby).

Information about the McDonnell Project and the meeting's web site can be found at:

<http://www.sfu.ca/neurophilosophy/>

ASSC9 web site: <http://assc.caltech.edu/assc9/>

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