

Professor Tim Andrews

6 November, 2021

HEAD OF DEPARTMENT
DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY
UNIVERSITY OF YORK

Application for the Lectureship in Psychology

Dear Professor Andrews,

I write in application for the Lectureship in Psychology (ref. 9852) in your department.

I am currently an associate professor in the Faculty of Psychology at the Universidad El Bosque (Colombia), an institution to which I have been linked since 2015. Previously I have been a lecturer at Universidad de La Sabana (Colombia; 2015-2016) and Universidad Pedagógica Nacional (2010), as well as a recognised lecturer in psychology at the University of Stirling (2011-2014). I have a PhD from the University of Stirling (Psychology, School of Natural Sciences; 2014), MSc in Evolutionary Psychology from the University of Liverpool (School of Biological Sciences; 2009), and BA in Music Pedagogy from the Universidad Pedagógica Nacional in Bogotá, Colombia (2006).

My main research interests focus on the evolutionary study of human behaviour and lie at the interface between biology and psychology. As you will see from my curriculum vitae, I am interested in understanding the social effects of different biological cues, and especially interpersonal perception through auditory channels. In particular, my research on vocal modulations is pioneering and has been widely recognised by international media. Although I have mostly focused on mate choice and courtship, I have also worked on vocal, facial and morphological cues and perception of dominance, sex-typicality and health. I am also interested in the basis of human musicality and its various social roles, as well as the effects of hormone levels on human social behaviour. I have successfully published my research in high quality journals: to date, I have 24 published or accepted articles in peer-reviewed journals, including 3 articles in a two-part theme issue focusing on voice modulation for *Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society B*, for which I am the lead editor.

Over the last few years, I have been actively engaged in the dissemination and application of quantitative analytical techniques and state-of-the-art methodological approaches to foster reproducibility and replicability and, especially, to reduce the gaps in production and access to scientific knowledge, a phenomenon I know and have experienced first-hand. This has been reflected in my work as a methodological and statistical advisor, in the redesign of statistics modules, in the voluntary introduction and updating of teachers and students to R programming, and in the dissemination of good practices in quantitative research and open-source software through videos in Spanish, a language in which I found that high-quality, up-to-date and accessible sources are scarce.

I also have professional training as a pedagogue, and teaching experience at all levels (from pre-school to postgraduate), both in Colombia and in the UK. At the National Pedagogical University of Colombia (2010), I was in charge of the methodological supervision of several undergraduate research projects, and I was a member of the Research Committee, where I participated in the definition of the lines of research and the guidelines for undergraduate research. At the University of Stirling (2011-2014), I led several research projects in psychoacoustics with undergraduate students, gave masterclasses and seminars on vocal communication (in animals and humans), gave masterclasses and workshops on statistics and was in charge of statistical support for students of the different masters in psychology, supervised a master thesis, and gave practical courses on acoustics and human voice research, and technical workshops on the use of specialised software (Praat). At the Universidad de La Sabana (2015 - 2016) I designed and taught statistics subjects

and supervised the methodological aspects of several undergraduate research papers.

In addition to this experience, in my seven years at Universidad El Bosque, I have accumulated extensive administrative and teaching experience. I have been the organiser of 9 modules, I sit on two Faculty committees, and I am the leader of the research group Cognitive Processes and Education, and as such I have been in charge of the periodic calls for recognition and measurement of research groups by the Colombian Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation (Minciencias). At a time of significant changes in the University, loss of teaching staff and decrease in resources, I have overseen structural changes in teaching, encouraging the move to the use of open-source software. My contributions in this regard were recognised (in addition to my research outputs) with my promotion to Associate Professor in 2019. These initiatives proved invaluable when the changes and economic pressures on the Faculty were exacerbated by the global crisis due to COVID-19. Because of this, since the onset of the pandemic, I have also advised and supported a team of staff to ensure the continuity of high quality and innovative teaching using technological tools.

I am very excited about the prospect of joining the Department of Psychology at York. I believe I would benefit from interacting with colleagues with more complementary research interests than I currently have in a Faculty of Psychology that does not offer research degrees, and a University that does not focus on research, where my possibilities for internal collaboration are hence limited, and in a country where my options for obtaining funding are extremely restricted. I already work with colleagues from several countries, including the UK, Czech Republic, France, Brazil, Mexico and Colombia, but I see benefits and opportunities for broader collaboration with other colleagues in the Language, Memory and Cognition (with my interests in the evolution of musicality and its relation to language in mind) and Vision and Face Perception groups.

I am confident that I meet all the specifications of this lectureship in terms of qualifications, knowledge, skills, experience, and personal attributes. If appointed, I would like to build a research group in a new and vibrant environment, and I hope to contribute to the teaching of quantitative methods at undergraduate level, and to contribute to teaching in one or more of the master's programmes. My teaching record shows that I am capable of doing so.

I hope that my application will be of interest to you, and I look forward to hearing from you in due course.

Yours sincerely,



Juan David Leongómez

Attached: Curriculum Vitae