

Researcher Profile

An Interview with Axton Betz-Hamilton, Ph.D.

Dr. Axton Betz-Hamilton teaches consumer studies courses at Eastern Illinois University, including Personal and Family Finance, Housing, and Consumer Issues. She conducts research on identity theft as well as financial abuse within families.



Q. Define what you do professionally.

A. I teach consumer studies courses at Eastern Illinois University, including Personal and Family Finance, Housing, and Consumer Issues. Also, I conduct research on identity theft as well as financial abuse within families.

Q. What activities encompass your professional responsibilities?

A. I typically teach 3 to 4 courses a semester, advise independent study and student research projects, as well as conduct research and engage in both on- and off-campus professional service activities.

Q. How long have you been engaged in your professional activity?

A. I have been in my current position at Eastern Illinois University since 2011.

Q. What led you to your professional calling?

A. After discovering I was a victim of identity theft in 2001, I was frustrated by the lack of understanding of the crime by agencies and by the general public. As well, I was frustrated by the lack of information and other resources for victims. By choosing a career that

encompasses researching identity theft and financial abuse within families and educating college students and community members, I hope to alleviate these frustrations for others.

Q. What needs to happen so that 10 years from now we can say that financial therapy is a respected field of study?

A. One pressing issue for the field of financial therapy is to develop a professional code of ethics; another is to develop standards for education and continuing education for those who wish to practice financial therapy. In order for this field to be respected 10 years from now, we need to develop rigorous ethical and educational standards so consumers of financial therapy can fully trust the information and interventions they are provided.

Q. What benefits can the Financial Therapy Association provide to others doing work that is similar to your professional activities?

A. In order to conduct effective, applied research in the areas of identity theft and financial abuse within families, I draw upon previously published literature in the fields of consumer studies and psychology. As financial therapy draws upon both of these areas, the Financial Therapy Association provides access to published resources and potential collaborators that illuminate the intersections between consumer studies and psychology.

Q. If others are interested in finding out more about you personally and professionally, where can they obtain this information?

A. My contact information is as follows:

Axton Betz-Hamilton, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor of Consumer Studies
School of Family and Consumer Sciences
Eastern Illinois University
600 Lincoln Avenue
Charleston, Illinois 61920
(v): 309-338-9889
Email: aebetzb@eiu.edu or axtonb@gmail.com