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Professor John Bell  
Department of War Studies  
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November 24th, 2010

Dear Professor John Bell and Members of the Search Committee:

I am writing to apply for the position of lecturer in War Studies in the School of Social Science & Public Policy at University College London. I recently passed my viva in International Relations at the London School of Economics (LSE). My research expertise in transitional justice, memory, and International Relations is directly in line with the lectureship's focus on war studies and law and conflict. My five years of teaching experience at the graduate and undergraduate levels and record in taking part in academic life make me a highly qualified candidate for the position.

Firstly, I have a strong research record in transitional justice and International Relations. My PhD thesis focuses on the contribution of Truth Commissions to post-conflict reconciliation. Drawing on eight months of field research, I argued that Truth Commissions in Sierra Leone and Peru had an impact on how individuals and groups made claims for justice and restitution. In contrast to earlier Truth Commissions, my thesis examined cases where Truth Commissions were established alongside prosecutions. I argued that existing theory and practice has inadequately acknowledged the challenges of pursuing a judicial and restorative approach in tandem.

I am committed to publishing high quality research. I am currently working on converting my PhD thesis into a book manuscript and turning chapters into articles for publication. I am preparing an article on the Sierra Leonean transitional justice process for submission to a special forum for the *Journal of Modern African Studies*. My future research agenda entails reviewing and processing the extensive primary data I gathered in 2011 in Peru and publishing more in depth analyses from this material. I would like to more systematically examine questions, raised by my PhD, particularly how Truth Commissions can function alongside war crimes prosecutions since the establishment of the International Criminal Court. I am also working on a co-edited volume for Cambridge University Press, evaluating the impact of transitional justice in Sierra Leone.

Secondly, my undergraduate and graduate teaching portfolio and training make me well prepared to teach "Law and Conflict in International Society" and "The Art of War Studies". My undergraduate and graduate teaching at the LSE, Brandeis University, and the University of Oxford examined global policy and normative debates on issues related to international justice and conflict and peace studies. I have an interdisciplinary teaching background, having taught courses in political philosophy, International Relations, constitutional law and conflict and peace-studies. I would be prepared to teach modules on "Peace and Justice", "Prosecuting War Crimes", "Moving Images and Modern War", and "Commemorating War". My summer teaching at the American University in Kosovo and work on the Balkans for the Aspen Institute Germany give me a foundation to teach courses on the Yugoslav War.

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In line with the Department of War Studies' emphasis on traditional and innovative learning, I have developed a dynamic and wide-ranging teaching skill set. In my teaching, I use inductive student centred materials and task-based exercises, such as simulations and debates, formative assessments and small group assignments. I emphasize applied learning, linking theoretical analysis with in depth case studies, and inviting guest speakers and organizing outings. I am skilled in using electronic resources, having managed electronic learning sites at the LSE and the University of Oxford. My supervision and examination of Masters dissertations at the University of Oxford give me a strong foundation to supervise research students. I have experience in developing course curricula and teaching methods, having devised my own syllabus for the peace-building programme at the American University in Kosovo. I am currently completing a postgraduate certificate in education at the LSE and consistently received excellent evaluations from students and course conveners.

Thirdly, I am prepared to contribute actively to academic service and departmental life at University College London and to further the work of the War Crimes Research Group. Throughout my PhD, I regularly presented at seminars and attended and organized conferences and events. I successfully generated funding for my own research and academic functions. I recently co-organized and secured funding for a high profile conference on transitional justice in Sierra Leone. The conference brought together international practitioners, such as the Prosecutor for the Special Court for Sierra Leone, Maria Spence, and academics from the UK and Sierra Leone, and was well attended by academics, practitioners and the Sierra Leonean community in London. I have strong teamwork and leadership abilities. My experience as chief editor of *Millennium: Journal of International Studies* required intensive collaboration with co-editors and close supervision of staff and interns. In my capacity as editor and teacher, I served as a mentor and referee for a large number of students. My work as editor during my PhD demonstrated my ability to balance multiple tasks and responsibilities.

Lastly, my specialized work on memory and conflict is a particular factor that I would bring to the position. The study of memory would provide a unique lens to look at the intersection of law and conflict. Collective memory plays a prominent role in my PhD thesis, both as a driver of conflict, shaping group identities, as well as a conduit through which groups find common ground after violence. I pursued my interest in memory through a special forum I designed on memory and violence for *Millennium: Journal of International Studies* and by incorporating memory studies into my teaching curricula.

The University College London War Studies lectureship presents an ideal opportunity to pursue my career goals as a researcher and teacher. I am passionate about teaching and would embrace the chance to teach in a collegial and highly regarded department and to contribute to the development of the War Studies programme. I am attracted to the Department's interdisciplinary orientation and the lectureship's unique focus on the nexus of law and war studies. I am strongly committed to mentoring students and contributing to innovative research in transitional justice. Please contact me if you require any additional information.

Thank you for your time and consideration of my application.

Sincerely,  
Sarah Jones

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