

MUNI Award in Science and Humanities JUNIOR

Declaration of Masaryk University economic unit of its readiness to hire the applicant and to create conditions for independent research

Host economic unit of MU: Faculty of Science, Department of Mathematics and Statistics

Applicant: John Denis Bourke

Declaration of the economic unit: Faculty of Science

- In the last decade, the Department of Mathematics and Statistics initiated numerous activities aiming at broadening and strengthening the scope of its research portfolio and international collaboration, both in the fundamental research and application driven areas. Several calls attracted attention of dozens of internationally established young researchers with the potential of emerging future leaders and we were able to proudly offer permanent positions to a few.
- One of them, John Denis Bourke, joined the department three years back. He works in Category Theory which is nowadays strongly driven by potential applications in Mathematical Physics and Computer Science and he received his PhD in 2011 in Sydney, Australia, perhaps the world's-strongest group in this area, supervised by Stephen Lack, a widely known celebrity. As a postdoc, he already spent a few years at our department, then returned to Sydney, and we were most happy to see his interest to return to a permanent position at the Department of Mathematics and Statistics. He is about to submit his habilitation and his contract will become permanent in January 2021.
- Looking at his track record from recent years (displaying some ground-breaking results in journals like Advances in Mathematics) and the high potential of his research area within the ERC funded projects, I strongly believe that John Denis Bourke needs some experience in leading his own team and to prepare for an ERC consolidator grant carefully. During his few years with us, he has already attracted the best of our students in Mathematics and two of them have enrolled into doctoral study supervised by him, whilst another is now supervised by Martin Markl, the holder of the Praemium Academiae Award of the Czech Academy of Sciences (2018).
- In view of all the potential and the achievements of John Denis Bourke described above, I see the MASH project as an opportunity for further fast track in his development. Furthermore, the Department of Mathematics and Statistics is ready to co-finance the MASH Junior award, if successful, and help John Denis Bourke to build a solid team before applying for the ERC grant. The department also offers all relevant infrastructure and further support for such development.

I hereby confirm that the applicant John Denis Bourke will be employed at Faculty of Science, Department of Mathematics and Statistics.

The approval of Dean of Faculty of Science, doc. Mgr. Tomáš Kašparovský, Ph.D.

Date:

Signature: