

2020, Philosophy, King's College

I regard philosophy as the most glorious of professions, given that its goal is to answer the most essential questions humans can ask. My journey in this realm began when I got acquainted with Immanuel Kant's Critique of Pure Reason. The importance of synthetic a priori knowledge, the implications of not knowing anything about the thing-in-itself and the human mind only being able to perceive reality through its conceptual schemes of space, time and causality began to dawn on me. I found that while focusing on challenging texts like this, my analytical skills greatly improved. Studying philosophy at university will surely enhance this skill of analysis, help me grasp the greatest ideas of history and allow me to fulfil my burning interest for the subject.

Two years ago I went on an exchange year to California, where I lived for 10 months in a Christian fundamentalist community. I began to delve into debates about the subject, by watching recordings of Christopher Hitchens and Richard Dawkins debate with Christian thinkers. This experience had a big impact on my intellectual identity by encouraging me to approach new information with rigorous scrutiny.

My general interest in alternative and radical thinking emboldened me to read Richard D. Wolff's Democracy at Work, which made me question the unanimous praise of capitalism, given its cyclical crisis creating history and creation of unfounded inequality and exploitation. The realization that previous attempts for an alternative system were unsuccessful and the argumentation for workers' self-directed enterprises as a cure to capitalism, presents a modern anarcho-syndicalist utopia, which should not be immediately dismissed as just another leftist wet dream, but rather be taken under critical examination.

I also became interested in the philosophical influences of George Soros due to the massive anti-immigration propaganda in Hungary. I decided to read Open Society and Its Enemies, by Karl Popper, to get a better grasp of Soros's motives. It gave me much more. I understood the role historicism played throughout the history of political thought and that the deception of oracular philosophy should be evaded with critical inquiry (same for anarcho-syndicalism). I also enjoyed how Popper argued for alternative interpretations of Socrates and Plato and how he claimed that G.W.F. Hegel was corrupted by Frederick William III and tried to create the "renaissance of tribalism" for the good of the Prussian state, which is especially relevant in today's illiberal tendencies.

I was admitted to the academic program of the Milestone Institute of Advanced Studies. I attended a module on Anglo-Saxon Philosophy for which I wrote a final essay on determinism influenced by Sam Harris's Free Will. I also found one of the prompts of the John Locke Institute's essay competition appealing: I explored the contrast between the analytic- and continental tradition's historical attitude towards the question of meaning, exploring ideas from Gottlob Frege to Hilary Putnam and Soren Kierkegaard to Albert Camus.

I became a shortlisted candidate with a commendation and visited New College, Oxford for the awards ceremony, the seminar and lectures.

My enthusiasm for the philosophy of human nature urged me to contact Professor Maria Kronfeldner at the Central European University, which gave me a chance to attend her MA seminar "Critical Perspectives on Human Nature". I also took part in organizing the year opening conference of the Philosophy Institute of the Hungarian Eötvös Lóránd University themed around Max Weber's Science as a Vocation, where the most renowned Hungarian scholars participated.

Outside of school, I love to go hunting and develop my vinyl record collection. I believe that my enthusiasm for studying philosophy and my love for the English language makes me a great fit with top UK universities. I am excited to be under intellectual pressure and take pride in exploring the noble vocation of philosophy.