

## Research Assistant Position – Trinity College Dublin

Applicants are invited for the position of Research Assistant on a neurohumanities project supported by a Wellcome Trust Institutional Strategic Support Fund (ISSF) to Trinity College Dublin ([www.tcd.ie/Neuroscience/ISSF](http://www.tcd.ie/Neuroscience/ISSF)). The successful candidate will work at the intersection of the Trinity College Institute of Neuroscience and Trinity Long Room Hub Arts and Humanities Research Institute. This joint environment will provide a unique opportunity for interactions with neuroscientists, psychologists, engineers, computer scientists, historian, philosophers, and other scholars working in the humanities.

Researchers in neuroscience, cognitive science, psychology, artificial intelligence, linguistics, and philosophy of mind make routine reference to ‘representations’. However, the meaning of this term varies across these fields and its use is often vague or unhelpful. Reliance on such a concept results in miscommunication within the discourse on brain and mind. This project works toward a solution to this problem.

The Research Assistant will develop a coherent philosophical, historical, and scientific overview of the challenge that the reliance on representation poses to cognitive science, so as to be poised to help steer the project toward a solution. This includes scholarly work: traversing and synthesizing the literature on representation across the cognitive sciences, assisting in the creation of a taxonomy of different usages of the concept of representation, covering extensive assigned bibliographical material, and independently identifying relevant bibliographical material. It will also involve significant organizational work, including but not limited to the development of a database and the coordination of various meetings.

The successful candidate will be expected to traverse and synthesize the literature on representations across the cognitive sciences, assist in the creation of a taxonomy of different usages of the concept of representation in these fields, cover extensive assigned bibliographical material, independently identify relevant bibliographical material, set up and maintain a database of relevant bibliographical entries, searchable by author, year, discipline, sub-discipline, and ultimately content, coordinate communication with other contributors and institutions, organize meetings (online or possibly in person, including but not limited to conferences and workshops).

Qualified candidates must have, or expect to complete by summer 2021, a Bachelor’s or Master’s degree in a subject relevant to Cognitive Science: e.g. History and Philosophy of Science, Philosophy, Psychology, Neuroscience. Competitive applicants should show excellent writing and communication skills.

This is a 6 month position and it is envisaged that during that time the successful candidate will apply for funding to undertake a PhD in Psychology at TCD on the broad topic of this research project. Close mentorship will be available to support such an application. This position has a flexible start date, but will begin and be concluded before autumn 2022.

This project will be jointly supervised by Dr. Kevin Mitchell (Trinity College Dublin), Dr. Francis Fallon (St. John’s University, New York, USA), and Dr. Tomás Ryan (Trinity College Dublin). Applications including a cover letter, CV, and contact details for at least two referees should be made to [kevin.mitchell@tcd.ie](mailto:kevin.mitchell@tcd.ie), [fallonf@stjohns.edu](mailto:fallonf@stjohns.edu), and [tomas.ryan@tcd.ie](mailto:tomas.ryan@tcd.ie). Applications will be considered until **July 23<sup>rd</sup> 2021**.



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