

Notice regarding the opening of a tender to select a candidate for the contracting of PhD researcher under the scope of the research project “Epistemology of Religious Belief: Wittgenstein, Grammar and the Contemporary World” – PTDC/FER-FIL/32203/2017

1. At a meeting of the Academic and Scientific Committee on October 24, 2018, it was decided to open tenders for the international selection of 1 PhD position to carry out research activities in the scope of the project “Epistemology of Religious Belief: Wittgenstein, Grammar and the Contemporary World” – PTDC/FER-FIL/32203/2017 supported by national funds inscribed in the budget of the Foundation for Science and Technology (FCT). The work contract will be by an indefinite period of time under the scope of the Portuguese Labour Code with a view to carrying out research activities specified by the Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities of the *Universidade Nova de Lisboa* (NOVA FCSH). The notice and the selection boards were approved on November 19, 2018, by the Rector of *Universidade Nova de Lisboa*.

2. Description of the position:

The project “Epistemology of Religious Belief: Wittgenstein, Grammar and the Contemporary World” aims to explore a Wittgensteinian framework in epistemology by focusing on religious belief. It concentrates on uses of the concepts of belief, certainty, conviction, doubt, holding for true, knowledge, opinion and proof as they are dealt with in the author’s later thought. The starting point is the idea that philosophy of religion is a privileged field to observe the complex relations between Wittgenstein’s early and later thought. From a Tractarian view of epistemology as philosophy of psychology to the remarks on hinge propositions in “On Certainty”, Wittgenstein’s views of epistemology changed and so did his approach to religious belief. In order to understand such change we will consider the idea of a “natural religion”, which exposes, with no theological apparatus, essential aspects belonging to human nature. We will also consider the question whether the notion of “form(s) of life” in the “Philosophical Investigations”, a key for understanding “culture”, is meant as a single one, proper to humanity, or rather as a diversity of “forms of life”. Since the rejection of historicity defended by Wittgenstein in matters of religion is strongly reminiscent of J. H. Newman’s “Grammar of Assent”, we will look at this text as a possible source for Wittgenstein’s conception of grammar. Since naturalizing approaches to religious belief carried out under the banner of “naturalism” raise the question of its meaning, we will finally assess how they relate to Wittgenstein’s viewpoint on cultural phenomena.

The PhD holder to be contracted will be part of the project team participating in the following research, management and dissemination tasks:

- (i) The Fundamental Concepts of Wittgenstein’s Religious Epistemology;
- (ii) Certainty and Religion;
- (iii) Hinge Beliefs and Religious Disagreement;

- (iv) Faith beyond Scepticism;
- (v) The Naturalness of Religious Belief.

The PhD holder to be contracted will be committed to write articles and book chapters at an international level within the framework of these tasks, which are to be included in a monograph to be published with an international publisher by the end of the project. He or she shall also teach a PhD seminar within the task "Certainty and Religion", as well as present papers in national and international scientific events, collaborate in the organization of activities of the project and participate in the dissemination of the project initiatives and in the preparation of activity reports.

3. The contracting of the PhD holder is to be carried out under the scope of Degree-Law No. 57/2016, of 29 August, amended by Law 57/2017, of 19 July, which approves a contracting regime of PhD holders designed to stimulate scientific and technical employment in all areas of knowledge (RJEC), and the Portuguese Labour Code, approved by Law No. 7/2009, of 12 February, in its current wording.

4. The PhD holder will be contracted for an indefinite period of time under the scope of the point b) of the number 1 of the article .6º of RJEC, ex vi, number 2 of article 18.º of RJEC, for a predictable period of 30 months that is equivalent to the execution of work related to the specific activities.

5. Under the terms of article 2 of Regulatory Degree No. 11-A/2017, of 29 December, the contracts to be awarded are remunerated according to remuneration level 33 of the TRU (Single Remuneration Table), corresponding to remuneration basis of 2.128,34 euros.

6. The Position of work will be at the premises of NOVA FCSH, Avenida de Berna No. 26 C, 1069-061 Lisbon Portugal, and/or other Positions necessary to carry out the research activities.

7. Tender applicants may be Portuguese, foreign, or stateless candidates who are holders of a PhD degree in Philosophy, or related areas, with a scientific and/or professional curriculum showing a suitable profile for the Position in the tender, namely a relevant curriculum in Epistemology or Philosophy of Religion and Wittgensteinian Studies.

Tenders must be proficient in spoken and written English language.

8. The selection of the PhD holder to be contracted will be carried out through assessing the academic and curricular vitae of the candidates for the Position in the tender. In general terms, this evaluation will concern relevance, quality and state of the art: **a)** Of the scientific, cultural and artistic production in the last five years considered most important by the candidate and connected with the Position in the tender; **b)** Of the research

activities carried out in the last five years and considered to have had the greatest impact by the candidate, connected with the Position in the tender; **c)** Of the activities regarding the extension and dissemination of knowledge carried out in the last five years, specifically in the context of promoting culture and scientific practices, considered of greatest importance by the candidates, connected with the Position in the tender.

9. The period of five years which is mentioned in the previous paragraph, may be increased by the selection board, at the request of the candidate when based on the suspension of scientific activity for socially protected reasons, particularly reasons involving paternity licence, long-term serious illness, and other legally protected situations of being unavailable for work.

10. The candidates will be selected by two methods: in the first phase the Curricular Assessment (CA) and in the second phase the Interview (I), with the following weights: CA 0-90 points and I 0-10 points. Only candidates with a grade of CA equal to or greater than 70 will move to the second phase (I).

11. The evaluation and ranking criteria for the candidates are the following:

a) The scientific production considered of greatest importance by the candidates, connected with the Position in the tender, namely books, book chapters, scientific articles in refereed journals, to be evaluated in terms of the intrinsic quality of the respective content (0 – 40 points);

b) Research activities considered of greatest importance by the candidates, connected with the Position in the tender, involving participation in research projects assessed by national and international entities; communications given at scientific meetings; editorial coordination; scientific refereeing activities (0 – 30 points);

c) Extension and/or dissemination activity considered of greatest importance by the candidates, connected with the Position in the tender, including the organization of scientific meetings; the issuing of opinions; studies and reports for public and private entities and civil society stakeholders; spreading of knowledge to extended publics; presentation of research results within the media (0– 20 points).

12. In accordance with article 13 of RJEC, the selection board is composed as follows:

Chairperson: Dr. Nuno Carlos da Silva Carvalho Costa Venturinha, Assistant Professor of NOVA FCSH

Permanent members:

Dr. Sofia Gabriela Morais Assis Miguens Travis, Associate Professor with Aggregation of the Faculty of Arts at the University of Porto

Dr. Modesto Manuel Gómez Alonso, Researcher at EIDYN, University of Edinburgh

Substitute member:

Dr. Alberto Miguel Antunes Arruda, Researcher at the Faculty of Letters at the University of Lisbon

13. The application process for the position mentioned above should be carried out using the documentation indicated below, under penalty of exclusion, and this should be submitted in digital form, namely in two *pen-drives*:

- a) Application form, available at <http://fcsch.unl.pt/faculdade/recursos-humanos/concursos/nao-docentes>, explicitly mentioning the tender procedure reference and the specific position being applied for;
- b) Copy of the PhD certificate and the curriculum vitae of the candidate, organized according to the systematic numbering of the number 11 of this Public Notice;
- c) Three publications considered most important by the candidate, connected with the position.

14. Applications, suitably and completed with the documents mentioned above, should be submitted within a period of 15 business days during working hours to NOVA FCSH counting from the day following the publication of this Public Notice in the Portuguese Official Gazette, *Diário da República*, or sent by mail with a stamped date of dispatch by the last day of the application period, to the following address: Faculdade de Ciências Sociais e Humanas, Avenida de Berna n.º 26 C, 1069-061 Lisbon, Portugal.

15. In the case of the PhD of the selected candidates has been conferred by a foreign higher education institution, the recognition of the referred degree must comply with the provisions of Decree-Law No. 341/2007, from October 12, and, under penalty of exclusion, any formalities established therein must be fulfilled up to the date of signature of the contract.

Lisbon, December 10, 2018

The Director, Prof. Doctor Francisco Caramelo