



## Heterodox Academy Post-Doctoral Fellowships on Intellectual Pluralism

Heterodox Academy seeks to support up to three postdoctoral scholars at the HxA Center for Academic Pluralism in New York City.

A major new initiative of Heterodox Academy, the Center for Academic Pluralism will open and begin hosting scholars in September 2023. The mission of the Center is to explore the theoretical and empirical foundations for intellectual pluralism and share our findings with academics around the country. Why should professors welcome diverse perspectives—even challenging perspectives—in the classroom? How is inclusion compatible with intellectual rigor? What are the best objections to intellectual pluralism? How might we shift the ways intellectual pluralism is understood, discussed and operationalized in light of these objections?

Through the generous support of Templeton Religion Trust, the Center for Academic Pluralism at HxA will convene scholars across disciplines, institutions and institutional roles to make progress on questions like these.

Postdoctoral fellows will work in conjunction with HxA staff and faculty fellows – and alongside HxA members and affiliates in the New York City area – to conduct individual research projects, present and receive feedback on their work, write publicly about the issues related to their focus areas, enter into dialogue with intellectual rivals, convene other academics for collaboration, and distill their findings in an annotated bibliography that can serve as a resource for other scholars interested in the questions they explored over the course of their fellowship.

In addition to academic duties, Fellows are expected to share their work and perspectives in Heterodox Academy events and outlets, such as conferences, blog posts, and podcasts.

A core objective of this Fellowship program is to identify and develop the next generation of leaders in the movement for viewpoint diversity, open inquiry, and constructive disagreement in higher education. Fellows will be spotlighted in HxA's networks of scholars, partner organizations and affiliates in order to help accelerate their career and advance their work.

This opportunity is intended for Heterodox Academy members. If you are interested in this position and are not yet a member of HxA, we invite you to [join](#).



## Fellowship Selection and Criteria

Applicants must hold a doctoral degree obtained within the last five years. Exceptional pre-doctoral candidates can also be considered, provided they are at the ABD stage and/ or with permission from their doctoral advisors.

The ideal candidate should have a solid track record of original research and/or public engagement. Candidates must also propose a scholarly project with a clear focus on academic or intellectual pluralism. A partial list of questions or themes that projects might speak to include:

- What are the ethical obligations of research and teaching in a pluralistic context?
- What are the cognitive obstacles to rational inquiry, especially with regards to controversial topics?
- Why do we disagree about important topics? How does disagreement become acrimonious? How can these disagreements be rendered less acrimonious?
- If and how can disagreement, even on sensitive or highly-charged topics, be effectively leveraged in the service of producing and disseminating knowledge (and other institutional objectives)?
- What role can or should religion play in ostensibly secular institutions and fields of inquiry?
- Does secularism create space for different worldviews to co-exist and constructively engage with one-another, or does it implicitly and perhaps inevitably denigrate religious, spiritual or otherwise non-secular forms of knowing? How and to what extent can there be religious pluralism without secularism?
- Is it possible to truly take religion and its accompanying metaphysical, moral and epistemological commitments seriously within a secular context? How, to what extent, and in what senses?
- How do institutions and incentives shape scholarly practice?
- How can academic institutions and norms be changed effectively?
- To what extent do shared goals and superordinate identities facilitate or impede the expression of dissent or constructive disagreement?
- How, under what circumstances and to what extent do different forms of diversity enhance or present challenges for research, teaching, learning and cooperation?
- What does quantitative evidence reveal about the contemporary state of intellectual pluralism in higher education institutions?

The primary selection criteria are as follows:

- Originality, quality, and relevance of applicant's proposed project to intellectual and/or academic pluralism



- Demonstrated ability to conduct research and perform other academic tasks substantiated by the candidate's previous track record of original research and publications
- Availability and willingness to actively participate in the academic life of the Center for Academic Pluralism, including a commitment to be physically present in New York City during the tenure of the postdoctoral fellowship – either residing in the city or regularly commuting – for weekly meetings and regular work time.
- Practical or professional experience working on issues related to political, religious, or other forms of pluralism may also be considered an asset.

### Application Process

Review of applications will begin immediately and appointments will be made on a rolling basis. The deadline for receiving applications is **March 17, 2023**.

Only electronic applications will be accepted. Please e-mail the following documents to [fellowships@heterodoxacademy.org](mailto:fellowships@heterodoxacademy.org) with the subject line, "Application: Heterodox Academy Post-Doctoral Fellowships."

- Curriculum Vitae (CV)
- Cover letter
- Research proposal (four pages maximum)
- Transcript of doctoral studies
- At least one writing sample (from peer-reviewed publications, if possible)
- Names of three referees who may be invited to send letters of reference

Please send any questions to [fellowships@heterodoxacademy.org](mailto:fellowships@heterodoxacademy.org).

### Salary & Benefits

Fellows appointed for a full-time nine-month appointment will be expected to begin on September 5, 2023. These appointments will include an award of \$75,000 that can be used for course buyouts to supplement or replace Fellows' existing salaries.

Postdoctoral fellows will also receive a comprehensive benefits package including:

- Medical, dental, vision, life and disability insurances;
- A significant health insurance contribution for employees and their families;



- Additional tax-deferred savings opportunities, such as pre-tax deductions and FSAs;
- Unlimited paid time off, provided the employee is in good standing;
- A demonstrated commitment to the ongoing training and development of each employee, supporting ongoing professional skills development.

For those unable to commit to a full academic-year appointment, individual semester and short-term appointments may also be available at a prorated rate. Applicants should state their preference and availability at the time of application.

Renewal is possible after a Fellow's initial term has concluded but cannot be guaranteed.

### About Heterodox Academy

Heterodox Academy is a New York City-based nonpartisan nonprofit that works to improve the quality of research and education by promoting viewpoint diversity, open inquiry, and constructive disagreement across higher education. The HxA membership is made up of more than 5,600 faculty, staff, and students who come from a range of institutions — from large research universities to community colleges. They represent nearly every discipline and are distributed throughout 49 states and across the globe.

### About Templeton Religion Trust

Templeton Religion Trust (TRT) is a global charitable trust chartered by Sir John Templeton in 1984 with headquarters in Nassau, The Bahamas. TRT has been active since 2012 and supports projects as well as storytelling related to projects seeking to enrich the conversation about religion. Their aim is to improve the well-being of individuals and societies through spiritual growth and an ever-improving understanding of spiritual realities and spiritual information.