

### *Statement of Intent* (Sheung Tak Lam)

There are multiple ways in which pursuing this project will help my career as a philosopher. First of all, for the most part, my philosophical work has been independent, let alone interdisciplinary collaboration. Although independent research has been the dominant form of work in philosophy, there is no reason for thinking that it has to be that way or it is better that way. Whereas there are projects that are for independent research, I believe there are plenty of projects that require interdisciplinary work. And I am of the opinion that working on this project can equip me with the valuable experience to pursue even more interdisciplinary work in the future.

Secondly, the problem of free will has been one of the most important topic in philosophy. I am developing several research projects on human agency lately. And I am going to teach a summer course on free will at UVa. One approach to understanding autonomy is based on the idea that genuine free actions are actions that somehow come from our deeper self, deeper commitments. And it is an important step towards understanding the nature of free will for us to find a proper conceptual framework to think about this idea of a deeper self in an illuminating way. This collaboration gives me a perfect platform to do that.

Finally, I will be on the academia job market. And from what I can see, there is a relatively strong need for applied ethics out there. My research focus has been exclusively theoretical. Whereas theoretical works that lay conceptual foundations are important, I think it will help improve my position in the job market significantly if I can begin to do some applied work in philosophy towards the end of my training at UVa, even if it is just some baby steps. I believe that working on this project we propose will be a significant step towards that direction for my career.