

Dear Colleagues,

The [Human Nature and Potentials Lab](#) in the Department of Psychology at the University of Chicago (PI: Fan Yang) is recruiting a Postdoctoral Scholar. Our lab studies existential cognition—a mode of thinking through which individuals engage with life’s big questions and make sense of the nature, significance, and direction of life as a temporally integrated whole. This perspective is reflected in our research across diverse topics such as meaning, happiness, morality, and the sense of self.

This is a one-year term position with the possibility of annual renewal for up to four years, contingent on satisfactory performance and continued funding. The start date is as early as June 1, 2026. Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis until the position filled.

**Required Qualifications:**

- PhD in cognitive science, social psychology, developmental psychology, experimental philosophy, or a related field
- Strong quantitative research training and experience (e.g., multilevel modeling; experimental and correlational designs)
- Strong interest in the lab’s research questions, especially those concerning existential and moral questions

**Preferred Qualifications:**

- Experience with or strong willingness to learn advanced research techniques and methodologies, such as natural language processing (NLP), computational modelling, machine learning etc.
- Demonstrated interest in theoretical and conceptual questions and analysis
- Experience with or interest in design-based research, including developing web-based or game-based interventions
- Experience conducting research with diverse populations beyond online samples (e.g., children, adolescents, cross-cultural research)

**Application Materials:**

To apply, please send the following materials to Dr. Fan Yang ([fan.yang@uchicago.edu](mailto:fan.yang@uchicago.edu)):

A CV, a one-page cover letter describing your primary research interests, two pieces of writing you are most proud of, and contact information for three references.