

# LAURA FRANCES CALLAHAN

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Updated: July 2025

AOS: Epistemology, Ethics, Philosophy of Religion

AOC: Philosophy of Action, Feminist Ethics

## ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

### UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME, SOUTH BEND, IN

Associate Professor of Philosophy

JULY 2025—PRESENT

Assistant Professor of Philosophy

JULY 2019—JUNE 2025

- Co-Director, Center for Philosophy of Religion
- Associate Director, Center for Philosophy of Religion
- Affiliated Faculty Member, Notre Dame Gender Studies

JULY 2024—PRESENT

JULY 2021—JUNE 2024

FEB 2021—PRESENT

## EDUCATION

### RUTGERS UNIVERSITY, NEW BRUNSWICK, NJ

SEPT 2015—MAY 2019

PhD: Philosophy

- Supervisor: Ernest Sosa; Committee members: Ruth Chang, Andy Egan, Susanna Schellenberg, Roger White

### OXFORD UNIVERSITY, ST. HILDA'S COLLEGE, OXFORD, UK

SEPT 2013—JUNE 2015

Bachelor in Philosophy (BPhil): Philosophy

- Clarendon Scholar (full merit scholarship)
- Thesis supervisor: Timothy Williamson

### INDIANA UNIVERSITY, BLOOMINGTON, IN

SEPT 2007—MAY 2011

Bachelor of Arts (BA): Philosophy, Mathematics (double major)

- Herman B Wells Scholar (full merit scholarship)

### UNIVERSITY OF KENT, CANTERBURY, UK

OCT 2009—JUNE 2010

- Visiting international student, philosophy

## RESEARCH

### REFEREED ARTICLES AND CHAPTERS:

1. "Epistemic Authenticity" (forthcoming) with Michael C. Rea, (forthcoming) *Noûs*.
2. "Stubborn Fools and Arrogant Converts," (forthcoming) *The Canadian Journal of Philosophy*
3. "Moral Disagreement, Moral Testimony, and Meta-ethics," (forthcoming) *The Oxford Handbook of Ethical Theory*, updated edition, eds. David Copp and Connie Rosati.
4. "Intellectual Humility and Christian Faith," (forthcoming) *Religious Studies*.
5. "What are Epistemic Standards?" (forthcoming) with Michael G. Titelbaum, *Attitude in Philosophy*, eds. Sanford Goldberg and Mark Walker, Oxford: Oxford.
6. "New and Improved: Pessimism about Testimony's Role in Developing Understanding," (forthcoming) *Australasian Journal of Philosophy*.
7. "Why are Epistemic Reasons Normative?" (2024) *Episteme*, 21(3): 1048-1063.
8. "Intellectual Humility: A No-Distraction Account," (2024) *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research*, 108(2): 320-337.
9. "(Joint) Achievements and the Value Problem," (2023) *Synthese*. 201(61).
10. "Trust, Testimony, and Religion," (2023) *The Cambridge Handbook of Religious Epistemology*, eds. John Greco, Tyler McNabb, and Jonatan Fuqua.
11. "Humility for Everyone: A No-Distraction Account," (2022) *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research*, 104(3): 623-638.
12. "What to Expect from the God of History," (2022) *Faith and Philosophy*, 39(4): 549-572.

13. "Disagreement, Testimony, and Religious Understanding," (2022) *Religious Disagreement and Pluralism*, eds. M. Benton and J. Kvanvig, Oxford: Oxford University Press.
14. "Could God Love Cruelty: A Partial Defense of Unrestricted Theological Voluntarism," (2021) *Faith and Philosophy*. 38(1): 26-44.
15. "Moral Testimony," (2021) *Routledge Handbook of Social Epistemology*, eds. Peter Graham, Miranda Fricker, David Henderson, and Nikolaj Pedersen.
16. "Epistemic Existentialism," (2021) *Episteme*, 18(4): 539-554.
17. "Perception, Discrimination, and Knowledge," (2020) *Philosophical Issues*, 30(1): 39-53.
18. "Skill and Knowledge," (2020) co-authored with Ernest Sosa, *Routledge Handbook of Philosophy of Skill and Expertise*, eds. Carlotta Pavese and Ellen Fridland.
19. "Moral Reasons Not to Breastfeed: A Response to Woollard and Porter," (2019) *Journal of Medical Ethics*, 45:213-214.
20. "Moral Testimony: A Re-Conceived Understanding Explanation," (2018) *The Philosophical Quarterly*, 68(272): 437-459.
21. "On the Problem of Paradise," (2016) *Faith and Philosophy*, 33(2): 129-141.
22. "Well-Tuned Trust as an Intellectual Virtue," (2014) co-authored with Timothy O'Connor, *Religious Faith and Intellectual Virtue*, eds. L. Callahan and T. O'Connor, Oxford: Oxford University Press, pp. 246-276.
  - Drafted roughly 50% of content; collaborative revisions across whole.
23. "Introduction," (2014) co-authored with Timothy O'Connor, *ibid.*, pp. 1-26.
  - Drafted roughly 50% of content; collaborative revisions across whole.

#### EDITED VOLUMES:

24. *Religious Faith and Intellectual Virtue*, (2014) co-edited with Timothy O'Connor, Oxford: Oxford University Press.

#### BOOK REVIEWS:

25. Review for *Ethics*: Jonathan L. Kvanvig, (2018) *Faith and Humility*, Oxford: Oxford University Press (2019)

#### PUBLIC PHILOSOPHY:

26. "A Careful Call for Humility," (April 2025) *Open for Debate*, Cardiff University, <<http://blogs.cardiff.ac.uk/openfordebate/a-careful-call-for-humility/>>.
27. "Motherhood and the Moral Load," (April 2021) *Think*, <https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/think/article/motherhood-and-the-moral-load/>>.
28. "When breast isn't best," (May 9, 2019) *Aeon*, <<https://aeon.co/essays/why-breastfeeding-is-not-always-best-for-mother-or-baby>>.

## MAJOR GRANTS

INTELLECTUAL HUMILITY AND OPPRESSION, \$585K  
The John Templeton Foundation

SEPT 2022-AUG 2024

#### Executive summary:

The philosophers and psychologists advancing our theoretical understanding of intellectual humility (IH) often occupy positions of relative privilege. But this can be distorting. Our theoretical understanding of IH will be dangerously impoverished if we fail to consider the nature and value of IH for people occupying a wide array of social positions, including victims of marginalization and oppression - people bombarded with messages that they are ignorant or untrustworthy. Consider the victim of gaslighting, who has been systematically groomed to distrust her own memory of a troubling situation. Or the student from a historically marginalized group who receives subtle messages that their ideas not worth taking seriously. Or the Black patient who is not believed when she tries to report troublesome symptoms to her obstetrician. It is far from clear that IH would be good for such individuals. And if IH is indeed good even for them, perhaps we need a quite revisionary understanding of what IH really amounts to. The proposed project will address these underexplored Big Questions of whether IH is an inclusive virtue - i.e., an important virtue for all people, including victims of oppression - and how the experiences of victims of oppression should shape our theoretical understanding of IH and its appropriate cultivation. The project will directly generate significant scholarly work on these questions primarily in philosophy but also psychology, and it will also build and advance a community of scholars working on these questions bridging intradisciplinary divides (feminist philosophers vs. virtue epistemologists) as well as disciplinary ones (philosophy vs. psychology). Principal activities: (i) dedicated PI research, (ii) an interdisciplinary, philosophy/psychology working group and conference, (iii) a cohort of year-long fellows at the Center for Philosophy of Religion at Notre Dame, and (iv) a capstone conference engaging additional prominent philosophers.

## SELECTED PRESENTATIONS

### AS SELECTED/INVITED PRESENTER:

TBA	<i>University of Chicago Theoretical Philosophy Workshop</i>	CHICAGO, MAR 2026
TBA	<i>Baylor University, colloquium speaker</i>	WACO, FEB 2026
TBA	<i>Scripps College, invited speaker</i>	LOS ANGELES, OCT 2025
“Intellectual Humility in Religious Commitments”	<i>Princeton Project in Philosophy of Religion, keynote for annual conference</i>	PRINCETON, MARCH 2025
“Epistemic Authenticity and Epistemic Standards”	<i>University of Wisconsin Madison, invited speaker</i>	MADISON, FEB 2025
“Humility as a Christian Virtue of Lowliness”	<i>Eighth Theistic Ethics Workshop, submitted paper accepted for presentation</i>	GEORGETOWN, SEPT 2024
“Trust and Testimony in the Christian Tradition”	<i>World Congress of Philosophy, panel on social epistemology organized by John Greco</i>	ROME, AUG 2024
“Lowering Oneself”	<i>Humility in Inquiry Project, organized by Nathan Ballantyne as an interdisciplinary workshop intended to produce of a book of essays</i>	SAN DIEGO, MAY 2024
“Stubborn Fools and Arrogant Converts”	<i>Humility and Arrogance Conference, organized by Nathan Ballantyne and Thomas Kelly with funding from the John Templeton Foundation</i>	TEMPE, MAR 2024
“Epistemic Trajectories and Epistemic Selves,” co-presented with Michael C. Rea	<i>The Ranch Metaphysics Workshop</i>	TUCSON, JAN 2024
“Intellectual Humility and Unshakeable Conviction”	<i>Midwest Epistemology Workshop</i>	ST. LOUIS, OCT 2023
“Intellectual Humility and Christian Faith”	<i>Society of Christian Philosophers, 45<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Conference, plenary speaker</i>	GRAND RAPIDS, SEPT 2023
“(Moral) Testimony and (Moral) Understanding”	<i>American Philosophical Association, 2023 Central Division Panel</i>	DENVER, FEB 2023
“Epistemic Self Shaping Norms”	<i>Epistemic Norms as Social Norms workshop, Washington University</i>	ST. LOUIS, JUNE 2022

“What to Expect from the God of History”	<i>Divine Hiddenness</i> , capstone conference for Divine Hiddenness grant project	WACO, NOV 2021
“What to Expect from the God of History”	<i>Theology, Science, and Knowledge</i> , capstone conference for The Christian East and the Islamic West grant project, invited speaker	ST. LOUIS, JULY 2021
“Understanding, Testimony, and the Drive to Inquire”	<i>University of Neuchâtel</i> philosophy research seminar	ONLINE, MAY 2021
“Divine-Human Hybrid Voluntarism”	<i>Rutgers Center for Philosophy of Religion</i> reading group invited visitor	ONLINE, MAR 2020
“Divine-Human Hybrid Voluntarism”	<i>Fifth Theistic Ethics Workshop</i> , one of five submitted papers accepted for presentation	GEORGETOWN, OCT 2019
“No Best Attitude”	<i>American Philosophical Association</i> , 2019 Central Division Symposium Paper	DENVER, FEB 2019
“Disagreement, Testimony, and Religious Understanding”	<i>American Philosophical Association</i> , 2019 Eastern Division Group Presentation for Society of Christian Philosophers	NEW YORK, JAN 2019
“Grounding the Normativity of Epistemic Rationality: A New Proposal”	<i>Johns Hopkins</i> Graduate Philosophy Conference	BALTIMORE, NOV 2018
“Religious Testimony and Religious Understanding”	<i>American Philosophical Association</i> , 2018 Eastern Division Group Presentation for Society of Christian Philosophers (cancelled due to snow)	SAVANNAH, JAN 2018
“Explaining Moral Testimony: A Different Appeal to Understanding”	<i>American Philosophical Association</i> , 2017 Central Division Symposium Paper	KANSAS CITY, MAR 2017
“Explaining Moral Testimony: A Different Appeal to Understanding”	<i>Aristotelian Society and Mind Association</i> , 2016 Joint Session, Postgraduate Session	CARDIFF, JULY 2016
“Explaining Moral Testimony: A Different Appeal to Understanding”	<i>Northwestern University and Notre Dame University</i> , 7 <sup>th</sup> Annual Northwestern/Notre Dame Graduate Epistemology Conference	EVANSTON, APRIL 2016
“Explaining Moral Testimony: A Different Appeal to Understanding”	<i>University of Pennsylvania, Rutgers University, Princeton University</i> , 4 <sup>th</sup> Annual Penn-Rutgers-Princeton Social Epistemology Conference	NEW BRUNSWICK, MAR 2016
“Explaining Moral Testimony: A Different Appeal to Understanding”	<i>NYU and Columbia University</i> , 16 <sup>th</sup> Columbia-NYU Graduate Conference in Philosophy	NEW YORK, FEB 2016
“Evil: Only Sometimes Evidence against God”	<i>Society of Christian Philosophers</i> , Eastern Regional Conference on “The Existence of God”	MECHANICSBURG, SEPT 2015

“Evil: Only Sometimes Evidence against God”	<i>The UK Society for Women in Philosophy (SWIP UK); Women in Philosophy: A Mentoring and Networking Workshop</i>	YORK, JUNE 2015
“Limits on Religious Testimony: Lessons from Morality”	<i>New Insights and Directions for Religious Epistemology, Workshop (4): Religious Epistemology and Testimony</i>	OXFORD, JUNE 2014
“Testimony and the Value of Understanding, by Domain”	<i>British Postgraduate Philosophy Association (BPPA), Masterclass: Epistemic Values and Intellectual Virtues</i>	EDINBURGH, JUNE 2014
“Virtue in Trust: Implications for Theistic Religious Faith”	<i>Society of Christian Philosophers, Mountain-Pacific Conference on “Faith and Reason”</i>	BOULDER, MAR 2013
<b>AS INVITED COMMENTATOR:</b>		
Comments at “Workshopping Richard Pettigrew's Locke Lectures”	<i>Northeastern University, 25-minute commentary, one of eighteen invited commentators</i>	BOSTON, APR 2025
Author Meets Critics: <i>Guided by Voices</i> , by Eric Wiland	<i>American Philosophical Association, 2023 Eastern session</i>	MONTREAL, JAN 2023
“Divine Hiddenness: An Evidential Argument” by Charity Anderson	<i>American Philosophical Association, 2021 Pacific Society of Christian Philosophers groups session</i>	ONLINE, APRIL 2021
“The Agnostic Consequences of Skeptical Theism” by Nevin Climenhaga	<i>Society of Christian Philosophers, 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Conference</i>	GRAND RAPIDS, SEPT 2018
“Improbabilism and Apt Belief” by Blake Roeber	<i>Episteme annual conference</i>	TENERIFE, JULY 2018
“Deference, Ideals, and Moral Risk” by Jonathan Knutzen	<i>American Philosophical Association, 2018 Central Division Symposium Paper</i>	CHICAGO, FEB 2018
“Intellectual Virtues and Biased Understanding” by Andrei Marasoiu	<i>American Philosophical Association, 2018 Eastern Division Colloquium Paper</i>	SAVANNAH, JAN 2018
“How Aristotelians Can Make Faith a Virtue” by Anne Jeffrey	<i>Value of Faith Conference 2016</i>	SAN ANTONIO, JAN 2016
“Skeptical Theism and the Future” by Cameron Domenico Kirk-Giannini	<i>New Insights and Directions for Religious Epistemology, Workshop (5): Formal Epistemology and Religious Epistemology</i>	OXFORD, DEC 2014
“(Undercutting) Epistemic Defeat and the Conciliatory Route to Agnosticism” by J. Adam Carter	<i>New Insights and Directions for Religious Epistemology, Workshop (3): Defeat and Religious Epistemology</i>	OXFORD, MAR 2014
“Is Knowledge of God a Cognitive Achievement?” by Anthony Bolos	<i>Society of Christian Philosophers, Mountain-Pacific Conference on “Faith and Reason”</i>	BOULDER, MAR 2013

## TEACHING

### COURSES TAUGHT:

<b>Religious Epistemology</b> Upper-level majors seminar	FALL 2025
<b>Epistemology</b> Upper-level majors seminar	FALL 2024
<b>Feminist Food</b> Co-taught with Michael Rea Upper-level seminar, cross-listed with Gender Studies	SPRING 2024; SPRING 2025
<b>Lowly Virtues</b> PhD seminar	FALL 2023
<b>Epistemic Rationality</b> PhD seminar	FALL 2021
<b>Epistemology in Practice</b> Second philosophy course, ~30 students	FALL 2020; SPRING 2021; FALL 2024; SPRING 2026
<b>Ethics of Food</b> Second philosophy course, ~30 students	SPRING 2021
<b>Publication Seminar</b> PhD program seminar	FALL 2020
<b>Virtues: Moral and Intellectual</b> PhD seminar	SPRING 2020
<b>God and the Good Life</b> Introductory course, ~150 students	FALL 2019, SPRING 2020
<b>Intro to Ethics</b> Philosophy 107 Rutgers University	SUMMER 2018
<b>Epistemology</b> Philosophy 412 Rutgers University	SPRING 2018
<b>Intro to Formal Reasoning and Decision-Making</b> Philosophy 109 Rutgers University	SUMMER 2017

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**ADDITIONAL TEACHING-RELATED EXPERIENCE:**

<b>Ethiopian Graduate School of Theology</b>	Guest lecturer, graduate seminar on ethics lead by Tedla Woldeyohannes	NOV 2023
<b>APA-AAPT Teaching Hub</b> Eastern APA	“Epistemology in Practice” Poster accepted for presentation, to discuss practical and immersive approaches to epistemology classes	JAN 2019
<b>Philosophy as a Way of Life Summer Institute</b> National Endowment for the Humanities	Selected to participate in NEH-funded Summer Institute as one of 26 philosophers and the only graduate student; Completed two weeks of intensive discussion of way-of-life philosophical traditions in conjunction with discussion of	JULY 2018

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	immersive teaching approaches; Crafted an original “Epistemology in Practice” syllabus over the course of the Institute	
<b>Seminar in Philosophy Teaching</b> Rutgers University	Received mentorship and instruction on philosophy pedagogy and classroom management in bi-weekly group meetings with Justin Kalef, Associate Undergraduate Director	FALL 2017

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## SERVICE

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<b>CENTER FOR PHILOSOPHY OF RELIGION:</b> Co-director		JULY 2024—PRESENT
<b>CENTER FOR PHILOSOPHY OF RELIGION:</b> Associate director		JULY 2021—JUNE 2024
<b>FAITH AND PHILOSOPHY JOURNAL:</b> Managing editor		OCT 2023—PRESENT
<b>SOCIETY FOR CHRISTIAN PHILOSOPHERS:</b> Diversity committee member		JAN 2023—PRESENT
<b>ATHENA IN ACTION CONFERENCE:</b> Faculty mentor		FEB 2024—JUNE 2024
<b>SOCIETY FOR CHRISTIAN PHILOSOPHERS:</b> Executive committee member		JAN 2020—DEC 2022
<b>UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME:</b> Strategic hiring committee member	2020—2021, 2022—2023, 2024—2025	
<b>UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME:</b> Philosophy Club guest speaker		APRIL 2024
<b>UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME:</b> Graduate studies committee member		AUGUST 2020—MAY 2022
<i>ADVISING:</i> Co-advisor (with Michael Rea) for Katie O’Dell (Dissertation proposal defense Nov 2024); Oral exam advisor for Ginny Hannahan (2025/26)		
<i>DISSERTATION COMMITTEE SERVICE:</i> Isabel Canfield (2025), Sara Chan (2025), Haley Dutmer (2023), Grace Hibshman (2025), Kevin Jia, Ross Jensen (2021), Kevin Schieman (2022), Oliver Traldi (2023)		
<i>JOURNAL REFEREEING (INCOMPLETE):</i> ANALYSIS, AUSTRALASIAN JOURNAL OF PHILOSOPHY, BIOETHICS, CANADIAN JOURNAL OF PHILOSOPHY; EPISTEME, ERKENNTNIS, ETHICS, EUROPEAN JOURNAL FOR PHILOSOPHY OF RELIGION, JOURNAL OF ETHICS AND SOCIAL PHILOSOPHY; FAITH AND PHILOSOPHY, INQUIRY, JOURNAL OF ETHICS AND SOCIAL PHILOSOPHY, JOURNAL OF THE APA, METAPHILOSOPHY, MIND, NOÛS, PERSONALITY AND SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY REVIEW; PHILOSOPHY AND PHENOMENOLOGICAL RESEARCH, THE PHILOSOPHICAL QUARTERLY, RELIGIOUS STUDIES, SYNTHESE		

## HONORS & FUNDING

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<b>ISLA TRAVEL TO INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES GRANT</b>		SUMMER 2024
<b>ISLA SMALL CONFERENCE GRANT: VIRTUES</b>	SPRING 2020 (COVID CANCELLATION)	
<b>PREP: EPISTEMOLOGY AND PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT WORKSHOP</b>		SUMMER 2019
<b>MARC SANDERS PUBLIC PHILOSOPHY AWARD, HONORABLE MENTION</b>		FALL 2018
<b>NEH SUMMER INSTITUTE STIPEND AWARD: PHILOSOPHY AS A WAY OF LIFE</b>		SUMMER 2018
<b>ST. THOMAS SUMMER SEMINAR IN PHILOSOPHY OF RELIGION AND PHILOSOPHICAL THEOLOGY</b>		SUMMER 2016

One of 20 applicants (out of 116) selected to participate in a two-week workshop covering topics such as the epistemology of disagreement and the problem of evil, involving fourteen distinguished visiting speakers

**ATHENA IN ACTION: A NETWORKING AND MENTORING WORKSHOP FOR WOMEN IN PHILOSOPHY** SUMMER 2016  
One of 36 applicants (out of 180) selected to participate in a four-day workshop held in Princeton, NJ

**CLARENDON FUND SCHOLARSHIP** SPRING 2013  
Full academic merit scholarship to Oxford University, awarded for two years of graduate study

**HERMAN B WELLS SCHOLARSHIP** SPRING 2007  
Full merit scholarship to Indiana University, awarded to approximately 20 entering freshmen each year

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## WORK AND RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

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**ADVISOR, ETHICAL SUBSTANCE: PSYCHEDELIC MEDICINE IN TIMES OF SOCIAL AND SPIRITUAL CRISIS**  
▪ John Templeton Foundation grant, Aidan Seale-Feldman PL JAN 2024—DEC 2026  
▪ Attended interdisciplinary quarterly meetings

**EDITORIAL ASSISTANT, *Noûs*, NEW BRUNSWICK, NJ** SEPT 2017—JUNE 2019  
▪ Composed proposals for journal issues from accepted submissions, discussed with editor Ernest Sosa  
▪ Coordinated content and order of material for inclusion in each issue with publisher (Wiley)

**GRANT-WRITING ASSISTANT, RUTGERS CENTER FOR PHILOSOPHY OF RELIGION** JUNE 2018—MAY 2019

**RESEARCH ASSISTANT (RUTH CHANG), NEW BRUNSWICK, NJ** SEPT 2015—JAN 2019  
▪ Researched topics in philosophy of law and jurisprudence  
▪ Researched philosophical, psychological, and neuroscience literature on choice, commitment, adjudication, and love  
▪ Helped design and prepare presentation materials (PPT) for multiple audiences, including “lay” audiences

**MANUSCRIPT EDITING ASSISTANT (SUSANNA SCHELLENBERG), NEW BRUNSWICK, NJ** SEPT 2017  
▪ *The Unity of Perception: Content, Consciousness, Evidence*, Oxford: Oxford.

**GRANT REPORTING ASSISTANT (DEAN ZIMMERMAN), NEW BRUNSWICK, NJ** JULY 2016—AUG 2016  
▪ Co-drafted final reporting for three-year Templeton Foundation Grant  
▪ Solicited and organized evidence of grant’s impact on dozens of individuals

**TUTOR (GREENE’S TUTORIAL COLLEGE), OXFORD, UK** DEC 2013-MAR 2015  
▪ Conducted weekly 1:1 tutoring sessions with high school students to supplement their philosophy, ethics, or mathematics studies  
▪ Led classes of high school students in SAT and college interview preparations

**RESEARCH ASSISTANT (TIMOTHY O’CONNOR), BLOOMINGTON, IN** MAY 2013—JULY 2015

**BUSINESS ANALYST (MCKINSEY AND COMPANY), CHICAGO, IL** JUNE 2011—APR 2013