



THE FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES
DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY

October 21, 2020

Dr. Serena Chen
Chair, Department of Psychology
University of California, Berkeley

Dear Dr. Chen and members of the search committee,

I am excited to submit for your consideration my application for your tenure-track Assistant Professor of Psychology position on “Atypical Development.” I am a doctoral candidate (“all-but-dissertation”) in clinical psychology at Florida State University, with an anticipated graduation date in Spring 2021. I have decided not to pursue licensure eligibility in the future and therefore elected to forgo a clinical internship and instead focus on my program of research. I believe my work to date, research interests, and intended career provide an excellent fit for this position at the University of California, Berkeley.

Your advertisement noted a particular interest in candidates with cross-disciplinary research interests and research on biological mechanisms underlying risk and resilience in development, which is very much in line with my research program. As you will see in my application materials, I employ a wide variety of methodological approaches, ranging from biometrically-informed designs to human neuroscientific approaches such as electroencephalography (EEG), with the goal of elucidating psychological mechanisms implicated in risk for alcohol and substance use disorders. You also noted your preference for a candidate interested in impulsivity; a substantial part of my research program concerns the heritable transmission of impulsive-externalizing traits, which I discuss further in my research statement.

Furthermore, I have developed a program of research around these themes that is highly fundable. During my time as a graduate student, I have accrued over a quarter of a million dollars in competitive external funding to support my training and research projects. Specifically, I was awarded a \$75,000 Ford Foundation Predoctoral Fellowship on behalf of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine, and recently, I received my first R-series NIH grant (\$100,000 in direct costs) from the National Institute on Drug Abuse (R36 DA050049). I have also won several smaller competitive grants for training, research, and travel from my own and other universities, professional organizations, academic societies, and private foundations. In an Assistant Professor role, I am confident in my ability to build on my successful track record in obtaining external funding and to mentor students in their pursuit of these funding opportunities.

With regard to the teaching duties of the position, I would be well-qualified to teach a variety of courses, reflecting my interdisciplinary research focus and strong quantitative background. At the graduate level, I am prepared to teach both foundational and advanced courses in statistics and research methodology, including your Data Analysis, Introduction to Clinical Methods, and Research Methods courses. Given my interdisciplinary focus, I could provide instruction regarding biological and affective aspects of human behavior for clinical students. Further, I can offer novel specialized courses in EEG methodology and the event-related potential (ERP)

Keanan J. Joyner

Clinical Psychology Doctoral Candidate

1107 West Call Street • Florida State University • Tallahassee, FL, 32304

Phone: 678-478-5476 • E-mail: joyner@psy.fsu.edu

approach or addiction neuroscience for graduate or advanced undergraduate students. At the undergraduate level, I am confident in my ability to teach any statistics and methodology course, building on my experiences to date as a graduate teaching instructor, as well as courses broadly related to general psychopathology and addiction.

I was particularly drawn to the advertisement at University of California, Berkeley due to the department's long-standing history of conducting rigorous multi-method psychological science and the fantastic and collaborative faculty who offer complementary domains of expertise to my own. Specifically, I believe my expertise in EEG can benefit from, and add to, the cutting-edge MRI work from many of the cognitive neuroscience faculty. Further, my recent NIDA grant leveraging ecological momentary assessment is well-aligned with approaches your current faculty commonly employ. Lastly, your clinical science program's decision to obtain PCSAS accreditation and not renew APA accreditation is one that I respect and support, and this indication of commitment to rigorous clinical research conveys to me that this department is one that I would like to be a part of.

For these reasons, I would be so honored to join the faculty at the University of California, Berkeley. I believe I would be able to bring a unique perspective, skill set, and energy to the department, and in turn, I would benefit enormously from the chance to learn from my colleagues in a department that would challenge me as a scientist. I have attached my CV and statements on research, teaching effectiveness, and diversity. My reference letters will be submitted by Drs. Chris Patrick, Greg Hajcak, and James Murphy. If you need any other information, please feel free to contact me at any time by email (joyner@psy.fsu.edu) or phone (678-478-5476). Thank you for considering my application, and I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Keanan J. Joyner

Keanan J. Joyner
Clinical Psychology Doctoral Candidate
Florida State University • 1107 West Call Street • Tallahassee, FL, 32306
Phone: 678-478-5476 • E-mail: joyner@psy.fsu.edu