

JULIA BANKS

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EDUCATION

Duke University, August 2024-*TBD*

PhD Student, Department of Philosophy

James B. Duke Fellow

The James B. Duke 100th Anniversary Fund provides fellowships for students who wish to pursue a program leading to the PhD in The Graduate School. Its objective is to help attract and develop outstanding scholars at Duke. Selection of recipients is made by a faculty committee upon nomination by the appropriate department.

Lafayette College, May 2023

Bachelor of Science in Neuroscience; Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy

Honors Thesis: "Psychopathy and Moral Responsibility: A Multi-Factor Model" and "Deep Brain Stimulation as a Treatment for Psychopathy: A Bioethical Analysis", Philosophy Department

Academic Honors:

Duke University:

James B. Duke Fellowship

Lafayette College:

Summa Cum Laude

Louise M. Olmstead Award in Philosophy (2023)

Awarded to a junior or senior student majoring in philosophy, who, in the judgment of the members of the Department of Philosophy, has produced outstanding work in the discipline, exhibiting excellence and future promise at bringing the values and methods of philosophical inquiry to bear onto the investigation of increasingly complex issues relevant to the individual or society.

Departmental Honors in Philosophy (2023)

Phi Beta Kappa Honor Society

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Department of Philosophy, Duke University

Graduate Teaching Assistant, August 2025-May 2026

History of Early Modern Philosophy (Andrew Janiak, Fall 2025)

Philosophy and Neuroscience (Felipe De Brigard, Spring 2026)

Thompson Writing Program

Graduate Student Instructor (GSI), August-December 2026

Served as Instructor of Record (IOR) for Writing 120, a 17-student, first-year writing seminar taught through Duke University's Thompson Writing Program. Developed an original syllabus and assignments in alignment with the [Writing 120 Learning Outcomes](#), and attended professional development workshops during August 2026 in preparation to teach for the fall semester.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Thompson Writing Program Writing Studio

Graduate Writing Consultant, August 2025-May 2026; January-May 2027

Offered 12 45-minute-long writing conferences per week open to any Duke University student. Attend biweekly staff meetings focused on writing pedagogy, working with multilingual writers, education about other campus resources to which we may refer students, and some of the specific challenges we face in the Writing Studio including student burnout, AI usage, etc.

Lafayette College Writing Program

Writing Associate, August 2021-May 2023

Served as a resource for Lafayette College students seeking assistance on any writing-based assignment or task. Met with a class of 18-20 students four times per semester to discuss high level writing concerns such as paper structure, tone, proper citation protocols, and interpreting writing assignments. Hosted drop-in hours open to all students. Collaborated with partner professor as a member of the course teaching team.

Lafayette College Admissions

Ambassador of Lafayette, February 2021-May 2023

Campus Visitation (2/2021-5/2023): Acted as a liaison between the admissions office and prospective students. Welcomed, communicated, and connected with 30+ prospective students and families per semester, introducing them to the Lafayette community.

Senior Interviewer (7/2022-1/2023): Conducted evaluative hour-long interviews with 52 prospective students to learn more about their interest in the College. Completed a detailed write-up of each interview that was added to the student's admissions file and considered during application evaluation.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Duke University, Philosophy Department

Second Year Paper, August 2025-May 2026

Primary Advisor: Walter Sinnott-Armstrong

Committee: Felipe De Brigard and Gopal Sreenivasan

"The Non-Necessity of Consciousness for Moral Rights": Argue that consciousness – access consciousness, phenomenal consciousness, and sentience – is cannot be necessary for moral rights using a series of cases in which consciousness, or capacity for consciousness, is absent in the present, present and past, present and future, and past, present, and future. In each case, the imagined individual maintains at least basic moral rights against unnecessary touching and disabling; accordingly, given that there is at least one moral right for which consciousness, of any kind and at any time, is unnecessary, consciousness cannot be a necessary requirement for one's possession of (any) moral rights.

Lafayette College, Philosophy Department

Honors Thesis, August 2022-May 2023

Primary Advisor: Meghan Masto

Committee: Owen McLeod and Susan Hannan

"Psychopathy and Moral Responsibility: A Multi-Factor Model": Integrate psychological and neuroscientific data on the brains of individuals who meet criteria for psychopathy with philosophical literature to evaluate whether psychopathic agents ought to be held morally responsible for their actions. Then, sketch a model of moral responsibility that takes into account the physiological differences and psychological traits of psychopathy, which ultimately indicates that psychopathic agents may not be morally responsible for their actions.

"Deep Brain Stimulation as a Treatment for Psychopathy: A Bioethical Analysis": Critically evaluate the bioethical literature on the potential uses of deep brain stimulation (DBS) as a treatment for psychopathy, with specific analysis devoted to the essential bioethical criteria of consent and individual medical (and non-medical) benefits. Ultimately argue that the barriers to the ethical implementation of DBS as a treatment for psychopathy may be less difficult to overcome than other authors describe, but that the prospect of using DBS as a treatment for psychopathy warrants further scrutiny.

Lafayette College, Philosophy Department

Research Assistant, May-August 2022

Advisor: Meghan Masto

Worked as a remote research assistant; compiled a virtual database of over 30 sources cited in Prof. Masto's work to streamline the citation process for future journal submissions and papers. Attended weekly research meetings to discuss progress and any creative contributions to her research.

Lafayette College, Neuroscience Department

Independent Study Research, August 2021-May 2022

Advisors: Lisa Gabel (neuroscience), Yih-Chuong Yu (electrical and computer engineering)

Conducted research aimed at improving and advancing non-invasive EEG-based BCI devices. Partnered with electrical engineering students to solve complex problems related to recordings of neural signals, ease of use of the interface, and development of low-cost BCI design solutions towards enhancing quality of life, such as a [wireless EEG based BCI wheelchair operation](#). Worked on a team of three students; wrote multiple papers on strategies to increase individuals' ability to produce the motor imagery signals required to operate a BCI device and designed an experiment that would allow researchers to explore the impact of distraction on a user's ability to use a motor-imagery based BCI device. Designed a sample study to test a training protocol that could improve visual-kinesthetic coordination (and subsequently the ability to produce a sufficient motor imagery signal) in participants by having an experimental group learn to type on a non-QWERTY keyboard and analyzing their ability to produce adequate motor imagery signals in comparison to a control group with no training.

LEADERSHIP AND SERVICE

Lafayette College "Dog House" Living Learning Community

Senior Dog Trainer, November 2021-May 2023

Volunteered for Canine Partners for Life (CPL) as a Community Puppy Home Volunteer based out of Lafayette College's "Dog House" Living Learning Community. Conducted all training and care for future service dog(s) for the duration they were placed with us. Training involved socializing the dogs to public settings, teaching specialized cue/response sets and behaviors, and teaching appropriate manners for a service dog. Coordinated official training sessions with CPL and submitted monthly reports on each dog's behavior, training progress, health, and other updates. Actively participated in the training and socialization of four CPL dogs and was primary handler to one of them.

Lafayette College Pottery Club

Co-President, January 2022- May 2023

Vice President, January 2021-January 2022

Collaborated with the Pottery Club board to manage an efficient and productive student-run pottery studio on campus. Hosted and supervised weekly open-studio hours for club members. Acquired and oversaw the recycling of over 50 pounds of clay, and improved studio efficiency by regularly conducting bisque and glaze kiln firings, acquiring and organizing new materials, and increasing storage space during Fall 2021.

Lafayette College Philosophy Club

President, August 2022-May 2023

Collaborated with club advisor(s) and members to host meetings and events catered to the interests of philosophy-minded students including lectures, debates, discussions, etc. Hosted weekly club meetings for 2022-23 academic year.