

Letter of Intention for Doctor of Professional Studies in Information Sciences @ Syracuse University
Brian Hogan, MS

A critical pandemic impact on employment is corporate downsizing and sourcing talent via ‘pick of the litter.’ I experienced hiring likelihood as (years data science work experience) + (scholastic achievement) + (evidence portfolio) + (age range). While Syracuse provides a top degree, Boston’s trained data science pool is saturated. I learned many PhDs flock here and often representing 30 out of 100 applicants. A recruiter informed me ‘age’ was critical and strongly encouraged me to scrub it from LinkedIn and web requiring 8 months of work. I lack hard evidence, but periodic competitor assessment via LinkedIn helped me quickly understand I was regularly 10 and often 20 older than other candidates. As a 50-year-old, I also lacked recent corporate work as I left it in 2017 after 26 years and started performing academic research advisor and tutoring work which I really enjoyed as young master’s sociology student 15 16 years prior. Corporations shy from a lack of continuity and after 250 failed applications I repackaged as a writer and trainer given substantial prior evidence. My Syracuse work in Natural Language Processing and Information Policy made me a cut above the rest before my degree’s street value eroded further.

My goal is to teach full time as a practitioner. After interviewing Syracuse’s Professor of Practice Program director, Dr. Jordan, I learned how the degree could help me build a stable teaching portfolio. I understand the PhD process as my x-wife was awarded hers. I know I am best suited on the *applied research of real-world problems* spectrum and can draw upon my tactical to strategic corporate information tech experience across manufacturing and pharmaceutical industries to harness insights and look ahead. I know how to get in touch with my intuition and synthesize points of view. Finally, I love the process of learning, discerning points of view, and getting to the visceral underbelly. Rather naturally, several years ago I found my way to the *Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy* and continue to use it regularly to discover new knowledge pathways and deepen points of view.

I love using evidence-based practice and with few job prospects this past year I searched and began volunteering as a researcher at a hospital performing literature review, survey work, data collection, and learning REDCap to measure across 70 nurses the implementation of *nurse rounding* to improve patient safety and satisfaction. The rubber had to hit the road versus waiting for a research position to accept my application. I was falling behind further as labored on as a carpenter to pay bills and quite often dead tired negatively impacting my programming and writing practice. I doubled my efforts and now employed after a 2-year search. This week I solved a work puzzle with use Dr. Stanton’s contingency tables, marginals, and normalized probabilities. This time is now to further engage my training else be gobbled up.

In terms of prior academic evidence, after college I enrolled in the Harvard Extension school to improve my writing and build evidence to support acceptance into a Sociology or Industrial/Organizational Psychology program. My success and determination at Harvard Extension resulted in my acceptance as a Sociology master’s student at Boston College, age 29. My acceptance letter from [Dr. Charles Derber](#) was one of my proudest moments. I focused on theory (Weber, Durkheim, Marx, Engels, M. Foucault, H. Braverman, and G. Deleuze) and multivariant statistics. I loved the challenge of multivariant stats with [Dr. John Williamson](#). At BC, I absolutely laid a foundation for doctoral training in information technology as I pursued the intersection of technology and society from Frederic Taylor’s scientific methods to Fordism, numerically controlled machines, microprocessors, post-modernism, corporate power, social contracts, and into deeper philosophical realms including reframing the social’s real through Jean Baudrillard’s work on symbols, simulations, and simulacrum. Regrettably, in 2000 I moved out of Massachusetts for work and family leaving my degree work as online learning was not supported. As life

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turns, I was very grateful for acceptance into Syracuse with a chance to rebuild academically and direct the second half of my life's work.

My aim is to assist in the theory, development, and integration of healthy AI structures that enable positive social fabric where conscious experiencing agents, human and perhaps robotic, are continuously provided a agent assistance supporting expansion of both intelligence and consciousness. I am terribly worried about the implementation of insidious info tech agents capable of inflicting diseased information, or at worst, authoring autopoietic systems regulating intelligence-controlled agents. Facebook and Twitter agents already control information access, dissemination, and homogenization through business rules derived from machine learning categorization, such as 'offensive' content. Quite regularly, Twitter labeled offensive content may not be based in foul language, slander, or similar. Clearly, the information technology world has human beings right back center in Michael Foucault's mental prison argument where the goals of power and the goals of knowledge cannot be separated: in knowing we control and in controlling we know [1].

Another area I am interested in applying rigorous analysis is how information technology influences perception and experience phenomena. Given broadband speeds and smartphone power, the rates of qualia ingestion are exponential and generate and addicting amount neural and physical excitement. But how *real* is the experience? What aspects of this experience can be measured to help build an understanding of what new devices MUST HAVE to replace an iphone's incessant nature? Let us posit for device XYZ we develop a credible measure, what ethical considerations must not be compromised if corporate viability is at stake? Has the world clearly established the necessity of this? Jean Baudrillard hypothesized the progression to continuous object simulation devoid of the natural world. Yesterday local Boston news covered the growing high-school and college nature therapy program at Maine's [Summit Achievement](#) treatment center built to address social media and internet device burnout leading to stress and anxiety conditions. Some form of policy around the harmful effects of thoughtless information technology paradigms must be considered as other physical forms of device manipulation include the marked rise in obesity prevalence from 30.5% in 2000 to 42.4% in 2018 [2].

Simply put, more theory work is required leading to practical mechanisms either in business or policy to inform social contracts built between humans, information technology agents, and health equity services required to minimize adverse events spanning mental, physical, and intelligence health. Corporations are interested in statistical measures of fairness but there is work to be done building deeper connections amongst legal, philosophical and socio-technical realms.

I have never been grittier and refuse to be refuse. When I meant with Dr. Jordan, the Professor of Practice Program Director, he helped me understand why I have also had trouble getting adjunct teaching positions and thoughtfully reviewed program and employment pros and cons. I have a minimum of 15 quality years delivering material and cannot think of anything more rewarding and life fulfilling. I know through my training I will be able to organize content more effectively and develop enriching course content on second order questions such as information technology's ability to potentially control a human's view of [substance](#) [3] leading to new realms of inequitable cybernetic control through planned intelligence reduction.

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Doctoral work is where I belong and my master's expanded my abilities to execute this work effectively with ultra-gritty deep work principals. I also desire to pay homage to my Jewish grandfather, and guarantor, as he studied with me daily as a child for 8 years building principals of grit, problem abstraction, and tinkering of many form types.

It is a great honor for you to consider supporting my application and I really value your time engaging my pursuit. I apologize for a complete lack of pithiness as decided on both context and content in the event of reference acceptance. I wholeheartedly appreciate your time and your thoughtful consideration on my journey towards building deep synthesis skills enabling a stable platform to live and work meaningfully.

Brian Hogan

Best Regards,
Brian Hogan, MS (winter 2020)
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Provided reference instructions:

TWO (2) LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION

Both letters of recommendation should be provided by individuals who can comment on your intellectual acuity and/or personal grit and determination. We hope the letters can testify to the writers' familiarity with your intellectual curiosity, ability to work with abstractions, personal time management skills, and writing and reading abilities.

You can request letters of recommendation, and your recommenders can submit their recommendations, through the online application system. You will receive an email once your recommender submits their recommendation.

If you are unable to request letters electronically through OnBase, you must mail letters to the Graduate Enrollment Management Center (address and mailing instructions below) in sealed envelopes, on which the recommender has signed across the seal.

References

- [1] Gutting, G., Oksala, J., 2021, Michael Foucault, Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy, retrieved from: <https://plato.stanford.edu/archives/sum2021/entries/Foucault>.
- [2] Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (2021), Adult Obesity Facts, Retrieved from: <https://www.cdc.gov/obesity/data/adult.html>
- [3] Robinson, H., (2021), Substance, Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy, retrieved from: <https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/substance/>