

LAURA FRANCES CALLAHAN

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AOS: Epistemology, Ethics, Philosophy of Religion

AOC: Philosophy of Action, Philosophy of Mind, Feminist Ethics

ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME, SOUTH BEND, IN	JULY 2019—PRESENT
Assistant Professor of Philosophy	
▪ Associate Director, Center for Philosophy of Religion	JULY 2021—PRESENT
▪ Affiliated Faculty Member, Notre Dame Gender Studies	FEB 2021—PRESENT

EDUCATION

RUTGERS UNIVERSITY, NEW BRUNSWICK, NJ	SEPT 2015—MAY 2019
PhD: Philosophy	
▪ Dissertation title: <i>Responsible for What's Rational</i>	
▪ 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)	
▪ Supervisions: Ethics (Roger Crisp), Epistemology (Elizabeth Fricker)	
▪ Thesis title: <i>The Value Problem: a new evaluation of epistemologists' theories of why knowledge is special</i> (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)	

PUBLICATIONS

JOURNAL ARTICLES:

- "New and Improved: Pessimism about Testimony's Role in Developing Understanding," (forthcoming) *Australasian Journal of Philosophy*.
- "Intellectual Humility: A No-Distraction Account," (forthcoming) *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research*.
- "What to Expect from the God of History," (forthcoming) *Faith and Philosophy*.
- "Why are Epistemic Reasons Normative?" (forthcoming) *Episteme*.
- "(Joint) Achievements and the Value Problem," (2023) *Synthese*. 201(61).
- "Humility for Everyone: A No-Distraction Account," (2022) *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research*, 104(3): 623-638.
- "Could God Love Cruelty: A Partial Defense of Unrestricted Theological Voluntarism," (2021) *Faith and Philosophy*. 38(1): 26-44.
- "Epistemic Existentialism," (2021) *Episteme*, 18(4): 539-554.
- "Perception, Discrimination, and Knowledge," (2020) *Philosophical Issues*, 30(1): 39-53.
- "Moral Reasons Not to Breastfeed: A Response to Woollard and Porter," (2019) *Journal of Medical Ethics*, 45:213-214.
- "Moral Testimony: A Re-Conceived Understanding Explanation," (2018) *The Philosophical Quarterly*, 68(272): 437-459.
- "On the Problem of Paradise," (2016) *Faith and Philosophy*, 33(2): 129-141.

BOOK CHAPTERS:

- "What are Epistemic Standards?" (commissioned) with Michael G. Titelbaum, *Attitude in Philosophy*, eds. Sanford Goldberg and Mark Walker, Oxford: Oxford.

- “Moral Disagreement, Moral Testimony, and Meta-ethics,” (commissioned) *The Oxford Handbook of Ethical Theory*, updated edition, eds. David Copp and Connie Rosati.
- “Trust, Testimony, and Religion,” (2023) *The Cambridge Handbook of Religious Epistemology*, eds. John Greco, Tyler McNabb, and Jonatan Fuqua.
- “Disagreement, Testimony, and Religious Understanding,” (2022) *Religious Disagreement and Pluralism*, eds. M. Benton and J. Kvanvig, Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- “Moral Testimony,” (2021) *Routledge Handbook of Social Epistemology*, eds. Peter Graham, Miranda Fricker, David Henderson, and Nikolaj Pedersen.
- “Skill and Knowledge,” (2020) co-authored with Ernest Sosa, *Routledge Handbook on Skill and Expertise*, eds. Carlotta Pavese and Ellen Fridland.
- “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.
- “Introduction,” (2014) co-authored with Timothy O’Connor, *ibid.*, pp. 1-26.

EDITED VOLUMES:

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

BOOK REVIEWS:

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

PUBLIC PHILOSOPHY:

- “Motherhood and the Moral Load,” (April 2021) *Think*, <https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/think/article/motherhood-and-the-moral-load/>>.
- “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:

“Intellectual Humility and
Unshakeable Conviction”

Midwest Epistemology Workshop

ST. LOUIS, OCT 2023

“Intellectual Humility and Christian Faith”	<i>Society of Christian Philosophers</i> , 45 th Anniversary Conference, plenary speaker	GRAND RAPIDS, SEPT 2023
“(Moral) Testimony and (Moral) Understanding”	<i>American Philosophical Association</i> , 2023 Central Division Panel	DENVER, FEB 2023
“Epistemic Self Shaping Norms”	<i>Epistemic Norms as Social Norms</i> workshop, Washington University	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, MARCH 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, MARCH 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 th 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, 4th Annual Penn-Rutgers-Princeton Social Epistemology Conference</i>	NEW BRUNSWICK, MARCH 2016
“Explaining Moral Testimony: A Different Appeal to Understanding”	<i>NYU and Columbia University, 16th Columbia-NYU Graduate Conference in Philosophy</i>	NEW YORK, FEB 2016
“Evil: Only Sometimes Evidence against God”	<i>Society of Christian Philosophers, Eastern Regional Conference on “The Existence of God”</i>	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
AS INVITED COMMENTATOR:		
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, 40th 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, MARCH 2014

“Is Knowledge of God a
Cognitive Achievement?” by
Anthony Bolos

Society of Christian Philosophers, Mountain-Pacific
Conference on “Faith and Reason”

BOULDER, MAR 2013

TEACHING

COURSES TAUGHT:

Lowly Virtues	FALL 2023
PhD seminar	
University of Notre Dame	

Epistemic Rationality	FALL 2021
PhD seminar	
University of Notre Dame	

Epistemology in Practice	FALL 2020; SPRING 2021
Second philosophy course, ~30 students	
University of Notre Dame	

Ethics of Food	SPRING 2021
Second philosophy course, ~30 students	
University of Notre Dame	

Publication Seminar	FALL 2020
PhD program seminar	
University of Notre Dame	

Virtues: Moral and Intellectual	SPRING 2020
PhD seminar	
University of Notre Dame	

God and the Good Life	FALL 2019, SPRING 2020
Introductory course, ~150 students	
University of Notre Dame	

Intro to Ethics	SUMMER 2018
Philosophy 107	
Rutgers University	

Epistemology	SPRING 2018
Philosophy 412	
Rutgers University	

Intro to Formal Reasoning and Decision-Making	SUMMER 2017
Philosophy 109	
Rutgers University	

ADDITIONAL TEACHING-RELATED EXPERIENCE:

APA-AAPT Teaching Hub	“Epistemology in Practice” Poster accepted for presentation, to discuss practical and immersive approaches to epistemology classes	JAN 2019
Eastern APA		

Philosophy as a Way of Life Summer Institute	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	JULY 2018
National Endowment for the Humanities		

	traditions in conjunction with discussion of immersive teaching approaches; Crafted an original “Epistemology in Practice” syllabus over the course of the Institute	
Seminar in Philosophy Teaching 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

HONORS & FUNDING

ISLA SMALL CONFERENCE GRANT: VIRTUES	SPRING 2020 (CANCELLED)
PREP: EPISTEMOLOGY AND PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT WORKSHOP One of 12 invited participants in the pilot, two-week “PREP” (Philosophy and Religion Engaged with the Public) workshop at Notre Dame, focusing on epistemology and public writing under the guidance of senior faculty as well as Jamie Ryerson of the NYTimes	SUMMER 2019
MARC SANDERS PUBLIC PHILOSOPHY AWARD, HONORABLE MENTION	FALL 2018
NEH SUMMER INSTITUTE STIPEND AWARD: PHILOSOPHY AS A WAY OF LIFE	SUMMER 2018
ST. THOMAS SUMMER SEMINAR IN PHILOSOPHY OF RELIGION AND PHILOSOPHICAL THEOLOGY 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	SUMMER 2016
ATHENA IN ACTION: A NETWORKING AND MENTORING WORKSHOP FOR WOMEN IN PHILOSOPHY One of 36 applicants (out of 180) selected to participate in a four-day workshop held in Princeton, NJ	SUMMER 2016
CLARENDON FUND SCHOLARSHIP Full academic merit scholarship to Oxford University, awarded for two years of graduate study	SPRING 2013
HERMAN B WELLS SCHOLARSHIP Full merit scholarship to Indiana University, awarded to approximately 20 entering freshmen each year	SPRING 2007

SERVICE

JOURNAL REFEREEING (INCOMPLETE): 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; PHILOSOPHICAL QUARTERLY, RELIGIOUS STUDIES, SYNTHESE	
SOCIETY FOR CHRISTIAN PHILOSOPHERS: Diversity committee member	2023—PRESENT
SOCIETY FOR CHRISTIAN PHILOSOPHERS: Executive committee member	2020—2022
UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME: Graduate studies committee member	AUGUST 2020—PRESENT
DISSERTATION COMMITTEE SERVICE: Sara Chan, Haley Dutmer (2023), Grace Hibshman, Oliver Traldi (2023), Ross Jensen (2021), Kevin Schieman (2022)	

WORK AND RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

EDITORIAL ASSISTANT, *Noûs*, NEW BRUNSWICK, NJ

SEPT 2017—JUNE 2019

- Composed proposals for journal issues from accepted submissions, discuss 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
- Summarized and discussed themes with Ruth Chang, for upcoming lectures and presentations
- 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

RESEARCH ASSISTANT (TIMOTHY O’CONNOR), BLOOMINGTON, IN

MAY 2013—JULY 2015

BUSINESS ANALYST (MCKINSEY AND COMPANY), CHICAGO, IL

JUNE 2011—APR 2013

- Helped craft a sustainable revenue-generation strategy for an environmental organization with non-profit, academic, and corporate stakeholders
- Helped develop broad strategy for a non-profit seeking to impact US education via perceptions of teachers
- Helped an innovative provider of education Master’s degrees strategize for expansion