



Science, Technology and Engineering

Research in Psychological Science

The School of Psychological Science has a history of excellence in research, including a high level of success in attracting peer reviewed project grant funding, significant output in the form of publications and conference presentations, and for some years the School has had one of the largest postgraduate enrolments in the country.

Staff research areas (Bundoora)



Professor Edith Bavin (Adjunct)

First language acquisition, cognition and language, language disorders, auditory perception.



Professor Sheila Crewther

Cognitive and behavioural neuroscience; selective visual and cross-modal attention in healthy children and adults and neurodevelopmental disorders. Molecular and physiological mechanisms underlying nature-nurture interactions in humans and animal.



Professor Simon Crowe

Neuropsychology of psychiatric and degenerative disorders; animal models of memory formation, behavioural neurotoxicology.



Professor Geoff Cumming (Emeritus)

Statistical cognition, and 'the new stats'; reform of statistical practices in psychology and other disciplines; multimedia for learning statistics; evidence-based practice.



Professor Ross Day

Human perception, perceptual illusions, movement, space, and biological activity, and perception in abnormal states. The relationship between perception and action.



Dr Cheryl Dissanayake, Associate Professor

Social-emotional and social-cognitive development in Autism Spectrum Disorder and typically developing children including pretend play abilities; autism in infancy; physical growth and comorbidity of autism and Fragile X syndrome with Dr. Loesch.



Dr Lynette Evans

Eating problems and the impact on relationship experiences for women.



Mr Bruce Falconer

Psychiatric disorders and their clinical application, personality disorders, depression, the application of CBT within the primary health care system.



Dr John Farhall

Hallucinations and delusions in clinical and normal populations; working with families in mental health; psychiatric rehabilitation; clinical practice guidelines.



Dr Fiona Fidler

Statistical cognition, statistical reform, resistance to methodological change; judgment and decision making under uncertainty, overconfidence in expert judgments; history and philosophy of science, the nature of scientific evidence.



Mr Martin Jackson

Alcohol related brain injury; substance abuse; recovery following acquired brain injury and long term outcomes; mild head injury; cognitive sequelae of emotional disorder; ecological validity of neuropsychological tests, learning disabilities.

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Staff research areas (Bundoora)



Dr Emi Kashima

Cognitive and behavioral reactions to symbolic threats, e.g. identity/stereotype threat, mortality salience, uncertainty, and self-threat; cultural and personality buffers against threats; effects of culture and language on cognition; acculturation.



Dr Nikolaos Kazantzis

Clinical psychology; cognitive behavioural therapy; evaluation of therapy processes and outcomes, particularly the role of client and therapist factors in facilitating homework adherence and treatment outcome.



Dr Stephen Kent, Associate Professor

Psychoneuroimmunology, the development of sickness behaviour (e.g. fever, loss of appetite), and the effects of stress on immunity. Behavioural, endocrine and immunological consequences of calorie restriction.



Dr Evan Kidd

Language acquisition; Language processing; the development of memory systems; socio-cognitive development.



Dr Annukka Lindell

Laterality; hemispheric asymmetries for high and low level cognitive processes; right hemisphere language; lateralisation and the aetiology of dyslexia, SLI and autism; asymmetries in emotion perception and production; neuroaesthetics.



Professor Glynda Kinsella

Clinical neuropsychology; working memory and prospective remembering; traumatic brain injury; neuropsychology of mild cognitive impairment and Alzheimer's disease; neuropsychological interventions for memory impairment.



Dr Danuta Loesch

Genetic and neural determinants of neuropsychological and physical manifestations in fragile X associated disorders, with emphasis on autistic behaviours in affected children, and neurodegenerative process in aged premutation carriers.



Professor Jim McLennan (Adjunct)

Emergency management and decision making. Wildfire research task force investigating community safety issues in the aftermath of recent disastrous bushfires in Victoria.



Dr Mary Omodei

Cognitive, social, and personality factors impacting on decision making in complex emergency situations. Methodologies include field interviews, role plays, computer-simulated scenarios, and head-mounted video cued recall.



Dr Ben Ong

Cognitive and memory deficits (eg. executive function, visual-spatial memory) in aging and disease (e.g. mild-cognitive impairment, Alzheimer's Disease).



Dr Tony Paolini, Associate Professor

Behavioural and systems sensory (auditory, olfaction and vision) neurophysiology; deafness; cochlear and neural (bionic) implants; biomaterial sciences for nervous systems interface. Neurophysiology, biochemistry and molecular mechanisms of social behaviour; pheromones.



Professor Susan Paxton

Development, prevention and treatment of body dissatisfaction, disordered eating and obesity. Relationships between mothers eating and feeding practices and the eating patterns of young children. Stigma and eating disorders.



Dr Robyn Stargatt

The developmental effects of anaesthesia in children; neurobehavioural outcomes of brain tumours, and head injury. Aggression in children with psychological disturbance. Post traumatic stress disorder.



Dr Art Stukas

Social psychology (broadly construed), with an emphasis on the self, close relationships, social interaction, volunteerism and community involvement, and prejudice, stigma and stereotyping.

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Staff research areas (Bundoora)



Dr Richard Weisinger, Associate Professor
Role of omega-3 fatty acids in health and disease; mechanisms involved in the regulation of body fat metabolism and body weight; central mechanisms involved in the control of ingestive behaviour.



Professor Eleanor Wertheim
Conflict resolution, enhancing relationships in schools through better conflict resolution and cultural diversity programs, the process of forgiveness and reconciliation after conflict; disordered eating and body concerns.

Staff research areas (Albury-Wodonga)



Dr Michael Halloran
Social and cultural psychology, with a focus on social identity, intergroup dynamics, Indigenous issues, and the impact of existential concerns on social psychological processes and behaviour.



Dr Brad Wright
Issues relating to health psychology, particularly identifying and modelling the various relationships between employment, social support, exercise and stress levels on physiological and health outcomes.

Staff research areas (Bendigo)



Dr Graeme Galloway
Humour; philosophical psychology; tourist psychology.



Mr Tim Godber
Intraindividual performance variability, psychological assessment, developmental disorders.



Dr Anna Kokavec
Complex feedback loop between energy intake and metabolism, immune response, and activity of steroid hormones; biochemical and behavioural aspects of substance abuse; and the contribution of dietary factors to the development of disease.

Further Information

For further information about undertaking a research degree in Psychological Science or to discuss collaboration with our researchers, please contact:

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