# Psyched at Brock

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## Message from the Chair

Looking out my window, I see snow everywhere. Trees are dormant; there are no flowers to be seen; the birds are not singing. This is in stark contrast to the Psychology department which continues to be a hive of activity. Graduate students and faculty are traveling to conferences and publishing fascinating studies; students and faculty are engaged in their courses; our Focal Area Research Seminars continue to provide an excellent opportunity for multiple faculty and students to discuss scientific articles and present their own work for comment.



by Cathy Mondloch, Ph.D. Chair Department of Psychology

Our academic community is strong and right on the cutting edge.

We also are building for the future. Faculty are in the midst of reviewing applications to our graduate program and we are in the process of hiring three new faculty members-- a Canada Research Chair in Biological Psychology (Epigenetics) and two faculty members in the area of Social Psychology. The anticipation of new colleagues and the potential they will bring is exciting. On top of all that, we've welcomed two new babies to the department - congratulations to Dr. Caitlin Mahy and Dr. Karen Campbell!

Recent changes to our PhD program are bearing fruit. In response to our last Academic Review we reduced the number of courses required in our PhD program and replaced the requirement to write three 'Advanced Study Papers' (one per summer) with a single comprehensive exam. Students are excited about having more time for research, both in their own lab and in collaboration with other

faculty and students. Most notably, we've now offered a programming course for the second time. Dr. Stephen Emrich is truly gifted in his ability to teach students this invaluable—and very marketable—skill. I've talked to several students who are excited about being able to build experimental protocols, create figures, and conduct data analyses in innovative ways without having to hire a programmer.

As you'll see throughout this newsletter, members of our department are engaged in exciting work, both at home and abroad. Take some time to review this newsletter and it will become clear why we continue to be PSYCHED at BROCK.

### Welcome!



We are pleased to welcome Dr. Sabrina Thai as a new faculty member in our department. Dr. Thai joined the department in January as an Assistant Professor. She completed her PhD at the University of Toronto examining how people make comparisons in close relationships (e.g., how parents feel when they compared their kids to other people's kids). Dr. Thai further explored relationships in a Postdoctoral Fellowship at McGill University examining how comparing your romantic partner affects how you evaluate attractive alternative romantic partners. Dr. Thai plans to extend her program of research here at Brock by exploring how unconscious feelings are affected by comparison in close relationships and is currently looking for strong undergraduate and graduate students to work with in her

lab. When Dr. Thai is not studying close relationships in the lab she enjoys cooking and baking, trying out new restaurants (she is a bit of a foodie!), going to spin classes followed by brunch (because you earned it!), listening to podcasts, watching reality TV shows where her research comes to life, and reading. If you see Dr. Thai in the halls be sure to welcome her and say "Hi!"

#### Where Are They Now?

Stefon van Noordt - Completed a NSERC Postdoctoral Fellowship at the Yale University Child Study Center, and now has a Postdoctoral Fellowship at McGill University in the Montreal Neurological Institute research group. Congratulations Stefon!

### Student Awards: Congratulations!

- ★ Kristen Baker received the Graduate Student Research Excellence Award.
- → Joshua Black received the International Association for the Study of Dreams Student Research Award (June 2018).
- ◆ Caroline Drolet received the Canadian Psychological Association's Certificate of Academic Excellence and the Graduate Student Writing award for best PhD Thesis.
- ★ Kyle Gruarin won the Canadian Psychological Association award of excellence for your Honours Thesis project.
- ◆ Sarah Henderson won the Canadian Psycholgical Association award of excellence for her honours thesis with Dr. Karen Campbell.
- ◆ Alison O'Connor received the Fall 2018 Distinguished Graduate Student Award and the Canadian Psychological Association's Certificate of Academic Excellence.
- ◆ Elvira Prusaczyk received the Fall 2018 Distinguished Graduate Student Award, the Canadian Psychological Association's Certificate of Academic Excellence and the Women's Heath Scholars Award. Elvira also received the the Graduate Student Writing award for best MA Thesis.
- ◆ Brent Pitchford received the Canadian Psychological Association's Certificate of Academic Excellence!

### Student Awards continued ...

- ◆ Thalia Semplonius received the Distinguished Graduate Student Award.
- ★ Xiaoyang Xia received the Graduate Student Research Excellence Award.

# Psychology Graduate Students' Successes with External Awards and Scholarships

For the 2018-2019 academic year, we have 23 graduate students holding external scholarships, including 7 MA students and 16 PhD students. This amounts to 50% of our MA students and 62% of our PhD students! These external scholarships have been awarded by various provincial and national funding agencies (as shown below).

Student	Program Year	External Award
Davis, Emily	MA-1	NSERC-CGS
Henderson, Sarah	MA-1	OGS
Plante-Brisebois, Valerie	MA-1	SSHRC-CGS
Baumbach, Jennet	MA-2	OGS
Daily, Owen	MA-2	OGS
Dykstra, Tori	MA-2	OGS
Ryan, Dawn	MA-2	OGS
Guardia de Souza, Tiago	PhD-1	OTS (Trillium)
O'Connor, Alison	PhD-1	SSHRC-CGS
Pitchford, Brent	PhD-1	OGS
Prusaczyk, Elvira	PhD-1	OGS + OWHS
Roters, Jennifer	PhD-1	OGS
Wylie, Breanne	PhD-1	OGS
Earle, Megan	PhD-2	SSHRC
Gallant, Caitlyn	PhD-2	NSERC-Vanier
Heffer, Taylor	PhD-2	SSHRC-CGS
Lockhart, Holly	PhD-2	NSERC
Matthews, Claire	PhD-2	NSERC-Vanier
Mazachowsky, Tessa	PhD-2	OGS
Lustig, Kari	PhD-3	NSERC-CGS
Robitaille, Joel	PhD-3	NSERC
Jones, Tabitha	PhD-4	SSHRC
Gauthier, Nathalie	PhD-5	SSHRC

## Wendy Murphy Memorial Award



The awardees of the Wendy Memorial Award were Taylor Heffer and Caitlyn Gallant. The Wendy Memorial Award goes to those students who have a "good head and a good heart". The nomination committee noted that the group of nominees this year was amongst the strongest in recent memory. And Caitlyn and Taylor both clearly embody the "good head and a good heart" attributes that define this award.

Taylor is in her 2nd year as a PhD student in the Lifespan Development division. Taylor has achieved high marks in

her courses to date, published several academic articles, presented her research at numerous academic conferences, and won both provincial and federal scholarships, including a SSHRC-CGS for her PhD studies. On the personal side, Taylor is among the social coordinators for the graduate students, regularly arranging for formal and informal student get-togethers. She has participated in Departmental graduate recruitment initiatives and is a grad student representative to the Canadian Psychological Association. As one of her nominees notes, "Taylor excels academically, is genuinely passionate about establishing a supportive atmosphere within the department, and strives to promote Brock to others."

Caitlyn is also in her 2nd year as a PhD student in the Behavioral and Cognitive Neuroscience division. She has excelled academically, published her research in peer-reviewed outlets, winning provincial (OGS) and national (NSERC-Vanier) scholarships for her MA and PhD studies. Caitlyn also won the 2017 Brock Three Minute Thesis competition. She has volunteered on various committees in the Psychology Department (e.g., departmental recruitment and grad student social committees), in the local community (e.g., with high school students as part of the Scientifically Yours program), and as graduate student representative with the Canadian Psychological Association. As one of her nominees noted, "Caitlyn is a role model for myself and others and I can think of no better nomination for the Wendy Murphy Memorial Award than her."

These are but a few of the reasons why these two individuals are worthy of the Wendy Murphy Memorial Award for 2018. Congratulations to Taylor and Caitlyn for exemplifying what the Wendy Murphy Award stands for.

The 22nd annual golf tournament will be held on Saturday September 14th, 2019. For more information contact Tim Murphy at wmmgt@hotmail.com

### Message from the Graduate Program Director



It's recruitment season!

On Friday February 15th the department will host our annual Psychology Graduate Program Open House. This event will see prospective graduate students spend the day with us to learn about our MA and PhD programs, tour our research labs and the Brock campus, and socialize with our faculty members and current students. I thank everyone, in advance, for helping us make this day a great success. Recruitment season is also a good time to reflect on the many things that make our Psychology graduate program among the very best in Canada. For example, we recognize our small faculty to grad student ratio (1:2). We celebrate our faculty members' external research

funding (60% have research grants from a Tri-council agency), and our graduate students' external awards (60% are funded by awards from an external agency). We applied our faculty and graduate students for an ever-growing number of academic dissemination activities, including

presentations at national and international conferences, as well as peer-reviewed publications in toptier journals. We also commend our graduate students for their outstanding work as dedicated Teaching Assistants in dozens of our undergraduate courses. It really is an amazing time to be part of our graduate program. Let's spread the word!

#### Faculty and Staff Grants and Awards

- Dr. Kimberly Cote received the Brock University Advancement Fund
- ◆ Dr. Angela Evans (Co-I) along with her collaborators, Dr. Stolzenberg (PI at ASU) and Dr. McWilliams (John Jay College) recently received a NSF (National Science Foundation) grant entitled "Children's Understanding of Indirect Attacks on Credibility".
- ◆ Dr. Caitlin Mahy gave the inaugural Social Sciences Research Colloquium as part of her Untenured Research of the Year award (awarded in January 2018).
- ◆ Dr. Tim Murphy received the teaching excellence award for his teaching in Introductory Statistics and Research Methods.
- ◆ Dr. Elizabeth Shulman received a Council for Research in the Social Sciences (CRISS) award for her program of research.

#### Fun Faculty Fact



Dr. Sid Segalowitz is a member of the Strettino Clarinet-Cello-Piano Trio, with cellist Marcela Lagunas and pianist Luis Molina. He recently played at the Niagara Falls Public Library community concert (Aug. 2018) and Congregation B'nai Israel Fundraiser concert (Dec. 2018). Sid is a passionate musician - watch for him around the community at local musical events! Strettino's next concert is a fundraiser at the Smithville United Church (116 West St.) on Highway 20, March 3 at 2:00. Everyone is welcome. The program will include from Bach to Piazzolla.

#### **Brock Psych Society News!**



The Psych Society has organized a Bowling Night on Wednesday February 27th from 6-9pm at Fairview Lanes. Both faculty and students are invited! Thanks to the Brock Psych Society for organizing a fun event! \$10 for Members, \$15 for non-members. Contact the Psych Society for more details at psycsoci@gmail.com.



Career's Fair: The Psych Society will be hosting a Career's Fair in Pond Inlet on Monday February 25th from 6:30-8:30pm. Come find out what you can do with your Psychology degree!

Searching for the Next Executive Team! The Psych Society is looking for new executives for next year (2019-2020). All 5 positions (President, Vice-president, Secretary/Treasurer, Director of External Affairs, and Social Media Coordinator) are open. If you are interested in one of these positions please email the Psych Society



at psycsoci@gmail.com with a resume and a cover letter for their desired position(s).

For updates on the latest Psych Society Events follow them on Instagram @brockpsycsociety, on Facebook at <a href="www.facebook.com/brockpsycsociety">www.facebook.com/brockpsycsociety</a> or become a member for \$5 by e-mailing <a href="mailto:psycsoci@gmail.com">psycsoci@gmail.com</a>. Membership fees include free entry to most Psych Society events.

#### Congratulations to all of our Fall 2018 Graduates!







## Taking Our Research Around the World



Dr. Karen Campbell was one of the 5 keynote speakers at the Lake Ontario Visionary Establishment Conference on February 7th in Niagara Falls.

Dr. Kimberly Cote and PhD student, Kari Lustig attended a new conference hosted by the Sleep Research Society - Advances in Sleep and Circadian Science - at the Sheraton Sand Key Resort in Clearwater Beach, Florida February

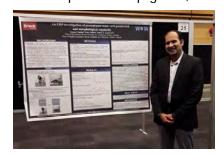


1st-4th, 2019. The keynote was given by 2017 Nobel Laureate, Michael Rosbash, PhD. The Sleep Lab has also taken their research to the Canadian Society for Brain, Behaviour and Cognitive Science (CSBBCS) Annual Meeting, St. John's, Newfoundland (Kevin MacDonald) and the 38th Southern Ontario Neuroscience Association (SONA) meeting (J. Schirmeister).



Osama Chattha, a Psychology 4th year Honours student, presented the results of a study he worked on with Drs. Gary Libben and Sid Segalowitz through their "Words in the World" SSHRC partnership grant,

at the Society for Psychophysiological Research October 2018 in Quebec City.



The PSYC department has 3 active social media sites: Instagram, Facebook, and Twitter! So follow like and re-tweet us! Find and Follow us and don't forget to tag us in your photos: @brockpsyc #brockpsyc



#### Our Research in the News

- ◆ Dr. Dwivedi's international exchange students were featured in the Brock News! You can read the full story here: <a href="https://www.brocku.ca/brock-news/2018/12/from-germany-to-canada-students-connect-in-brock-lab/">www.brocku.ca/brock-news/2018/12/from-germany-to-canada-students-connect-in-brock-lab/</a>
- Dr. Gary Pickering's research was recently featured in the Brock News: "Beer a bitter pill to swallow for thermal tasters". You can read more here: www.brocku.ca/brock-news/2019/02/beer-a-bitter-pill-to-swallow-for-thermal-tasters-says-brock-research
  Dr. Pickering was also interviewed on Natalie MacLean's 'The Sunday Sipper Club', You can view the interview here: www.facebook.com/natdecants/videos/293541867943646/



One of our recent graduates, Dr. Joshua Black, has received extensive media attention on his dissertation examining Grief Dreams. Joshua has interviewed with numerous CBC Radio outlets, The Brock News, The Sarnia Journal and The Observer-Sarnia.



◆ Dr. Kimberly Cote spoke with CBC Radio, live syndicate radio on 'does sleeping in on weekends improve health' across 13 different cities (from Corner Brook to Kelowna) (May 25th, 2018).



◆ Dr. Linda Rose-Krasnor and collaborators Drs. Heather Ramey and Heather Lawford recently published a piece in The Conversation titled "Why we should pay attention to the power of youth". You can check it out here: <a href="www.theconversation.com/why-we-should-pay-attention-to-the-power-of-youth-106675">www.theconversation.com/why-we-should-pay-attention-to-the-power-of-youth-106675</a>.



#### Making Community Connections



- ◆The Social Cognitive-Development lab (PI: Dr. Angela Evans) had the opportunity to connect with families in the community and conduct a research project looking at 5 to 10 year olds' understanding of implied meaning at the Ontario Science Centre this winter!
- ◆The Social Cognitive-Development lab (Dr. Angela Evans, Alison O'Connor, Breanne Wylie, & Tori Dykstra) completed the Amazing Race Niagara this fall. Their team raised over \$1400 in support of the Kristen French Child

Advocacy Centre and the Niagara Chapter Native Women Inc. while racing around Niagara solving clues and completing challenges.



## Making Community Connections continued ...



◆Congratulations to from left, Dawn Zinga, Associate Dean, Graduate Studies and Research; Ingrid Makus, Dean; Angela Book, Associate Dean, Undergraduate Studies; and Chef Jim Harper, Sodexo Canada for winning the United Way Souper Bowl trophy! Proceeds from the event went to United Way Niagara.

◆Congratulations to Honours Psychology major, Laura Court, the first coxswain to be named the OUA's Female Athlete

of the Year! Laura is currently completing her honours thesis examining bullying in physical vs nonphysical sport while training in hopes of achieving her Olympic dream.





◆Dr. Karen Campbell's Neurocognitive Aging Lab completed the Walk for Alzheimer's Niagara Region on January 27th.

◆The Face Perception Lab welcomed Pauline Guertler and Camille Maennig in September. Pauline and Camille are Honours Thesis students

from Friedrich Schiller University Jena (Germany). They spent 3 months in Canada investigating how ethnicity, face familiarity and individual differences in face recognition abilities impact how we categorize ambiguous facial identities. They also enjoyed Canadian Thanksgiving with the Mondloch family and then teaching the Mondlochs how to make spaetzle!





◆Claire Matthews gave a guest lecture to Justice
Studies students at Niagara College. She gave the students lots of information about face recognition in forensic settings and provided some hands-on activities.

◆Dr. Teena Willoughby and Jayne Morrish travelled in fall 2018 to visit with Brock Healthy Youth Project partners, including World Health Organization/Pan-American Health Organization (see pic), UNICEF, RCMP, CAMH, Canadian Public Health Association, Canadian Centre

on Substance Use and Addition, Mental Health Commission of Canada, Parachute, Sandbox Project, Right to Play, YMCA, Niagara Public Health, Pathstone Mental Health, Contact Niagara, and Ontario Brain Institute. The focus of the meetings was to provide research updates, discuss collaborative knowledge mobilization, and plan for future grant applications.



## Have You Read Anything Good Lately?

#### Check Out Some of Our Recent Publications

- Archbell, K., Nocita, G., Coplan, R., & Rose-Krasnor, L. (in press). Participation in structured performing arts activities in early to middle childhood: Frequency, psychological engagement, stress, and links with socio-emotional functioning. *Merrill-Palmer Quarterly*.
- Atance, C., M., Celebi, S. N., Mitchinson, S., & Mahy, C. E. V. (in press). Thinking about the future: Comparing children's forced-choice versus "generative" responses in the "Spoon Test". Journal of Experimental Child Psychology.
- Campbell, K. L., & Tyler, L. K. (2018). Language-related domain-specific and domain-general systems in the human brain. Current Opinion in Behavioral Sciences, 21, 132-137.
- Campbell, K. L., & Hasher, L. (2018). Hyper-binding only apparent under fully implicit test conditions. Psychology and Aging, 33, 176-181. \_
- Campbell, K. L., Madore, K. P., Benoit, R. G., Thakral, P. P., & Schacter, D. L. (2018). Increased hippocampus to ventromedial prefrontal connectivity during the construction of episodic future events. *Hippocampus*, 28, 76-80.



Cote, K.A., Lustig, K.A., & MacDonald, K.J. (in press). The role of sleep in processing emotional information. Handbook of Sleep Research, Ed. H.C. Dringenberg: Elsevir.

- Daly, O., & Willoughby, T. (2019). A longitudinal study investigating bidirectionality among nonsuicidal self-injury, self-criticism, and parental criticism. *Psychiatry Research*, 271, 678-683.
- Davis, C. P., Libben, G., & Segalowitz, S. J. (2019). Compounding matters: Event-related potential evidence for early semantic access to compound words. *Cognition*, 184(1), 44-52.
- Ding., X., O'Connor, A. M.\*, & Evans, A. D. (2019). The influence of self and other awareness on children's truth-telling. *British Journal of Developmental Psychology.*
- Dutil, C., Walsh, J.J., Featherstone, R.B., Gunnell, K.E., Tremblay, M.S., Gruber, R., Weiss, S.K., Cote, K.A., Sampson, M., & Chaput, J-P. (2018). Influence of sleep on developing brain functions and structures in children and adolescents: A systematic review. Sleep Medicine Reviews, 42, 184-201. DOI: 10.1016/j.smrv.2018.08.003
- Gadbois, S. Bowker, A., Rose-Krasnor, L., & Findlay. L. (in press). A qualitative examination of psychologically engaging sport, non-sport, and unstructured activities. The Sport Psychologist.

## Have You Read Anything Good Lately?

#### Check Out Some of Our Recent Publications

- Galla, B., Shulman, E. P., Plummer, B., Gardner, M., Goyer, P., Hutt, S., Finn, A., D'Mello, S., & Duckworth, A. (Accepted). Why high school grades are better predictors of on-time college graduation than college admissions test scores: The role of self-regulation and cognitive ability. American Educational Research Journal.
- Geerligs, L., Cam-CAN, & Campbell, K. L. (2018). Age-related differences in information processing during movie watching. *Neurobiology of Aging*, 72, 106-120.
- Hasher, L., & Campbell, K. L. (in press). Inhibitory theory: Assumptions, findings, and relevance to interventions. In Thomas, A.K. & Gutchess A. (Eds.). The Cambridge Handbook of Cognitive Aging: A Lifecourse Perspective. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, United Kingdom.
- Heffer, T., Good, M., Daly, O., MacDonell, E., & Willoughby, T. (2019). The longitudinal association between social media use and depressive symptoms among adolescents and young adults: An empirical reply to Twenge et al. Clinical Psychological Science.
- Jobin-Poirier, E., Pickering, G., & Plummer, R. (2019). Doom, gloom or boom? Perceptions of climate change among Canadian winegrowers. International Journal of Wine Research, 11, 1-11. Details of the study can be found here: https://youtu.be/\_hyMwJQMNVE
- Kemp, B. S., Pickering, G. J., Willwerth, J., Inglis, D. L. (2018). Application of partial napping with ultra-flash profiling to identify dissimilarities between replicate wines prior to descriptive analysis. *Journal of Wine Science*, 76(7).
- MacDonald K.J., Lustig, K.A., Geniole, S.N., McCormick C.M., & Cote, K.A. (2018). Sex-hormone concentrations and reactive aggression in men and women after sleep restriction. Aggressive Behavior. DOI: 10.1002/ab.21809
- Mahy, C. E. V., Mazachowsky, T. R., & Pagobo, J. R. (2018). Do verbal reminders improve preschoolers' prospective memory performance? It depends on age and individual differences. Cognitive Development, 47, 158-167.
- Miskovic, V., MacDonald K.J., Rhodes, J., & Cote, K.A. (2019). Changes in EEG multiscale entropy and power-law frequency scaling during the human sleep cycle. Human Brain Mapping, 40, 538-551. DOI: 10.1002/hbm.24393
- Mitchell, J., Castura, J. C., Thibodeau, M., & Pickering, G. (2019). Application of TCATA to examine variation in beer perception due to thermal taste status. Food Quality and Preference, 73, 135-142.
- Mulligan, B. P., Smart, C. M., Segalowitz, S. J., & MacDonald, S. W. S. (2018). Characteristics of healthy older adults that influence self-rated cognitive function. *Journal of the International Neuropsychological Society*, 24(1), 57-66.
- O'Connor, A. M., & Evans, A. D. (2019). The role of theory of mind and social skills in predicting children's cheating. *Journal of Experimental Child Psychology*.

#### Have You Read Anything Good Lately?

#### Check Out Some of Our Recent Publications

- O'Connor, A. M., Lyon, T. D., & Evans, A. D. (2019). Younger and older adults' lie-detection and credibility judgements of children's coached reports. Psychology, Crime and Law.
- Pitchford, B., & Arnell, K. M. (2019). Self-control and its influence on global/local processing: An investigation of the role of frontal alpha asymmetry and dispositional approach tendencies. Attention, Perception, and Psychophysics, 81(1), 173–187. https://doi.org/10.3758/s13414-018-1610-z
- Ramey, H., Lawford, H., Rose-Krasnor, L., Freeman, J., & Lanctot, J. (2018). Engaging diverse Canadian youth in youth development programs: Program quality and community engagement. Children and Youth Services Review, 94, 20-26.
- Rose-Krasnor, L. & Webber, M. (2018). Freedom within limits? The role faculty associations play protecting the speech rights of their members. Academic Matters, 18-21.
- Stea, S., &Pickering, G. J. (2018). Optimizing messaging to reduce red meat consumption. Environmental Communication, 1-16. http://dx.doi.org/ 10.1080/17524032.2017.1412994
- Strömmer, J. M., Davis, S. W., Henson, R. N., Tyler, L. K., Cam-CAN, & Campbell, K. L. (2018). Physical activity predicts population-level age-related differences in frontal white matter. The Journals of Gerontology: Series A, gly220. https://doi.org/10.1093/gerona/gly220
- Volk, A. A., Provenzano, D., Farrell, A. H., Dane, A. V., & Shulman, E. P. (in press). Personality and bullying: Pathways to adolescent social dominance. *Current Psychology*.
- Watier, N., & DeGagne, BA. (in press). Spatial frequency thresholds for detecting latent facial signals of threat. *Perception*, PEC-18-0129.
- Wylie, B., Lyon, T. L., & Evans, A. D. (2018). Adults' perceptions of children's referentially ambiguous responses. Psychology, Crime and Law.

Do you have something that you would like showcased in our next newsletter? Please let Angela Evans know <a href="mailto:aevans@brocku.ca">aevans@brocku.ca</a>

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