



FACULTY OF ARTS

Adelaide Summer Research Scholarship 2020-2021

Time and Change

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Things change. A candle was tall when it was first lit. Now, it is merely a stub. Change however poses a puzzle. The changing candle must be the **same** (otherwise we wouldn't have change, but replacement of one candle by another). But the changing candle must also be **different** (otherwise we would have constancy, not change). It might seem mere wordplay to point out the tension between 'the candle is the same' and 'the candle is different' here, but it is surprisingly difficult to give a coherent account of what is going on in cases of change. One popular idea is to appeal to the notion of temporary truth: that it IS true that the candle is a stub, but now it merely WAS true that the candle was tall, and it merely WILL BE true that the candle has gone out.

In this summer research project, a student will engage with the scholarly literature on the problems of time and change under the supervision of a faculty mentor, and alongside postgraduate students working on related topics. The first part of the project will involve the student developing a literature review covering some key recent developments in the field. The second part of the project will involve the student contributing to the development of research manuscript(s) in the field, by offering critical feedback and editorial advice, drawing on their overview of the contemporary literature.

This project will be suitable for an upper level student, ideally with some background in philosophy, logic, or mathematics. The project is associated with Antony Eagle's ARC-funded Discovery Project 'Everything in its Place: Location, Persistence, and Change'. There may be opportunities to continue in honours or postgraduate work on this topic if the project is successful.

The student will gain the following research skills and experience;

- Work on an existing competitive grant
- Develop and refine an ability to search for and access publications on a research topic
- Evaluate data and publications to determine which literature makes a noteworthy contribution to scholarship
- Read and analyse sources
- Write a coherent narrative that synthesizes noteworthy sources
- Develop skills of academic writing through critical engagement with work in progress

- Develop discipline-specific knowledge on the topics of time and change sufficient to make a critical contribution to the evaluation of work in progress