

**Messages to Potential Thesis Students for the
2020-21 Academic Year**

Arnell, Karen

Professor

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I am hoping to accept one or two undergraduate thesis students next year. In my lab we investigate attention – its limits in dual-task situations, what captures our attention, how attention is influenced by emotion, and individual differences in attention. We are also currently examining the characteristics of heavy media multitaskers who regularly use multiple forms of media simultaneously. Ideally, students will have taken Cognition (PSYC 2P20). Students will work with me one-on-one with weekly meetings. My goal is to involve my thesis students in all aspects of a study including experiment design, creation, data collection, and analysis, with the potential to co-author a conference poster and/or journal article.

Ashton, Michael

Professor

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My students usually work on research questions about the relations between personality characteristics and other variables of interest. Some of my students choose topics that I'm already studying, and some students choose their own topics to study. I prefer to work with students who have taken PSYC 2P25.

Bogaert, Anthony

Professor, Health Sciences

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I study various aspects of human sexuality, including the development of sexual orientation, gender differences in sexuality, and asexuality. Contact me by email if you are interested in conducting a thesis project under my supervision.

Book, Angela

Associate Professor

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The goal of my research is to examine the relationship between psychopathy and victim selection. Students who are interested in completing a thesis under my supervision can contact me by email and we can meet to discuss specific research interests.

Busseri, Michael

Associate Professor

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Will not be accepting students in 2020-2021

I am a social/personality psychologist who studies well-being. My current research activities are focused primarily on how individuals view their well-being through time, that is, their personal evaluations of recollected past, present, and anticipated future well-being. I am interested in supervising Honours theses, particularly with students who have excelled in the following Psychology courses: 2P25 or 2P30; 2F23, 3P39, and 3F40. Typically, thesis students work closely with me on an original empirical project reflecting both their and my interests, with the goal of producing a high-quality (and publishable) study. Additional information can be found at the following URLs:

<https://brocku.ca/social-sciences/psychology/people/michael-busseri/>

<https://wellbeingresearchlab.weebly.com/>

Campbell, Karen

Assistant Professor

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For the first time in Canadian history, there are now more people over the age of 65 than children aged 0 to 14 years. Given this demographic shift, it is now more critical than ever that we gain a clearer picture of how the mind and brain change with age. My lab focuses on the cognitive and neural changes that accompany normal (i.e., non-pathological) human aging, with a particular focus on age-related declines in attention and the effect this has on memory performance. To this end, we use a variety of research methods, including behavioural testing, eye-tracking, and neuroimaging (for more information, please visit my website <http://www.brockcnaalab.com/> or send me an email).

Honours students will work with me one-on-one and gain experience designing an experiment, testing participants, and analyzing data. Projects can either be strictly behavioural or involve an imaging component (most likely EEG). Ideally, students will also get the opportunity to co-author a conference poster and/or journal article.

Cote, Kimberly

Professor

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My students and I conduct research on "Sleep, Performance, & Cognition". In the past, undergraduate and graduate students have worked together on studies of sleep

deprivation, daytime napping, the role of sleep in memory, and attentional mechanisms at sleep onset and during sleep. My students gain highly specialized skills in the field of sleep and electrophysiology, including recording and analysis of sleep, waking EEG, and evoked brain potentials. It would be helpful, but not essential, if students have taken Sleep and Wakefulness (PSYC 3P68) and Brain and Behaviour (2P36/37).

Dane, Drew

Associate Professor

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If you are interested in completing a thesis under my supervision, please contact me by e-mail and we can set up an appointment to discuss your research interests. Students completing their thesis with me would be able to analyze data from one of several databases, all of which address bullying and peer victimization amongst children and adolescents, with a particular emphasis on evolutionary perspectives.

Dwivedi, Veena

Associate Professor

Office: MCB 331 Phone: 5389

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Dr. Dwivedi's research programme is designed to understand how human language is processed by both younger and older adults. Her current work focuses on semantic ambiguity in English, via the examination of quantifier phrases such as "every tree" and "each kid". She investigates the role of heuristic (real-world experience biases) vs. algorithmic (grammatical rules) processing in language processing in real-time. Her methods include the neurophysiological tool of EEG, as well as behavioural measures such as self-paced reading. She also has research interests in the processing of Hindi, as well as the role of structure in processing language and music.

Emrich, Stephen

Assistant Professor

Office: MC B336 Phone: 6181

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I conduct research in the area of visual cognitive neuroscience. I employ both behavioural and neuroimaging (EEG, fMRI) methods to examine how the brain selects (attention), maintains (visual working memory) and ultimately perceives (consciousness) visual information. I am also interested in questions such as how personality or aging affect these different processes.

I anticipate that I will accept one or two undergraduate thesis students to conduct a

study in my lab. Ideally, students will have taken either perception (PSYC 2P49) or cognition (PSYC 2P20). Additional knowledge of statistics, neuroscience, or computer programming will be helpful but not necessary. Students will be involved in all aspects of a study (either behavioral or with a neuroimaging component), including experiment design, data collection and analysis. My goal is to work closely with thesis students with the aim of completing a project that will provide students an opportunity to co-author a conference poster and/or journal article.

Evans, Angela

Assistant Professor

Office: MCB 321 Phone: 5367

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I will be taking one thesis students in my social-cognitive development lab next year. My research examines honest and deceptive behaviors across the lifespan including children, adolescence, and older adults. I am also interested in issues related to child eyewitness testimony such as how we question child witnesses, children's competency and credibility, and our biases in detecting their lies. I am interested in supervising Honours thesis students who have completed and excelled in PSYC 2P12 (It would also be an asset to be taking/or have taken the Development of Deception - PSYC 3P32). If you are interested in completing a thesis under my supervision, please contact me via e-mail and we can set up an appointment to discuss your research interests.

Good, Dawn

Associate Professor

Office: MC B308 Phone: 3869

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I would welcome Honours students interested in doing an empirical thesis on issues related to cognitive neuropsychology (brain and behaviour/cognition). My lab has a particular emphasis on research that examines the relationships between cognitive capacity, decision making, social awareness, affect, emotional control (e.g., stress, underarousal), memory and functional independence (i.e., everyday decisions, choices and activities, school competence and reintegration) in identified populations (e.g., persons who have acquired a brain injury) using both behavioural and psychophysiological measures of behaviour. Students will find it helpful to have taken courses in related fields such as brain & behaviour, cognition, neuropsychology, and/or development.

Hodson, Gordon

Professor

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Will not be accepting students in 2020-2021

My research interests involve stereotyping, prejudice, and discrimination, with a particular focus on personality differences (e.g., political ideology; personality) as causes of prejudice, and intergroup contact and friendship as solutions for reducing intergroup bias. I also study dehumanization of outgroups, and I am interested in emotions such as empathy and disgust as they relate to prejudice. We are interested in prejudices toward a wide range of social groups (e.g., immigrants, sexual minorities, the homeless, and nonhuman animals), and also generalized prejudice (i.e., being prejudiced across a range of groups). I am typically interested in supervising students who have completed and excelled in Psyc 2P25 and 2P30 courses.

For more details, please visit the following websites:

<http://brocku.ca/psychology/people/hodson.htm> <http://www.hodsonlab.com/>

Mahy, Caitlin

Associate Professor

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My research examines changes in memory and thinking in early childhood and in aging. We are specifically interested in how young children remember future intentions (prospective memory), how children reason about the future, how individuals understand others' minds (theory of mind), and how memory and cognition change with age. Currently, some of the questions we are asking are: (1) what leads to forgetting in children? (2) what are the types of ways children save for the future? And (3) what is the role of category understanding in the development of false memory? Please see my lab website for more information: www.brockdmclab.com

I am interested in supervising serious students who have done well in PSYC 2P12 and have taken other developmental psychology courses relevant to our labs interest. If you are interested in completing a thesis in my lab, please contact me via e-mail and we can set up an appointment to discuss your research interests and to talk more about current research projects in my lab.

Mantonakis, Antonia

Professor of Marketing and Consumer Psychology
Fellow, Cool Climate Oenology and Viticulture Institute
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My research is about how consumers make decisions. As a cognitive psychologist by training, my research is heavily influenced by theories (e.g., fluency attribution) and methods (i.e., experiments) of cognitive psychology. My research is carried out in our Consumer Lab, or in the field, where I usually run behavioural "real world" experiments on consumers. For instance, I might vary a store sign about a particular wine, and see if sales of that wine increase with a certain variation of a message on the sign. Many of my studies involve consumer perceptions about wine: how does the picture on the label influence the thoughts a consumer has about that wine? I usually work alongside someone in the Psychology Department to co-supervise thesis students who already have research experience.

Martini, Tanya

Professor
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Will not be accepting students in 2020-2021

Skills-based learning is an important part of what is being fostered during your degree, but for many undergraduates it is not "front and centre". Instead, students tend to focus their attention on the subject matter when they take courses; that is, they're much more concerned with course content (what's written in the textbook, or presented in lecture) than they are with transferable job-related skills.

Unfortunately, the reality is that when students have to apply for jobs questions related to course-related material rarely come up, and a good understanding of course content is almost never the basis for someone deciding to hire you. Instead, employers are much more interested in your skill set – Do you know how to solve problems? Are you a good communicator? Are you a team player? Do you have leadership potential?

My research examines how undergraduates think about the skills that are being fostered during university experiences, both inside and outside the classroom. I am interested in what students know about job-related skills, and how they connect those skills with their university experiences. I'm also interested in how we can improve students' understanding of career-related skills so that they are in a better position to leverage them when they apply for jobs or post-graduate programs.

McCormick, Cheryl

Professor

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My research interests are in the fields of behavioural neuroscience and developmental neuroendocrinology using primarily animal models. Examples of research topics that the people in my lab are working on are: the relationship between stress and drugs of abuse and the relevant neural systems underlying this relationship; the long-term effects of stress on the brain; sex differences in stress systems; age differences in the neural and behavioural effects of drugs of abuse. Students should have taken some courses in neuroscience or equivalent offerings from the Psychology department as preparation for thesis research with me. Students are encouraged to seek some experience in my lab before senior year as preparation for thesis.

Mondloch, Cathy

Professor

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Will not be accepting students in 2020-2021

Muir, Cameron

Associate Professor

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I am interested in supervising thesis students who would like to learn about hormones and behaviour. Specifically, I have been investigating the role of several steroid hormones in aggression, sex and stress. I have developed an immunological measuring technique for screening and measuring steroid content in biological fluids such as urine, perspiration and saliva. This non-invasive method can be employed to measure ongoing behaviours associated with hormonal changes. Some specific projects include: the investigation of steroid hormones acting as pheromones in human perspiration, the role of role of cortisol and testosterone in people living in close quarters such as in a space flight simulation.

Murphy, Tim

Associate Professor

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Ever pull an “all-nighter”? How did you feel? I am interested in performance under various adverse conditions (e.g. sleepiness) and how this relates to brain function as measured by the electroencephalogram and event-related potentials. Of special interest is performance and associated event-related potentials (ERPs) relating to attention, risk assessment, error detection and cognitive control. Students in this line of research will learn how to apply electrodes, collect and analyze EEG and relate these measures to performance. I typically like to have at least 2 students because of the nature of my research. Because half of the data is collected very late at night students usually work in pairs on one project; however, each student will obtain their own independent data set to analyze. I share a laboratory with professor Sid Segalowitz (<http://www.brocku.ca/social-sciences/undergraduate-programs/psychology/research-labs/cognitive-affective-neuroscience>). This is a very collaborative lab so you will be exposed to the research of several other undergraduate and graduate students during lab meetings. We have large lab meetings as needed (usually 3-5 times per term) but I typically meet with honours students on a weekly basis. I also have a couple other smaller lines of research involving daytime only EEG collection examining perfectionism and EEG as well as some pedagogical interests (specifically multiple choice testing). If you have any questions feel free to drop by my office (MCB325) or call me (ext 4639).

Pickering, Gary

Professor

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My research is focused around two diverse themes: the psychophysics of taste perception, and environmental psychology. In the first we study individual differences in smell and taste perception and how these affect our preferences for and intake of food and beverages, especially alcohol. The second theme investigates the psychological barriers that prevent us from engaging effectively in climate change mitigation through our personal actions/behaviors, and how communications/messaging and be optimized to address that. I would welcome students interested in doing an empirical thesis in either of these areas. Further (albeit dated!) information can be found at: <https://brocku.ca/ccovi/research/researchers/gary> and <https://brocku.ca/esrc/about-us/people/#1490474493589-f0e92f31-485b>.

Thai, Sabrina

Assistant Professor

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My research interests involve social cognition and close relationships, with a particular focus on social comparisons that occur in the context of close relationships. How do people compare their romantic partner, friends, parents, and children to other people? How do people compare their relationship to other relationships? What impact do these comparisons have for the relationship? I am also interested in who responds positively to these comparisons and who responds negatively to these comparisons by examining personality traits or relationship quality. I also study comparisons influence unconscious and conscious evaluations of the romantic partner and others who may pose a threat to the relationship (attractive alternative romantic partners). We are interested in a wide range of close relationships (e.g., parent-child, close friendships, and romantic relationships), and how psychological processes influence and unfold in daily life. I am typically interested in supervising students who have completed and excelled in Psyc 2P25 and 2P30 courses.

Students are encouraged to learn more about my work by visiting <http://individual.utoronto.ca/sthai>

Willoughby, Teena Professor

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My research interest is in adolescent development, with a focus on two main questions: (1) What predicts the individual differences found among adolescents with regard to health-risk behaviors, mental health, peer sensitivity, etc., and (2) Is adolescence a sensitive period for development, resulting in unique vulnerabilities and opportunities for both negative (e.g., health-risk behaviors,) as well as positive behaviors (e.g., engagement in structured activities, academic achievement)? As a student in my lab, you will be analyzing data from a large longitudinal survey database. Students who are interested in statistics are a particularly good match for my lab. Students are encouraged to learn more about my work by visiting <http://www.brockadolescentdevelopmentlab.ca/>

Volk, Tony

Associate Professor

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My research involves studying child development using a multidisciplinary lens. In particular, I focus on three primary areas: bullying, parenting, and the evolution of

childhood. I'm therefore open to a wide range of students and currently have both CHYS students and PSYC students (mostly social or developmental) working in my lab.

While undergrads do regularly publish their work in my lab, it's also really important to remember that a thesis should be a labor of love, not just labor! So all Honours students should make sure that they pick a topic they are passionate about and a supervisor they enjoy working with. The two best ways to learn more about my research are to visit my lab web page at: brocku.ca/volklab and to meet with me or my current students (see lab page for contact info).