Grant Title: VARIETIES OF UNDERSTANDING: NEW PERSPECTIVES FROM PSYCHOLOGY, PHILOSOPHY, AND THEOLOGY

Funding Opportunity Number: N/A

Agency/Department: Fordham University, with the support of a grant from The John Templeton Foundation.

Area of Research: Support empirical work in psychology on the nature and varieties of human understanding.

Release and Expiration: N/A

Application Deadline: Letters of Intent are due by November 1st, 2013. Invitations for full proposals will be made by December 1st, 2013. Full proposals will be due by March 1st, 2014.

Amount: Proposals can request between $50,000 and $225,000. 7-8 awards.

Length of Support: Up to two years.

Eligible Applicants: The PI must have a Ph.D. and be in or contracted to a faculty position at an accredited college or university before July 1st, 2014.

Summary: The aim of this RFP is to encourage research from both new and established scholars working on empirical projects related to understanding in its many forms. It is anticipated applicants will be from cognitive, social, and developmental psychology, but will additional subfields will be considered as well. Interdisciplinary teams that include members from other areas, especially philosophy or theology, are encouraged but not required. The study of understanding is an enormously ambitious pursuit, and little research has aimed to directly define or describe the nature and varieties of human understanding. What is understanding? Are there multiple kinds of understanding? How can understanding be improved? While existing research provides no clear answers to these questions, there has been considerable progress within specific areas of psychology that arguably engage with the study of human understanding. Special attention will be given to projects that attempt to articulate what it is about understanding that goes beyond memory, description, or imitation to support the kind of novelty reflected in transfer tasks. The grantee acknowledges the diversity of methodological and conceptual approaches in contemporary psychology and realizes that some projects may begin from different assumptions. If a project begins with an alternative set of assumptions, this should be noted and justified in the application.