

Applications are invited for a PhD scholarship to be funded as part of the ARC Discovery project DP1095109 *Embodied Virtues and Expertise*, to begin in early 2010. The scholarship is valued at \$21,000 per annum (tax free and indexed annually) and may be renewed. The successful candidate will be based at the University of Wollongong in the School of English Literature and Philosophy.

The Project brings together for the first time two major areas of contemporary research: embodied cognition and virtue epistemology. Providing a theoretical framework that successfully explains expert performance. The Project will also account for the virtues of expert performers in different fields. An important outcome of the project is to develop an understanding of the relationship between embodied knowledge, reliable cognitive traits, and the ability to reflect upon performance and cognitive character.

The project aims to: investigate a number of fundamental questions concerning the abilities of experts to conduct fluid and flexible skilled activity in real time. To achieve this we will focus on developing an account of expertise by:

A. Giving an embodied account of cognitive skills and abilities that draws on recent work in cognitive science and the philosophy of cognitive science;

B. Synthesizing the embodied account of expertise with recent work on the cognitive virtues that sees reliable cognitive traits as constituting the ability to conduct some activity well. The synthesized position is dubbed ‘the embodied virtues’.

C. Applying this notion of embodied virtue to recent work in the philosophy of education that yields an account of developing and evaluating expertise not just by training, but also by developing the discursive and narrative abilities of students to evaluate and analyse their skills and explain how they would apply them in a range of different situations.

The project will be led by the philosophers Richard Menary, David Simpson, Shaun Gallagher, Dan Hutto and Christopher Winch.

Applicants should have an appropriate Honours 1 or 2A (or equivalent) undergraduate degree or an MA in philosophy and should have research interests central to the project.

Please contact Dr. Richard Menary for further details rmenary@uow.edu.au