University of Reading

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To whom it may concern

I am writing in support of Dr. Francesca Ferrando.

I have known Francesca for more than three years, having the chance to follow the development of her research as one of her Advisors, within the frame of the European Doctoral Fellowship.

Francesca's take on Posthumanism is culturally fascinating, as well as deeply rooted within scientific and technological domains. Although dealing with the theoretical aspects of the Philosophy of the Posthuman, she emphasizes the relevance of the social and political implications of the Posthuman shift. Her intellectual curiosity is supported by a disciplined mind and prestigious academic background.

I met Francesca in 2009, at the Institute of Molecular Biotechnology, University of Vienna. On that occasion, Francesca expressed great interest in coming to do research with me and my team; at the University of Reading, on the subject of Gender and Artificial Intelligence. I was impressed by the originality of her subject and her intellectual commitment. Soon after, she applied for a position as Independent Researcher at the University of Reading. Meanwhile, Francesca was also invited to join the Department of Columbia University as a Visiting Scholar, a position which was twice renewed.

Between 2010 and 2011 Francesca spent several months in the Department of Cybernetics, at the University of Reading, working with me, on the subject she so passionately wanted to unravel: The undisplayed connections between gender and AI. She was committed to her research, and eager to deepen her knowledge and ideas. She enrolled in the courses I was teaching, actively participating in the classes. During her stay, she produced the questionnaire "Gender and Artificial Intelligence", which was filled by more than one hundred students and researchers. The results, some of which were striking, were presented by Francesca at the end of her stay, in January 2011. The Conference "Posthumanism, Gender and Artificial Intelligence", given at the Gordon Theatre in the Department of Cybernetics, was fully attended. In her presentation, Francesca managed to successfully highlight the relevance of the connection between gender and AI with empirical data.

Since then, she has achieved recognition within and outside the academic community. Francesca has lectured in several European and American universities. In December 2012, she was invited to speak at the TED Conference, New York, proof that her specific way of dealing with the posthuman is engaging larger audiences as well.

THE QUEEN'S
ANNIVERSARY PRIZES
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I recommend Francesca to your fellowship program with absolute confidence. She will be an excellent scholar as well as a committed participant to your Program.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any further questions.

Yours sincerely.

Kevin Warwick
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