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RE: Application of John Doe

Dear Hypatia,

I am writing to strongly support the application to your program of John Doe. I have known John for 3 years in my capacity as Professor at SciencesPo Paris before I moved to Turin, as well as in my role as Data Editor for the RES journals EJ and EctJ, where John is a member of my team. That is to say, I know him much better than I would know the average graduate student.

Let me start out with John as my student at SciencesPo. He sat and performed exceedingly well in both of my graduate courses Introduction to Programming and Computational Economics. The first of those lays the foundations that are needed to become a successful researcher/datascientist nowadays, while the second course takes those as given and teaches students how to deal with economic models which are non-trivial to compute. You will see that the material is quite comprehensive and is what I think the standard toolkit of any successful researcher in social sciences should contain. I start from basically zero, but I expose students a lot of material in relatively little time, trying to keep everyone on board, and John has done great not getting discouraged, and indeed came top of the class in both instances.

I also talked about research ideas with John. He has an interest in Urban Economics, my own field, and we discussed his idea for a master thesis, which would analyse house price responses in Poland caused by influx of Ukrainian refugees in recent times; This represents an enormous housing demand shock, and John was very productive in chasing up interesting datasets, which helped him tackle this question. I highly recommended him last year as a collaborator for the ERC project RUSTDEC headed by Andre Groeger at UAB, and his application was successful. John is currently working

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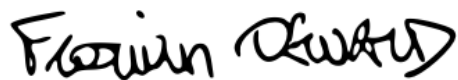🏠 https://floswald.github.io
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in the realm of that project on a large array of geospatial data with cutting edge tools, spanning R, python, Julia and stata. I am convinced that this is an outstanding opportunity to do frontier research and that John benefits greatly from the experience.

Let me now move on to describe John as one of my replicators at the RES reproducibility organisation, which I manage. We check that each paper accepted for publication in the Economic Journal (EJ) and the Econometrics Journal (EctJ) is reproducible. I have relied, and I keep relying, on the painstaking and technically very demanding work of John in his role as one of my most senior replicators. He is clearly part of a small group of highly skilled replicators, very responsive, eager to tackle hard packages (which could mean, for instance, to learn from basic FORTAN to run some package - which was his case), and with a great capacity to quickly analyse very complex problems. Based on my experience with him in this role alone, I can highly recommend John for any econ graduate program out there, including the very best. You can infer that, taken together with my experience with John as a grad student at SciencesPo, my recommendation is that much stronger still.

I am excited to see what John will be up in the future, I know with a very high degree of certainty that he has all the relevant skills for a top graduate student. I am happy that I was able to have him in class and on my team of replicators. I assure you that he would make a great addition to your graduate program, and I urge you not to miss this opportunity.

Please do not hesitate to get in touch with any further questions.

Best wishes,

Florian Oswald