

LAURA FRANCES CALLAHAN

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Updated: December 19, 2018

EDUCATION

RUTGERS UNIVERSITY, NEW BRUNSWICK, NJ SEPT 2015—PRESENT

PhD Candidate: Philosophy

- **AOS:** Epistemology, Ethics
- **AOC:** Philosophy of Action, Philosophy of Religion, Philosophy of Mind, Philosophy of Law, Feminist Ethics
- Dissertation title: *Responsible for What's Rational*
- Dissertation defense expected April 2019
- 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: *The Value Problem: a new evaluation of epistemologists' theories of why knowledge is special* (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)
- GPA: 4.0/4.0
- GRE: 1600/1600

PUBLICATIONS

JOURNAL ARTICLES:

- "Moral Reasons Not to Breastfeed: A Response to Woollard and Porter," (forthcoming) *Journal of Medical Ethics*.
- "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:

- "Disagreement, Testimony, and Religious Understanding," (under contract) *Religious Disagreement and Pluralism*, eds. M. Benton and J. Kvanvig, Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- "Moral Testimony," (forthcoming) *Routledge Handbook of Social Epistemology*, eds. Peter Graham, Miranda Fricker, David Henderson, and Nikolaj Pedersen.
- "Skill and Knowledge," (forthcoming) 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

SELECTED UNPUBLISHED WORK

- “No Best Attitude” (under review)
- “Grounding the Normativity of Rationality: A Responsivist Proposal” (under review)
- Review for *Ethics*: Jonathan L. Kvanvig, (2018) *Faith and Humility*, Oxford: Oxford University Press (invited)

PRESENTATIONS

AS SELECTED PRESENTER:

“No Best Attitude”	<i>American Philosophical Association, 2019 Central Division Symposium Paper</i>	DENVER, FEB 2019
“Disagreement, Testimony, and Religious Understanding”	<i>American Philosophical Association, 2019 Eastern Division Group Presentation for Society of Christian Philosophers</i>	NEW YORK, JAN 2019
“Grounding the Normativity of Epistemic Rationality: A New Proposal”	<i>Johns Hopkins Graduate Philosophy Conference</i>	BALTIMORE, NOV 2018
“Religious Testimony and Religious Understanding”	<i>American Philosophical Association, 2018 Eastern Division Group Presentation for Society of Christian Philosophers (cancelled due to snow)</i>	SAVANNAH, JAN 2018
“Explaining Moral Testimony: A Different Appeal to Understanding”	<i>American Philosophical Association, 2017 Central Division Symposium Paper</i>	KANSAS CITY, MARCH 2017
“Explaining Moral Testimony: A Different Appeal to Understanding”	<i>Aristotelian Society and Mind Association, 2016 Joint Session, Postgraduate Session</i>	CARDIFF, JULY 2016
“Explaining Moral Testimony: A Different Appeal to Understanding”	<i>Northwestern University and Notre Dame University, 7th Annual Northwestern/Notre Dame Graduate Epistemology Conference</i>	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</i> , Workshop (4): Religious Epistemology and Testimony	OXFORD, JUNE 2014
“Testimony and the Value of Understanding, by Domain”	<i>British Postgraduate Philosophy Association (BPPA)</i> , Masterclass: Epistemic Values and Intellectual Virtues	EDINBURGH, JUNE 2014
“Virtue in Trust: Implications for Theistic Religious Faith”	<i>Society of Christian Philosophers</i> , Mountain-Pacific Conference on “Faith and Reason”	BOULDER, MAR 2013
AS INVITED COMMENTATOR:		
“The Agnostic Consequences of Skeptical Theism” by Nevin Climenhaga	<i>Society of Christian Philosophers</i> , 40 th Anniversary Conference	GRAND RAPIDS, SEPT 2018
“Improbabilism and Apt Belief” by Blake Roeber	<i>Episteme</i> annual conference	TENERIFE, JULY 2018
“Deference, Ideals, and Moral Risk” by Jonathan Knutzen	<i>American Philosophical Association</i> , 2018 Central Division Symposium Paper	CHICAGO, FEB 2018
“Intellectual Virtues and Biased Understanding” by Andrei Marasoiu	<i>American Philosophical Association</i> , 2018 Eastern Division Colloquium Paper	SAVANNAH, JAN 2018
“How Aristotelians Can Make Faith a Virtue” by Anne Jeffrey	<i>Value of Faith</i> Conference 2016	SAN ANTONIO, JAN 2016
“Skeptical Theism and the Future” by Cameron Domenico Kirk-Giannini	<i>New Insights and Directions for Religious Epistemology</i> , Workshop (5): Formal Epistemology and Religious Epistemology	OXFORD, DEC 2014
“(Undercutting) Epistemic Defeat and the Conciliatory Route to Agnosticism” by J. Adam Carter	<i>New Insights and Directions for Religious Epistemology</i> , Workshop (3): Defeat and Religious Epistemology	OXFORD, MARCH 2014
“Is Knowledge of God a Cognitive Achievement?” by Anthony Bolos	<i>Society of Christian Philosophers</i> , Mountain-Pacific Conference on “Faith and Reason”	BOULDER, MAR 2013

TEACHING

COURSES TAUGHT:

Intro to Ethics Philosophy 107 Rutgers University	Delivered online format course using split screen videos with video lecture and slides; Facilitated lively message-board discussion applying ethical theories to topical issues	SUMMER 2018
Epistemology Philosophy 412 Rutgers University	Designed custom syllabus for advanced undergraduates covering a range of topics including skepticism, the value of knowledge, and social epistemological issues; Emphasized team presentations and workshoping/commenting on papers with partners	SPRING 2018

Intro to Formal Reasoning and Decision-Making Philosophy 109 Rutgers University	Delivered online format course using customized syllabus covering basic logic, inductive reasoning, and heuristics and biases	SUMMER 2017
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ADDITIONAL TEACHING-RELATED EXPERIENCE:

APA-AAPT Teaching Hub Eastern APA	“Epistemology in Practice” Poster accepted for presentation, to discuss practical and immersive approaches to epistemology classes	JAN 2019
Philosophy as a Way of Life Summer Institute 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 immersive teaching approaches; Crafted an original “Epistemology in Practice” syllabus over the course of the Institute	JULY 2018
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

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: *EPISTEME, INQUIRY, RELIGIOUS STUDIES, ERKENNTNIS*

GRADUATE STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS:

RUTGERS GRADUATE STUDENT CLIMATE COMMITTEE	SEPT 2015—PRESENT
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Designed and administered new annual survey to assess graduate student interest in involvement in faculty hiring ▪ Collected and communicated graduate student hiring suggestions ▪ Coordinated graduate student mentors for undergraduates interested in pursuing graduate school 	

- OXFORD PHILOSOPHY GRADUATE STUDENT WELFARE REPRESENTATIVE** OCT 2014—JUNE 2015
- Increased awareness of welfare issues and resources by sending regular communications to graduate students and being available to direct individuals with personal concerns
 - Solicited student concerns, elevating issues and suggestions to the faculty
 - Organized and participated in meetings with faculty welfare officer, as well as other graduate representatives
 - Led community-building efforts among graduate students; e.g.:
 - Drafted and secured approval for first welfare representative social budget; requested and secured 50% increase for subsequent years
 - Organized a ‘bake-off’ among graduate students, with 17 participants
 - Planned and hosted start of term dinners for ~70 graduate students at Oxford
 - Hosted weekly faculty/graduate student teas

CONFERENCE & READING GROUP ORGANIZING:

- RUTGERS PHILOSOPHY OF RELIGION READING GROUP** SEPT 2017—PRESENT
- Co-organizer Sept 2017-Aug 2018, Organizer as of Aug 2018

- DEREK PARFIT MEMORIAL CONFERENCE** AUG 2017—DEC 2017
- Arranged logistics: conference venue, catering
 - Coordinated efforts with a team of organizers across universities

- SCP EASTERN REGIONAL CONFERENCE** JAN 2016—OCT 2016
- Drafted and disseminated call for papers and conference theme
 - Designed and created conference website
 - Arranged logistics: conference venue, lodging, catering

WORK AND RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- EDITORIAL ASSISTANT, *Noûs*, NEW BRUNSWICK, NJ** SEPT 2017—PRESENT
- 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—PRESENT

- RESEARCH ASSISTANT (RUTH CHANG), NEW BRUNSWICK, NJ** SEPT 2015—PRESENT
- 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

- TUTOR (GREENE’S TUTORIAL COLLEGE), OXFORD, UK** DEC 2013—MARCH 2015
- Designed and 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

- 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

SELECTED GRADUATE COURSEWORK

RUTGERS UNIVERSITY (PHD)

Advanced Topics in Philosophy of Mind (Andy Egan, Adam Elga)
 Philosophy of Psychology (Susanna Schellenberg)
 Advanced Topics in Epistemology (Ernest Sosa)
 Proseminar in Philosophy (Branden Fitelson, Frances Egan)
 Advanced Topics in Philosophy of Religion: Cognitive Science of Religion (Dean Zimmerman, Mark Baker)
 Advanced Topics in Philosophy of Religion: Metaphysics (Robert Adams)
 Topics in Logic (Anthony Gillies)
 Third Year Seminar (Ruth Chang)

OXFORD UNIVERSITY (BPHIL)

Applied ethics (abortion) – *written exam*
 Normative ethics (virtue theory) – *written exam*
 On What Matters (Derek Parfit, Roger Crisp)
 Epistemology (contextualism) – *written exam*
 Epistemology (self-trust and other trust) – *written exam*
 Language and Logic (Timothy Williamson)
 Epistemology (Elizabeth Fricker, John Hawthorne)
 Metaphysics (Timothy Williamson)
 Action, Knowledge, and Will (John Hyman)
 History of Philosophy 1800-1950 (Ryle on knowledge how) – *written exam*
 Early Modern Philosophy (Sentimentalists) – *written exam*
 Richard Price's Moral Philosophy (Terry Irwin, Roger Crisp)
 Philosophy of religion (problem of evil) – *written exam*
 Philosophy of Religion (Brian Leftow)

DISSERTATION ABSTRACT

Responsible for What's Rational

Should you believe that p ? Many epistemologists think you can answer this question by figuring out the answers to two other questions: what information do you have bearing on whether p , and what's the right way for you to interpret and evaluate that information? One problem with this proposal is that it seems there *isn't* always some right way for you to interpret and evaluate your information. Or rather, the answer to this last question isn't always a *given* one, as opposed to one we give ourselves. I argue that what we should believe, in the sense of what it's rational for us to believe, depends in part on our own epistemic commitments as to good ways of interpreting and evaluating evidence. These commitments are things we partly give ourselves and for which we are responsible.

The thesis that we are partly responsible for what it's rational for us to believe in this way ("responsibilism") calls for a different way of thinking about what to believe. Questions about what to believe depend in part on questions about who to be.

I offer three arguments in support of responsibilism. First, I appeal to would-be permissivists about rationality, arguing that certain responsibilist forms of permissivism fare better than other, more standard forms of permissivism in handling the major objections to permissivism. Second, I argue that the most plausible meta-normative story about the source of epistemic rationality's normativity supports responsibilism. Finally, I offer a two-part argument for the claims that (i) we sometimes encounter cases of "epistemic underdetermination," where there is not just one rational attitude for us to take toward some proposition, and (ii) a responsibilist story is attractive in light of such cases. Together these diverse arguments constitute a strong case for my claim that agents are partly responsible for what it's rational for them to believe.