Elise is involved in two projects at BCTR. She is currently using the LONGSCAN study data in the National Data Archive on Child Abuse and Neglect to investigate the unique impact of childhood psychological maltreatment to changes in adolescent mental health symptoms at age 14. Dr. John Eckenrode is her master’s thesis chairperson. She is also conducting interviews for the Cornell Research Program on Self-Injurious Behavior with Dr. Janis Whitlock. In the future, Elise would like to continue working with the LONGSCAN data on psychological maltreatment outcomes as well as begin analyzing data from the Self-Injurious Behavior study.

After earning her B.S. in biological sciences at the University of California, Irvine, Elise moved to Berlin to teach fifth grade at an English language immersion school for a year. The following year, she moved to New York City for an M.A. in Science Education and another year of developmental psychology coursework from Teachers College, Columbia University. It was during a fellowship she had at a Bronx high school that she realized she wanted to study the impact of poverty on child and adolescent development, with the goal of directing policy with her work. Within the context of poverty, she is interested in both characteristics of the home environment and parent-child interactions and their influence on mental health and academic achievement. Elise is currently a first year doctoral student in Human Development.

After completing her doctoral training at Cornell, Elise hopes to obtain either an academic post-doctoral position at a research intensive university. Her goal is to influence child and family policy with her research. Whenever possible, Elise enjoys modern and contemporary art exhibitions, classical music performances, foreign films, and thrift store shopping.