

To the Members of Senior Committee of UBIAS Intercontinental Academia,

During the past seven years, my main research focus has turned to the question of how time figures in our experiences, perception and cognition. I approach these issues within the framework of neurophilosophy—philosophy of mind drawing from psychology and neuroscience—and thus I mostly concentrate on the conceptual issues of the philosophy and psychology of time. Nevertheless, I also have first-hand experience of the experimental psychology on time perception from studies involving time perception in a normal population, in children with developmental disorders and during altered states of consciousness. Due to the nature of the UBIAS Intercontinental Academia Project on "Time", I believe it would be highly relevant and very valuable for my current research interests.

My main motivation to be a part of the project is, however, the anticipated opportunities this interdisciplinary project provides: to extend my understanding and knowledge of how time is understood and conceptualized in other fields and cultures. That is, as my research focus on time has included the metaphysics of time, time consciousness and time perception, my familiarity with many significant topics are limited. In particular, I find the issues of how time and temporal aspects structure social situations, how they are manifested in different cultures (e.g. is time in front of us or behind, or even tied to a north/south axis), and how the perspective on time alters our understanding of the past and future events exceedingly fascinating. From my perspective, the envisaged project appears to provide an ideal opportunity to work towards these topics. Given the significant effect of cognitive neuroscience on my philosophical work thus far, such an opportunity is likely to help me broaden my research on time to new topics.

Finally, it is also a wish of mine to contribute towards the objectives of the envisaged project per se by familiarizing others in the conceptual issues concerning time in philosophy and in psychology. Given my excellent command of these issues as well as my proven ability to do fruitful research in an interdisciplinary context, I am confident of being able to do this, and to generally facilitate discussions between participants from different backgrounds.

Thank you for your time and consideration of my application to the UBIAS Intercontinental Academia Project.

Valtteri Arstila, PhD