December 2014

Dear hiring committee,

I am writing to apply for the one-year Visiting Assistant Professor position at Union College. I am currently an ABD philosophy student at The City University of New York Graduate Center. I received my Master’s Degree in philosophy at University of Missouri-St. Louis. I am writing my dissertation, “Problems, Puzzles, and Paradoxes for a Moral Psychology of Fiction”, under the supervision of Jesse Prinz. My dissertation develops a comprehensive moral psychology of fiction. In the process, I propose original theories of social cognition, emotions, and moral judgments for both fictional and real-life contexts. Two chapters from the dissertation are forthcoming in special editions of *Mind* and *Inquiry* and the other chapters are in the final stages of preparation. I expect to defend my dissertation in February 2015.

My research lies at the intersection of aesthetics, philosophy of mind, and moral psychology. This work is quite interdisciplinary, incorporating a variety of research methods from philosophy, psychology, and neuroscience. My primary interest is in the nature of emotions and their significance to different aspects of our social and moral lives. I have two papers on emotions currently under review, one on unconscious feelings (“Feeling and Function”) and one on affective responses to pure-instrumental music (“Experiencing Sounds in Time,” coauthored with Adriana Renero). I also have a commentary published in *Behavioral and Brain Sciences* (2012) and papers published on art and emotions in *Contemporary Aesthetics* (2011) and *Erkenntnis* (2014; coauthored with Wesley Buckwalter).

I am prepared to teach both courses in the philosophy of mind, philosophy of art, and ethics. I am also capable of teaching modern philosophy courses and introductory logic courses. I have taught introductory philosophy and philosophy of art courses at three schools: University of Missouri-St. Louis, Brooklyn College, and the College of Staten Island. I will be teaching an introductory ethics course at Western Connecticut State University during the Spring 2015 semester. Each of my introductory philosophy classes heavily emphasize epistemology, including historical perspectives I currently participate in the Writing Across the Curriculum (WAC) department at Brooklyn College, a program dedicated to improving the quality of student writing in all disciplines. My experience with the WAC program has helped me to develop my writing-intensive, discussion-based teaching philosophy. I believe that this teaching approach would benefit the Union College students in developing their individual writing voices.

Each of the schools at which I have taught boasts a widely diverse student body. Exposure to my students’ rich cultural backgrounds has cemented my commitment to intellectual tolerance and respect. Part of my dedication to academic diversity and tolerance involves promoting the representation of women in academia. I am proud of my work with the Society for Women in Philosophy, Analytic (SWIP-Analytic), of which I am a founding organizer. SWIP-Analytic is dedicated to promoting the women philosophers in the New York area. I would be very interested in continuing this program while at Union College.

I am particularly excited to continue my academic career at Union College. I thrive in front of a classroom of new students; I believe that the department’s emphasis on teaching closely aligns with my academic goals. I hope that my interdisciplinary research and teaching approaches would be a valuable addition to the Union College philosophy department.

Please contact me for more information, or visit my website (tullmann.commons.gc.cuny.edu). Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Katherine Tullmann

katherine.tullmann@gmail.com