***PREVIEW ONLY***

***QUERIES NOT ACCEPTED UNTIL GRANT PERIOD BEGINS SEPTEMBER, 2014***

**Request for Proposals (RFP): “The Self, Motivation, and Virtue”**

**RFP Announcement**

Marquette University, with a generous grant from the Templeton Religion Trust, is pleased to announce a request for proposals on the topics of “The Self, Motivation, and Virtue.” Approximately ten research proposals @ $190,000 each will be funded through this initiative. The grant competition has four primary aims:

1. To support innovative research on the self, motivation, and virtue.
2. To encourage methodological innovation in the study of the self, motivation, and virtue.
3. To encourage interdisciplinary team work, specifically between social science and humanities.
4. To support scholars new to the investigation of these topics or who have not received funding elsewhere. Research collaborations between younger and more established scholars are especially encouraged.

Research into character and virtue is often conducted by scholars from within a single disciplinary perspective – philosophers research by themselves, psychologists team up with each other, historians and anthropologists proceed from their own disciplinary perspectives. This disciplinary isolationism is not maximally productive of new knowledge about virtue. Greater insights into the self, virtue, and motivation can be achieved only by combining the talents of practitioners of different disciplines. To ensure that research funded by this proposal closes the disciplinary gap, funded research teams must meet the requirement of “deep integration.” By “deep integration,” successful teams will be comprised of at least one humanist and one scientist who are fully and equally invested in the research project from its inception to its completion. Ideally, research teams should be composed of humanists and social scientists who come from different traditions and bring different perspectives to bear on a research topic. The aim here is to encourage awardees to think outside of their own disciplinary perspectives, and to broaden their research horizons in ways conducive to creative collaborations and results. The progress of research terms will be monitored at regular intervals throughout the grant period to ensure that the requirement of deep integration is continuously met.

Awards are intended to support research from September 1, 2015 through May 31, 2017 (two academic years and one summer). Letters of intent are due no later than November 15, 2014 at 11:59 PM. Full proposals are by invitation only, and are due no later than June 15, 2015 at 11:59 PM. Further information is provided below, on our project website (provide address) and by contacting us by e-mail (provide project e-mail address).

**Research Questions**

Sir John Templeton intended to bring the prestige of science to bear on big questions. Accordingly, the “The Self, Motivation, and Virtue” initiative will open new avenues of research into virtue through two aims. The first aim is to encourage investigations of the self as the possessor of personality, motivation, and virtue, including views on the development of the moral self. The second aim is to stimulate methodological innovation that incorporates multiple disciplinary perspectives and goes beyond paper-and-pencil measures of personality. Meeting this aim requires that research teams move beyond traditional psychological measures, and that they meet the criterion of “deep integration” by being comprised of at least one scientist and one humanities scholar with full and equal investment in specific projects from inception to completion. Ideally, research teams will include members from differing scientific traditions.

Approaches to the study of character and virtue funded by the John Templeton Foundation (JTF), such as the Character Project, conducted through Wake Forest University, and the Science of Virtues Project, administered through the University of Chicago, consider personality to be foundational to character and virtue. These approaches see virtue as constitutive of character, and character, as a part of personality. The “The Self, Motivation, and Virtue” research initiative proposes to take the self, and not personality, as the appropriate framework for investigating virtue. Personological perspectives from psychology typically take no perspective at all on the nature of the self and assume that the class of character traits is coextensive with, or a subset of, the class of personality traits. Yet several noted theorists believe a meaningful distinction can be made between the self and personality, and that the self is the possessor of character traits or virtues, whereas the personality is the bearer of personality traits. The self, or characteristics thereof, is theorized as deeper than personality by the following philosophers and psychologists: Goldie (2004), Kristjánsson (2010), who in is some respects similar to Goldie (2004), Sripada (2010), Sripada and Konrath (2011), McAdams and Pals (2006), and McAdams (2006). They acknowledge that personality researchers study personality traits, but believe that character traits are to be found by studying the self. The distinction between character and personality is also documented in the work of historians Susman (2003) and Nicholson (1998). Other theorists, for example, Emde (et al., 1991), Rothbart and Bates (2006), Caspi (2000), Kochanska (et al., 2010) and Narvaez (2013) take developmental perspectives on the moral self.

A second idea that is central to the “The Self, Motivation, and Virtue” initiative is the notion that appropriate motivation is essential for genuinely virtuous action. It is a familiar idea from philosophers such as Aristotle (1985), who maintains that virtuous behavior proceeds from a firm and unchanging character state and is appropriately motivated. Many psychologists, however, rely on self-reports or behavioral measures to identify putatively virtuous *behavior*. These measures either do not probe into the motivations behind the behavior, as in purely behavioral measures, or do not probe in reasonably reliable ways, as in self-report personality surveys. Such measures miss an important dimension of virtue that has yet to be robustly explored in empirical research.

**Methodological Innovation**

Measuring virtue in scientific study is difficult but traditional survey measures may be the most likely to fail to get at the phenomenon. Behavioral measures by themselves do not yield information about subjects’ motivations for action. The classic Milgram study, for example, did not tell us why subjects either obeyed or disobeyed experimenters’ orders to shock “learners.” Instead, interviews of some participants subsequently offered insight into their moral reasoning. The Darley and Batson (1973) studies did not probe the motives of subjects who stopped to help the confederate who was slumped over and moaning, nor the motives of those who hurried past but made general assumptions about them. Additionally, although every method of data collection has its limitations, traditional paper-and-pencil measures, i.e., surveys, may provide the least insight into virtue. Completed in laboratory or office settings, surveys are removed from the habitat of daily life. Yet it is *in situ* – in the real world environment -- that researchers can learn most about how people are motivated when they act or fail to act virtuously. Consequently, an aim of this research initiative is to encourage methodological innovation in the study of virtue, to expand the resources of researchers’ “tool kits.” Others include the use of the iEAR, a recording device voluntarily worn by subjects, to record subjects’ conversations, allowing for subsequent analysis by researchers for virtue-relevant observations and remarks. Finally, computer simulations offer researchers creative ways of observing and tracking subjects’ reactions to realistically represented virtue-relevant scenarios. (The iEAR and computer simulations have been creatively used by psychologists whose research has been funded by “The Character Project,” a Templeton-funded program administered through Wake Forest University.) This RFP requires that awardees move beyond traditional self-report measures to include the use of the iEAR, computer simulations, projective tests, repertory grid, Q-sorting, think-aloud protocols, narrative analysis, autobiographical analysis or other methods in addition to self-report measures in the study of virtue.

**Deep Integration: Closing the Disciplinary Gap**

### Research into character and virtue is often conducted by scholars from within a single disciplinary perspective — philosophers research by themselves, psychologists team up with each other, and historians and anthropologists proceed from their own disciplinary perspectives. This disciplinary isolationism is not maximally productive of new knowledge about virtue. Greater insights into the self, virtue, and motivation can be achieved only by combining the talents of practitioners of different disciplines. To ensure that research funded by this proposal closes the disciplinary gap, we will require that funded research teams meet the requirement of “deep integration.” By “deep integration,” we mean that successful teams will be comprised of at least one humanist and one scientist who are fully and equally invested in the research project from its inception to its completion. Ideally, research teams should be composed of humanists and scientists who are rooted in different traditions and bring different perspectives to bear on a research topic. For example, a literary scholar and a physician could collaborate to explore the effects of chronic illness on the self and motivation and the growth or decline of virtue through patients’ narratives of their experiences with illness, treatment, recovery, pain management, and so on. An anthropologist and a theologian could collaborate on exploring the development of the religious self and concomitant virtues through the practice of culturally embedded rituals.

We will monitor the progress of research teams throughout the grant period to ensure that the requirement of deep integration is continuously met. It is all too easy for practitioners of a single discipline to conduct research from within the parameters of their disciplinary perspective, bringing in collaborators from other disciplines in an incidental or nominal manner. To prevent such lapses, we will require periodic reports from awardees in which they will state the contributions of each member of their team to their research efforts. Successful research teams will exhibit substantive and sustained interaction throughout the entire course of their funded activity. A good example of a product of such deeply integrated research collaboration is the article, “Telling More Than We Can Know About Intentional Action” (2011), co-authored by philosopher Chandra Sekhar Sripada and psychologist Sara Konrath. Their innovative collaboration brought the statistical method of structural path modeling to bear on Sripada’s Deep Self Model, yielding new empirical evidence for deep characterological dispositions. This is the kind of collaboration and methodological innovation we seek to stimulate. Letters of intent and full proposals should include detailed descriptions, in terms of approaches, activities, meetings, discussions, and methods, of how research teams will meet the deep integration requirement. This will require a commitment to being open to new ways of conceptualizing familiar ideas, to broaden methods for approaching problems, and to resolving conceptual and practical differences as teams move forward.

Teams should expect frustration, bafflement, and, possibly, infuriation. We require that team members “ride those reactions out” and stick with their commitment to working deeply and collaboratively with practitioners of other disciplines. This reflects our view that bafflement and frustration are “steps along the way” to deeper and more profitable levels of interdisciplinary collaboration. Funded researchers will be encouraged to view deep integration as a journey; we will support them through this journey via ongoing e-mail correspondence and conference interactions.

**Project Timeline**

Awards are intended to support research from September 1, 2015 through May 31, 2017 (two academic years and one summer). Letters of intent are due no later than November 15, 2014. Applicant teams who are selected from the first round of submissions will be expected to present their proposed projects at an interdisciplinary forum to be held at Marquette University in mid-March 2015. A core project team will decide which of the applicants will be invited to submit full proposals. Full proposals are due no later than June 15, 2015. Awardees will be notified no later than August 1, 2015. Awardees will be expected to present their work at conferences at Marquette University or The University of Notre Dame in mid-May, 2016 and early March 2017. Awardees will be expected to produce book manuscripts or articles for publication, and, upon invitation, to contribute an essay to a volume to be co-edited by the “Self, Motivation, and Virtue” project co-directors, Drs. Darcia Narvaez of The University of Notre Dame and Nancy E. Snow of Marquette University. They will also be expected to allow their research results to be digitally archived at Marquette University. Ideally, dissemination of awardees’ research results should also be made electronically via their personal websites.

**Key Questions**

1. How will your project advance research on the self, its development, motivation, and virtue in ways that differ from current research perspectives?
2. How will your project develop and use innovative methodologies for studying the self, its development, motivation, and virtue?
3. How will your project address the nature of the self or its relation to the self-concept, moral identity, and moral character? Whether the self is unified or fragmented? To what extent does the coordination or lack thereof of conscious and nonconscious processing affect the unity of the self and the prospects for the development of character? To what extent, if at all, are the cognitive and motivational constituents of the self sufficiently unified so that the self can possess a robustly virtuous character?
4. How will your project address to what extent conceptions of the self, character, and virtue from non-western philosophy and psychology can shed light on current western debates on these topics?
5. How will your project address the self’s relation to motivation? Whether appropriate motivation necessary for virtuous action or for the development of virtuous dispositions? How will your project shed light on which motivations are virtuous, how they develop, their strength and endurance, how they can resist corruption, how temptation can be resisted, the structure of virtuous motivation, nonconscious as opposed to conscious virtuous motivation, or other questions crucial to understanding how strongly virtuous character can be formed and sustained?
6. How will your project address theorized differences between personality traits and character traits?
7. How will your project address questions of how personality and character traits can interact or combine to hinder or help the development and sustenance of virtuous dispositions?
8. How will your project advance research on what McAdams (2006) calls the “characteristic adaptations” of the individual, that is, how individuals develop and express their own moral identities through virtuous behavior?
9. How will your project investigate the role of narrative in the construction of virtuous lives?
10. How will your project address developmental trajectories of how virtue and virtuous motivation emerge and are shaped over time?
11. How will your project address the social dimensions of virtue, for example, how virtuous motivation is elicited by, and taught and learned through, social interaction?
12. How will your project address the influence of social roles, institutions, and cultures on the development or inhibition of virtuous motivation?

**Application Instructions**

*Letter of Intent (LOI) Stage*

Letters of intent are due no later than November 15, 2014 at 11:59 PM. Applicants should submit materials via “The Self, Motivation, and Virtue” project website. They should include:

1. A complete curriculum vitae for the principal investigator and all major team members, with relevant publications and presentations bolded.
2. A letter of intent of 1,500 words that describes the project, its central questions, how it addresses the first two of the key questions listed above and two others, and how it will meet the requirement of deep integration. The letter of intent should be arranged according to the following headings: Executive Summary, Project Description, Central Questions, Key Questions, Deep Integration, Outputs/Results.
3. The amount of funding requested, not to exceed $190,000, with a brief explanation of how it will be used. This amount includes direct and indirect costs. Overhead is limited to 15%. Funds cannot be used for major equipment purchases.

An acknowledgement e-mail will be sent within five days of receipt of the LOI.

*Full Proposal Stage*

Full proposals are due no later than June 15, 2015 at 11:59 PM. Applicants invited to submit full proposals must include:

1. A cover letter with a descriptive project title, amount requested, not to exceed $190,000, duration of the project, and a list of team members, their institutions, fields, and roles in the project.
2. A 5,000 word project description (word count excludes bibliography). The description should include the central questions of the project, background and significance of the research, an explanation of how the research addresses the first two and at least two more of the key questions, an explanation of how the project will be methodologically innovative, project outputs, and potential long-term impacts of the proposed research. Further instructions about the headings of the project description will be made available at the invitation stage.
3. A 500-word abstract, suitable for laypeople, which can be used for publicity materials and posted on the project website if the project is funded.
4. A project timeline.
5. A detailed budget not to exceed $190,000. This includes direct and indirect costs. “No cost” extensions will not be granted. Brief explanations for line items should be included. A standard template will be provided for this. Overhead is limited to 15%. Funds cannot be used for major equipment purchases.
6. A separate budget justification narrative, expanding on the line item explanations given on the spreadsheet.
7. Co-signature of the prime institution’s authorized representative on the cover letter.

Full proposals should be submitted to the project website. An acknowledgement e-mail will be sent within five days. Awardees will be notified by August 1, 2015. Awards will begin on September 1, 2015.

**Grant Eligibility**

The PI must have a PhD and be in a contracted faculty position at an accredited college or university before the beginning of the 2015-16 academic year (exceptions will be considered on a case by case basis). The competition is international. Applicants may be involved in only one project in this competition. If an applicant is listed on two proposals and both are accepted, he or she must resign from one.

**Selection Criteria**

Proposals will be judged on how well they satisfy the following criteria:

* Relevance of the project to the key questions.
* Potential of the project for methodological innovation.
* Originality, interest, and level of complexity of the project.
* Overall coherence of the research plan.
* Whether the requirement of continuous deep integration will be met, given the plan of the project, i.e., use of scientific and humanistic perspectives in the research.
* Quality of the budget justification.
* Likely outputs (tangible products) of the project.
* Long-term impact of the project, i.e., potential of the project for contributing to knowledge about the self, motivation, and virtue.
* Feasibility of the project in the specified timeframe.
* Relevance to the project of the prior research of the PI and the research team, i.e., their capacity for successful completion of the project.
* Whether the research team’s resources, environment, and career goals are conducive to the success of the project.

**PI Commitments**

The PI of a funded project must:

1. Demonstrate continuous deep integration between humanities and scientific disciplines;
2. Submit quarterly progress reports, including interim and final expenditure reports;
3. Agree to the use of material from quarterly progress reports on the project website;
4. Attend the two conferences and present research; expenses for travel, housing, and meals will be paid by “The Self, Motivation, and Virtue” project. Awardees are expected to fly economy class;
5. Consent to the possibility of presenting a public lecture in the project lecture series;
6. Consent to the taping of their conference and lecture presentations for use in the project website and the creation of project DVDs;
7. If invited, submit a chapter-length article for inclusion in a co-edited volume of essays by Drs. Darcia Narvaez and Nancy E. Snow;
8. Notify the project of all conference presentations, books, and articles which arise from the funded research;
9. Follow Templeton Religion Trust and “The Self, Motivation, and Virtue” stipulations of the grant award as communicated to recipients.

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