

Dear Colleagues,

The [Human Nature and Potentials Lab](#) in the Department of Psychology at the University of Chicago (PI: Fan Yang) is recruiting a full-time Postdoctoral Scholar.

Our lab studies existential cognition—the cognitive processes 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 informs our research across diverse topics such as meaning, happiness, morality, and the sense of self. We aim to advance the emerging science of existential cognition by developing and applying rigorous cognitive science approaches to these foundational questions. The position offers substantial intellectual freedom and opportunities to help shape the direction of this emerging research area.

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 is filled.

Required Qualifications:

- PhD in cognitive science, social 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, particularly existential and moral questions

Preferred Qualifications:

- Experience with advanced methodological approaches, such as natural language processing (NLP) and computational modelling
- Demonstrated interest in theoretical and conceptual questions and analysis
- Experience with, or interest in, design-based research (e.g., web-based or game-based interventions)

Application Materials:

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

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