Dear Members of the Search Committee:

I am writing to apply for the Postdoctoral Fellowship in Microeconomics at the Amsterdam School of Economics beginning in fall 2016. I am currently a doctoral candidate at the University of Connecticut and fully expect to complete my PhD requirements by May 2016. I am extremely interested in the postdoctoral fellowship position at the Amsterdam School of Economics, where I hope to continue my research on behavioral and experimental economics (especially the study of corrupt collaboration), contribute to the school’s focus on economics education, and engage in other professional activities.

My main research interest is behavioral and experimental economics. Specifically, my work has focused on behavioral game theory. In my dissertation, I employ laboratory experiments to examine the effect of individual characteristics on belief formation and decision-making. In particular, I look at the mechanism that causes corrupt collaboration in laboratory bribery games. I also contribute to experimental methodology by looking at how the interaction between individual real-life experience and the experimental framing affects people’s decisions. With insights gathered from the laboratory experiments and the psychology literature, I further extend my dissertation to examine how individual characteristics influence people’s decisions and outcomes in real life. A central emphasis of my research is to bridge economics and psychology, investigating how certain mental rules of thumb, cognitive biases, individual differences, and interpersonal relationships lead to individual judgments and decisions that deviate from theoretical, optimal decisions. I am excited to continue my research at the Amsterdam School of Economics and then to expand its potential with the support of the department faculty.

Since March 2015, I have initiated a long-term research program with scholars from the United States (Harvard University), Canada (University of Waterloo), and China (Jianghan University). We aim to explore how individual characteristics and institutional factors jointly affect corrupt activities both in a laboratory experiment and in real life. This goal is perfectly in line with the objective of the “root of corruption” project. We will conduct a series of experiments in colleges from different countries. I hope to collaborate with colleagues at the Faculty of Economics and Business – Amsterdam School of Economics to grow this program in the future.

During my graduate training, I have built my confidence and developed a genuine interest in teaching. I enjoy working directly with students inside and outside the classroom. At the core of my teaching philosophy is my principal goal, which is to foster careful, independent, and critical thinking in each and every member of my classroom community. I have taught a variety of courses in economics, including intermediate microeconomics, intermediate macroeconomics, introductory econometrics, and game theory; I am committed to undergraduate education. In addition, I have served as tutor for the PhD preliminary exam. I am qualified to teach graduate-level microeconomics and game theory. In addition, I look forward to the opportunity to develop new courses that relate to behavioral and experimental economics.

I am enclosing my curriculum vitae, job market paper, and research statement. Letters of recommendation will arrive under separate cover. I will gladly provide any other supporting materials upon request. I will be attending the ASSA annual meeting in San Francisco next January and would be happy to meet with you there at your convenience. Thank you for your consideration. I look forward to hearing from you.

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