

Psych Update!

The Brock Psychology Newsletter

Message from the Interim Chair

Hello everyone!

A lot has happened since our last newsletter.

First, we welcome three new faculty members: Charlis Raineke, Paula Duarte-Guterman, and Scott Neufeld. As you will see in their profiles in this newsletter, they are a wonderful addition to our Department and we are excited by the additional expertise that they bring to the Behavioural/Cognitive Neuroscience and Social Psychology divisions of our graduate program. We also welcome Vaisnavi Sugumar who is our newest academic advisor. Vaisnavi has been busy helping our undergraduate students make informed decisions about their academic pathway.

Second, congratulations to Michael Busseri and Angela Evans who were promoted to Full Professor, and to Karen Campbell who was awarded tenure and promotion to Associate Professor.

Third, we are in the final stages of getting approval for our Bachelor of Science program in Psychology and hope to offer the program soon. Our thanks to Caitlin Mahy and the Undergraduate Committee for their hard work spearheading this program through to the finish line.

Fourth, the activities, awards, and grants highlighted in this newsletter clearly showcase the commitment and excellence of the faculty, staff, and students in the Psychology Department. We are facing ongoing challenges due to the pandemic, but it is striking how many of us are finding new ways to meaningfully connect with each other. It also is impressive to see the continued productivity of our graduate students and faculty.

Congratulations everyone!



By Teena Willoughby, Ph.D., Interim Chair, Department of Psychology

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Welcome to new Faculty and Staff!

Vaisnavi Sugumar



Welcome to Vaisnavi Sugumar, the department's newest academic advisor! Vaisnavi finished her undergraduate degree in Psychology at Trent University last year and understands that being a student comes with many highs and lows. She is passionate about helping students navigate stressors affecting their academics, explore their interests, and find ways to get the most out of their degree. Her favourite thing about being an academic advisor is working 1-on-1 with students and listening to stories about their experiences - she finds each one very inspiring in its own way!

During her free time she enjoys journaling, evening runs, and going out for ice cream with her friends and family. She also didn't watch much TV while in school so has been spending the past year catching up on many seasons worth of TV shows!

Vaisnavi's top tip for students: Stay in touch with your academic advisors regularly - please don't feel like you have to get through your degree alone!

At the start of 2021 the department welcomed THREE new faculty members. Each are profiled below.

Charlis Raineki



Welcome to Dr. Charlis Raineki! Charlis joined the department as an Assistant Professor in January. He completed his undergraduate and graduate degrees in Brazil, including a BSc in Biological Sciences at the Western Paraná State University and MSc and PhD degrees in Physiology at the Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul. In his graduate studies, he investigated how environmental factors influence early neurodevelopment and exert downstream effects on reproductive success. After his PhD, Charlis moved to North America for a series of postdoctoral positions at the University of Oklahoma, New York University/Nathan Kline Institute and UBC. Charlis has used different

animal models of early-life adversity to demonstrate that infant social behavior deficits associated with early-life adversity precede adolescent depressive-like behaviors and that both deficits are associated with altered amygdala function. More recently, Charlis has examined the relationships among prenatal alcohol exposure, increased vulnerability to physical and mental health problems, and neuroimmune dysfunction. Charlis anticipates that the next phase of his research career will 1) assess the short- and long-term effects of early-life adversity on behavior, particularly with regards to mental health outcomes; 2) investigate potential mechanisms for how these adverse environments "get under the skin" and alter the neurodevelopmental trajectory, with a special focus on the neuroimmune system; and 3) evaluate the effectiveness of intervention/therapeutic strategies to help improve the lives of individuals affected by early-life adversity. As part of a recently funded NIAAA/NIH research grant, his lab will use a translational approach including animal models and human cohorts to investigate whether shifts in gut microbiota (bacteria) composition and altered gut

structure and function—factors that increase inflammation in both the brain and the body—may mediate the increased susceptibility to mental health problems seen following prenatal alcohol exposure. Charlis’ lab will also investigate the effectiveness of different but complementary intervention strategies (immune-based pharmacological treatments and fecal microbiota transplant) as potential therapeutic approaches to improve prenatal alcohol-induced alterations in gut permeability and microbiota composition, immune function, and risk for mental health problems. Interested? Dr. Raineki is currently recruiting undergraduate thesis students and graduate students. Any student that is interested in joining the Raineki lab can find more information at www.rainekilab.com. When he is not in the lab, most of Charlis’ extra time is dedicated to his 5-year-old English Bulldog, Lucy (see photo). Lucy is a really sweet dog who loves mandarins and very short walks. They’ve already had lots of fun making new friends at some of the local dog parks in St. Catharines, though Lucy is more interested in the humans than the other dogs. Charlis also enjoys good food and wine and is very excited to explore restaurants and wineries in the Niagara region. Although he doesn’t consider himself very talented in the kitchen, he is an avid watcher of cooking shows (favorites include Nailed It!, The Great British Bake Off, and any Food Network baking competition shows).



Paula Duarte-Guterman



Welcome to Dr. Paula Duarte-Guterman! Paula joined the department as an Assistant Professor in January. She completed her PhD in Biology at the University of Ottawa under the supervision of Vance Trudeau then moved to Germany to do a postdoc at the University of Ulm with Günter Ehret. It was in Germany that she first became passionate about how parental behaviour and experience shape the brain. Paula returned to Canada to continue her postdoctoral research at the University of British Columbia with Liisa Galea. At UBC, she examined how the adult hippocampus is remodelled by motherhood experience and hormones. As she establishes her research at Brock, Paula plans to continue studying how parental experience can shape the brain in both males and females throughout life. Her primary model

is the rodent hippocampus that continues to produce new neurons across the lifespan and is affected in brain diseases such as Alzheimer’s and depression. Paula’s lab is using the degu, a long-lived rodent species in which both males and females care for the young. Her research is addressing the following questions: How do new neurons contribute to behaviour in adults? How does parental experience affect adult neuroplasticity and behaviour? How do the endocrine and metabolic systems regulate neuroplasticity? How does parental experience affect brain aging and Alzheimer’s risk? If these



questions interest you, Paula is currently looking for graduate students and undergraduates interested in summer research or thesis work (for Summer or September 2022). Paula is originally from Colombia and came to Canada to go to university. After completing her undergraduate science degree, she completed her PhD and has stayed in Canada ever since, for over 20 years! When she is not working, she enjoys going for walks and bike rides with her family. Paula started doing a lot of gardening during the pandemic and it is now one of her favourite things to do. She enjoys growing both vegetables and flowers.

Scott Neufeld



Welcome to Scott Neufeld! Scott joined the department in January as a Lecturer in Community Psychology and has enjoyed teaching new (to the department) courses on the Social Psychology of Intergroup Relations and Community Psychology. He did his BA in Psychology at McGill University and his graduate work in Social Psychology at Simon Fraser University. Scott's graduate research utilized qualitative methods to engage communities to understand their lived experience and expertise and looks at the formation, negotiation, and implications of more or less inclusive collective identities for marginalized groups. A recent project involves a systematic and critical review examining how stigma is defined and how people who use drugs are represented in over 130 Canadian substance use focused anti-stigma campaigns from 2009-2020. Over the next few years, Scott hopes to develop community-based research projects that seek to 1) better understand how structural interventions in communities, neighborhoods, policy or public communication campaigns can disrupt stigma and exclusion facing people who use drugs and 2) elevate the expertise and perspectives of people with lived experience of substance use into policy making spaces. He is currently working on building connections with local Niagara organizations that work on drug policy and harm reduction as well as the inclusion of people with lived experience. Do these topics pique your interest? Contact Scott for potential opportunities to join his newly formed "Community Action Research and Ethics" (CARE) Collective as an RA or honours student in the coming year. Aside from research and teaching Scott can be found spending time with his family including his two little sons and newborn daughter, exploring the woods behind their home. His family has also had some preliminary discussion of starting an Indie rock band in their basement so keep an eye out for their first album! Scott also enjoys cold water snorkelling so if you know of any non-industrially contaminated natural swimming holes in Niagara please let him know!



Where are they now?

- **Kari Lustig** (PhD 2021; supervisor Kimberly Cote) is now working as a Research Scientist for Cerebra Health (<https://www.cerebra.health/>), a Canadian sleep technology and research company. As a member of the Clinical Sleep Science team she investigates the use of Cerebra technology and novel metrics of sleep depth.
- Stephen Emrich's former grad student **Christine Salahub** took a job as a research coordinator at the University Health Network in Toronto.
- Dr. Dwivedi's former honours. student **Brent Dryczewycz** started an MSc in Speech pathology at Western in September 2021.
- **Samantha Moeller** (MA 2021, Caitlin Mahy) accepted a position as a research ethics coordinator at Wilfrid Laurier University.
- **Megan Earle** (PhD 2021; Supervisor Gordon Hodson) started a non-academic research position with national non-profit organization "Indspire", an organization that "invests in the education of First Nations, Inuit and Métis people across Canada."



• **Dr. Marlene Moretti**, who completed her BA at Brock in the psych department in 1979 (!) is now a full professor at Simon Fraser University and tier 1 Canada Research Chair in Youth Clinical Psychological Science. Dr. Moretti was recently chosen to be honored with the 2022 Pickering Award for Outstanding Contribution to Developmental Psychology in Canada. This annual award honors “Canadians who have made outstanding contributions to developmental psychology in the areas of leadership, mentorship, and scholarship”. Dr. Moretti shared briefly about her time at Brock in a recent email: “Brock provided a wonderful and supportive foundation to my career in psychology, with strong mentorship and many opportunities to serve as a teaching and research assistant. It was a tiny department at that time but one I will always remember with great fondness.”

Faculty and Staff Grants, Awards and Accomplishments:

- **Sid Segalowitz** was a co-applicant of a successful Brain-Canada grant to support a national initiative organized by McGill University and the Montreal Neurological Institute to build an open-science EEG platform. This project also involves Brock professors **Karen Campbell** and **Teena Willoughby** from Psychology, Erin Panda and Ayda Tekok-Kilic from Child and Youth Studies, and Psychology grad **Chrissy Lackner** (PhD, 2015), now at Mount St. Vincent University. More details are covered in a story published in the Brock News at <https://brocku.ca/brock-news/2021/08/brock-part-of-national-research-team-setting-up-eeeg-data-sharing-system/>
- Brock's brand new Forensic Psychology and Criminal Justice Program started in September 2021 with 50 students (overfilled!). This program is a collaboration between faculty members from Child and Youth Studies, Political Science and of course Psychology including these amazing Psych Department faculty: **Angela Book**, **Gordon Hodson**, **Dawn Good**, **Mike Ashton**, **Drew Dane**, and **Tim Murphy**.
- **Caitlin Mahy** was given the Jean Piaget Society Early Career Award in Developmental Science in June 2021.
- **Cathy Mondoch** received the Michael Plyley Graduate Mentorship Award (See <https://brocku.ca/brock-news/2021/05/graduate-studies-award-winners-lauded-for-leadership/>) as well as a SSHRC Insight Grant (\$318,000) to fund a new program of research titled "First Impressions Based on Facial Cues: A Lifespan Development Approach"
- Congratulations are also due for **Angela Evans** and **Michael Busseri** who were both promoted to Full Professor and **Karen Campbell** who was promoted to Associate Professor with tenure.
- **Liz Shulman's** lab group recently launched a new project examining risky decision making related to COVID-19, comparing adolescents to adults. This project is funded by grants from BSIG-BUAF and the FOSS Dean's Discretionary Fund
- **Scott Neufeld** received a grant from Brock's Centre for Research in Social Sciences to support a community-based research project in Niagara developed collaboratively with members of the Overdose Prevention and Education Network of Niagara. The project involves a community-based survey gathering insights from people with lived and living experience of criminalized substance use in the region on how their perspectives and expertise could be better included in policy, decision-making and service provision that impacts them.
- **Karen Campbell** and **Will Hall** (Co-PIs) received a Brock SSHRC Explore Grant, titled "Exploring younger and older adults' implicit and explicit honesty attitudes". The project is a truly interdisciplinary, effort combining expertise in neurocognitive aging processes and applied social psychology. It also includes PhD student **Alison O'Connor** (Dr. Angela Evans) as a collaborator.

Message from the Undergraduate Program Director



By Caitlin Mahy Ph.D.,
Undergraduate
Program Director,
Department of
Psychology

I would like to extend a warm welcome to all new and returning psychology undergraduate students! Whether you are taking courses in-person, online, or a mixture of the two this coming year, I hope you will gain valuable knowledge and skills as you progress in your degree. I also hope you are fascinated by your courses and enjoy them!

While the ongoing pandemic means that there is continued uncertainty, I encourage you to connect with your peers, our undergraduate advisors (Kirsti and Vaisnavi), and your instructors and professors. The faculty and staff in the Psychology Department are committed to your success and we are here to support you. I also want to remind everyone to look after themselves and reach out if you are struggling. Brock is known for prioritizing the mental health of our students and we have a great Mental Health and Wellness website with many excellent resources: <https://brocku.ca/mental-health/>

I would also like to highlight that we have changed a few of our 3rd year courses this year so that students could take them as 2nd or 3rd year courses. These courses include PSYC 2P90: Introduction to Community Psychology and PSYC 2P92: Health Psychology. In the coming years, we hope to add a few other courses to this 2P90 category as it increases flexibility for students who can use these credits as 2nd or 3rd year courses. The Department is still in the process of developing our Bachelor of Science program in Psychology and we are optimistic that it will be offered soon.

We have three new faculty who all arrived in January 2021. Scott Neufeld is teaching PSYC 2P90: Introduction to Community Psychology and PSYC 3P33: Psychology of Intergroup Behaviour. Paula Duarte-Guterman will be teaching PSYC 3P87: Behavioural Neuroscience. Finally, Charlis Rainecki will be teaching PSYC 4P55: Neural Mechanisms, Hormones, & Behaviour and PSYC 4P56: Maturation & Development. See more on each above in their new faculty profiles. As they set up their labs, these new faculty might also be looking for research assistants so have a look at their lab webpages and get in touch if their research interests you!

We hope everyone has had a safe, productive, and fun fall semester! Please get vaccinated so you can protect your own health and the health of those around you.

Celebrating Undergraduate Students

- Vince Stabile (Cathy Mondloch) received USRA funding for the summer of 2021
- Meghan Borg (grad student in Dr. Teena Willoughby's lab) received the Leading the Way Graduate Scholarship in 2020.
- Annelise Wiens (an honours student in Dr. Teena Willoughby's lab) received the FOSS student research award. Her project is titled "Investigating threat sensitivity: A longitudinal approach examining parent-child agreement"



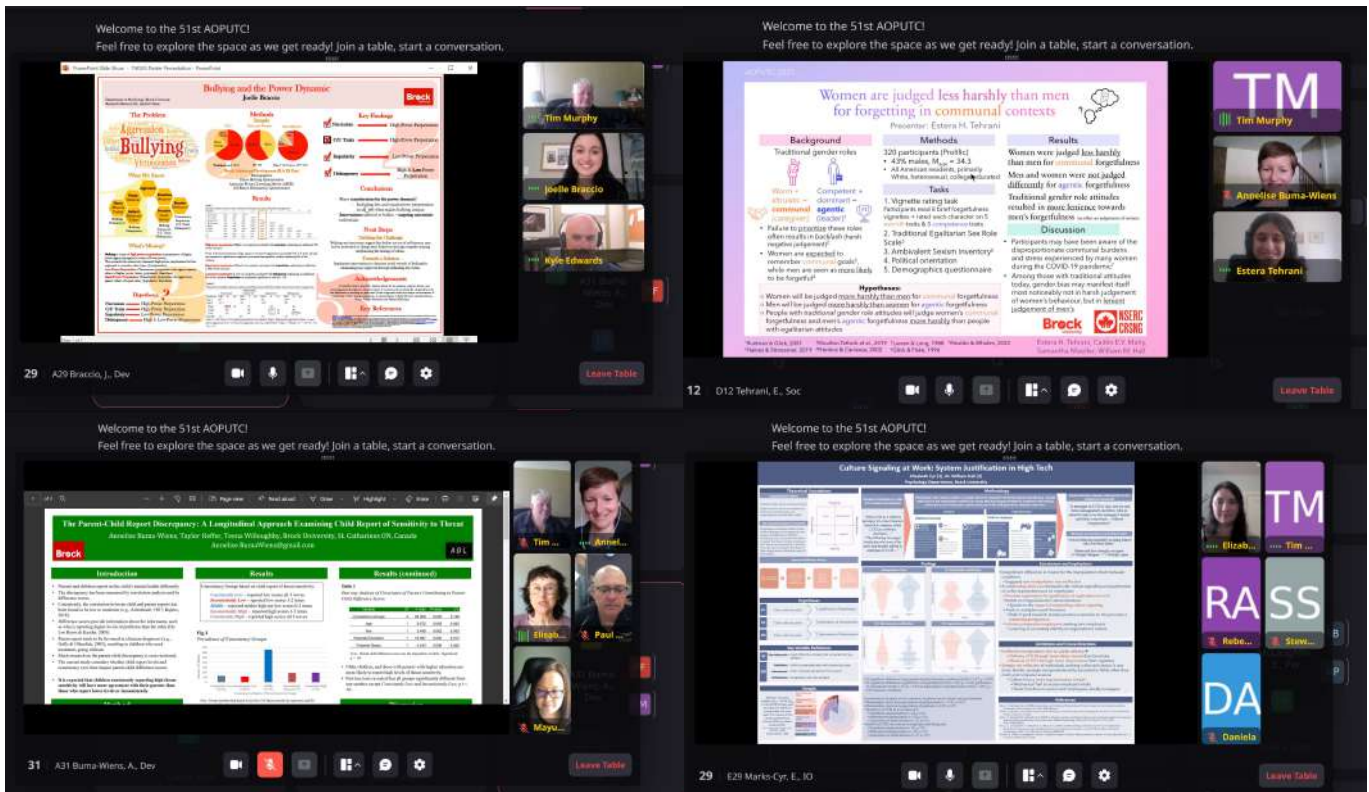


•Undergraduate Student **Natasha Campbell** was the recipient of a 2020-2021 President’s Surgite Award, one of Brock University’s highest honours that commends students for excelling in the three key areas of leadership, community involvement and academic achievement. She was honoured along with the award’s nine other recipients in a virtual ceremony in April 2021. Graduate student **Taylor Heffer** received the Surgite award in 2019-2020 and was recognized in an online ceremony in February 2020 due to Covid-19 delays.

•Nineteen excellent undergraduate students presented their honours theses as digital Twitter posters on June 4th, 2021 at the **51st Annual Ontario Psychology Undergraduate Thesis Conference**. Congrats to Melissa Alunni, Rebecca Anderson, Erica Belchior, Joelle Braccio, Annelise

Buma-Wiens, Natasha Campbell, Kyle Edwards, Emily Erb, Cidney Gauvreau, Peter Henen, Briar MacDonald, Elizabeth Marks-Cyr, Arjun Naipaul, Sunny Qureshi, Peter Schnabel, Jacob Stirpe, Estera Tehrani, Natalie Uruski, and Zey Kaynak, for having your hard work featured at this provincial event! Check out some of the posters from this event on Instagram here: <https://www.instagram.com/aoputc2021/>

In Spring 2022 Brock will host this annual conference - keep an eye out for a call for volunteers for this event in early 2022!



Updates from the Brock Psyc Society

Mentors Are Back...Again!

After such a success in the past, we are psyched to announce the mentorship program has returned this year, new and improved! To make the best out of the program, we've created a new executive position, Head Mentor. The Head Mentor is the main point of contact and helps oversee all the matchups, training, and answers questions. All mentors this year were given the opportunity to attend special trainings, such as HRE, and they can all request a reference letter at the end of the year!



Guest Speakers

Our first guest speaker session was a hit! We had a counsellor from the Pathstone Mental Health Centre come and speak about his career and educational paths. We are hoping to host more of these sessions in the winter term, so if anyone has a special request for a speaker, feel free to email us at psycsoci@gmail.com!

Celebrating Grad Student Success!

Defences:

- **Anita Twele** (Cathy Mondloch) successfully defended her Masters Thesis on June 15th: Dimensions Underlying First Impressions of Older Adult Faces by Young and Older Adult Perceivers
- **Sophia Thierry** (Cathy Mondloch) successfully defended her Masters Thesis on May 28th: First impressions of child faces: Facial trustworthiness influences adults' interpretations of children's behaviour in ambiguous situations
- **Tori Wattam** (Angela Book) successfully defended her Masters Thesis on August 18th: Psychopathy and Fear Enjoyment: The Role of Invincibility

Grad Student Awards and Scholarships:

- **Anita Twele** (Cathy Mondloch) received the CPA award for her MA Thesis and an Ontario Graduate Scholarship for 2021-2022.
- **Claire Matthews** (Cathy Mondloch) received the CPA award for her PhD Thesis, the Jack M. Miller Excellence in Research Award and the Dr. Liette Vasseur Bursary
- **Sophia Thierry** (Cathy Mondloch) received the CPA award for her MA Thesis AND a SSHRC Doctoral Fellowship.
- **Jen Roters** (Angela Book) received the Vanier Scholarship, one of the top doctoral scholarships in Canada, to support her PhD research. The Brock News profiled Jen and this impressive accomplishment here - <https://brocku.ca/brock-news/2021/07/research-on-childhood-neglect-abuse-earns-psychology-phd-student-national-vanier-scholarship/>
- **Hamnah Shahid** (Teena Willoughby) received the Ontario Graduate Scholarship for 2021-2022
- **Sarah Henderson** (Karen Campbell) received an NSERC (CGS Doctoral) scholarship.

Wendy Murphy Memorial Award

The award is made annually to a returning Psychology graduate student based on consistent academic excellence and collegiality. In other words, a student with a good head and a good heart. These are qualities exhibited by Wendy Murphy, a member of the first graduating class of Brock's graduate psychology program who tragically passed away at an early age. See below for more description of Wendy and the golf tournament fundraiser held each year in her honour to raise funds for this award.

The awardees this year were **Kristen Baker** and **Elvira Prusaczyk**. Both Elvira and Kristen exemplify the dual criteria of a good head and a good heart. Numerous letters of support submitted to the department for both Kristen and Elvira spoke of their dedication to mentoring and encouraging fellow students, their volunteerism and altruistic values, and their reputations amongst undergraduate students in the psych program as committed, helpful and highly appreciated Teaching Assistants. They were consistently praised as kind, welcoming, trustworthy, friendly and generous. They are both excellent students academically with national scholarships and multiple publications. They are also both very involved in departmental and university activities (both social and academic) as well as helping fellow graduate students through difficult times and generously volunteering their time and effort to help other in a multitude of ways. Congratulations to you both!!

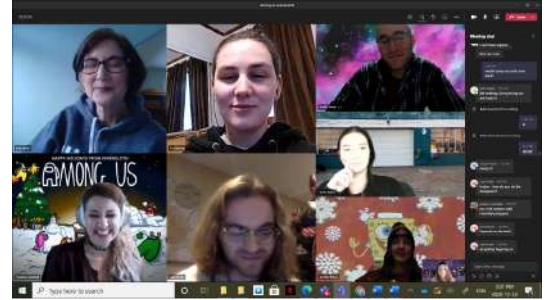
Department Fun!

- **Annual Wendy Murphy Memorial Golf Tournament** - The 25th Annual Wendy Murphy Memorial Tournament was held on Saturday Sept 11 2021. The event had several faculty and graduate students in attendance. The tournament raised approximately \$3,500 which will be used to continue to fund the Wendy Murphy Memorial Awards for Graduate Students in the Department of Psychology. Wendy was a member of the very first graduating class of psychology graduate students in 1995. She was thought of as the heart of that first cohort; not only excelling academically but also always looking out for others and working to make Brock a better place. Sadly, Wendy became ill and passed away just after beginning her Ph.D. work so her family and friends began work to set up an award in her honour. Wendy's sister Tammy and husband Tim started a charity golf tournament to raise money for this cause that has run each year since 1997. See above for more on this year's award winners.
- New faculty member **Scott Neufeld's** newly formed "research collective" gathered at the end of September 2021 for a social distanced backyard barbecue, campfire and meeting to discuss group goals and values. They agreed on a name: The "Community Action Research and Ethics" (CARE) Collective and enjoyed getting to know each other. From Left to Right Xiaoyang Xia (graduate research assistant), Hamnah Shahid (PhD student), Raechel Hamill (Honours student), and Tia Greto (MA student)





•Angela Evans’ Social Cognitive Development Lab had a fun virtual games night to celebrate the end of the term!



- Dr. Angela Book’s lab group enjoyed a collaborative game of “Among Us” to celebrate the end of term!



•Undergraduate Program Director and Associate Professor Caitlin Mahy’s Developing Memory & Cognition lab held a socially distanced grad student meeting in Burgoyne Woods in the summer. From left to right: Samantha Moeller, Caitlin Mahy, Tessa Mazachowsky, and Taissa Fuke.

Faculty Hobbies



Stephen Emrich purchased a sailboat named “Dog Days” and has been enjoying riding out the pandemic on the high seas of Lake Ontario.

Garden Fever!

Liz Shulman spent time working on her garden throughout the summer with a goal of at least trying to make it look less like her house is abandoned.

Paula Duarte-Guterman has enjoyed growing Zinnias in her new garden as has Scott Neufeld.





Other backyard adventures for **Scott Neufeld** have included getting to know the local rabbits, deer and wild turkeys that occasionally visit as well as a newly constructed backyard tree fort for his kids that served as a convenient summer writing spot for Scott during warmer days. Scott and family also welcomed a beautiful baby girl named Myra into their lives in May 2020. She is pictured here helping harvest potatoes from the garden in September 2021.

Psych Department Research in the News

In November 2020 **Dr. Caitlin Mahy** and PhD student **Tessa Mazachowsky** had a co-authored piece published in the Conversation Canada explaining how to teach children as young as three years old about saving and spending. <https://theconversation.com/how-to-teach-saving-and-spending-to-kids-as-young-as-3-years-old-142957>

Dr. Veena Dwivedi was interviewed by an independent filmmaker and artist about the nature of creativity with respect to language, multilingualism, and neuroscience in a July 2021 episode of The Artists' Podcast on Language, Brain and Thinking. <https://eplog.media/episode/ep-83-language-brain-thinking-process-feat-veena-d-e8a75>

Scott Neufeld was interviewed about his work on substance use-focused anti-stigma campaigns for a Sault Ste. Marie news article in the "Soo Today" titled "Race, class, drugs and a new approach to anti-stigma campaigns". Scott also had a collaborative project with McGill colleague **Dr. Phoebe Friesen** highlighted in a Brock News article titled "Brock part of national team examining community governance in research".

- <https://www.sootoday.com/following-up/race-class-drugs-and-a-new-approach-to-anti-stigma-campaigns-3294677>
- <https://brocku.ca/brock-news/2021/06/brock-part-of-national-team-examining-community-governance-in-research/>

Dr. Angela Evans was interviewed for the Pandemic Parenting Podcast where she spoke on how to talk to children about their day-to-day experiences. **Dr. Evans'** PhD student **Breanne Wylie** discussed her research on interviewing child witnesses as a guest on the "Advancing Humanity" podcast. **Dr. Evans'** other PhD student **Alison O'Connor** spoke to CTV news about their research for a segment on dishonesty and the Covid-19 pandemic.

- <https://twitter.com/PandemicParent/status/1387413859745533956?s=20>
- <https://soundcloud.com/user-363700712-640921379/83-preparing-children-for-court-how-do-we-get-honest-answers-from-kids>
- <https://atlantic.ctvnews.ca/video?clipId=2117269&jwsource=twi>

Dr. Cathy Mondloch was interviewed about her lab's research on face perception for a CBC Hamilton article about the impact on the ubiquitous medical masks commonly worn to reduce transmission of Covid-19. <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/hamilton/face-recognition-lab-1.6020442>

Making Community Connections

- In June 2021, an article in The Brock News profiled how students in **Dr. Veena Dwivedi's** PSYC 3P59 Human Neuropsychology class had the opportunity to participate in the "Music and Memory" program offered by Niagara Health. Students who participated received extra credit in their course for compiling personalized playlists of favorite tunes for older adults living in a long-term care facility in Welland. Students met with residents virtually to discuss their favorite music before curating the playlists. The project was facilitated with help from Brock's experiential education program and helped students "put the human back into human neuropsychology".



Clockwise from top left, Paige Vaccarella, Liz Kirk, Kinley Wilson, Madi Maguire and Veena Dwivedi debriefed on the Music and Memory project after it was completed.

- Dr. Teena Willoughby's** grad student **Taylor Heffer** was invited to give talks about her research for Leah Somerville's lab at Harvard University, Kate Mills' lab at the University of Oregon and (with Dr. Willoughby) in a Flash Talk to the virtual FLUX congress.
- In April 2021 **Caitlin Mahy** gave a talk to the Pelham Probus Club (a senior's group) entitled "Prospective Memory: What is it and how does it change across the lifespan?"
- In March, **Anita Twele** and **Sophia Thierry** presented their research studies to the Brock University Retiree's Association on March 25, 2021. In April, Dr. **Cathy Mondloch** and students **Anita Twele**, **Claire Matthews**, and **Sophia Thierry** delivered a presentation for the Lifespan Speaker Series titled "Why Faces Matter: Recognizing People & Forming First Impressions across the Lifespan". Check it out here - <https://brocku.ca/lifespan-development-research/face-perception/>
- New faculty member **Scott Neufeld** has been very busy presenting virtually on his research on substance use-related stigma and anti-stigma campaigns in Canada for a wide range of audiences in the past year. These have included national organizations like the Community Addictions Peer Support Association (CAPSA) and Health Canada's "Opioid Harms Response Community", the Municipal Drug Strategy Coalitions Network of Ontario, and more locally, the Overdose Prevention and Education Network of Niagara (OPENN). Most recently Scott was invited to present on his work on community research ethics for the National Urban Indigenous Coalitions Council and was the virtual guest speaker for the Porcupine Health Unit's winter staff retreat (his presentation featured a seasonal, "anti-stigma santa"!). Scott also created an accessible summary of his anti-stigma research and recommendations meant for practitioners and researchers alike. It is available here: <http://bit.ly/FIRST-antistigma>

- In February 2021, **Dr. Gordon Hodson** presented as part of the “From Microaggressions to Microaffirmations” online event for Brock’s Anti-Racism Task Force. A few months later Dr. Hodson published an insightful commentary in Perspectives on Psychological Science titled “Pushing Back Against the Microaggression Pushback in Academic Psychology: Reflections on a Concept-Creep Paradox”
- In October 2020, **Dr. Angela Evans’** PhD student **Alison O’Connor** presented on their Covid-19 related research to the Lifespan Institute’s community lecture series. Check it out here - <https://brocku.ca/lifespan-development-research/covid-speaker-series/>
- **Sid Segalowitz** gave a joint colloquium to ARiEAL (Centre for Advanced Research in Experimental & Applied Linguistics) and the Department of Psychology, Neuroscience and Behaviour at McMaster University entitled “Accessing words in the Mental Lexicon with ERPs: Are words ‘perceived’ in the same way as faces and objects?” on May 21, 2021. For those who are interested, it is available online at <https://arieal.mcmaster.ca/resources/archive/arieal-speaker-series-accessing-words-in-the-mental-lexicon-with-erps>.



17,104 steps
15,135 steps
The Face Perception Lab raised \$2,800 for the Alzheimer's Society of Niagara

•The **Face Perception Lab** participated in the Walk for Alzheimer’s in January 2021 and raised \$2,800.00.

•*Psychological Knowledge Translation in Support of Indigenous Truth and Reconciliation* - At the end of 2019 Prof. **Sid Segalowitz** was asked by Cindy Blackstock, Executive Director of the Indigenous Caring Society, to submit an affidavit for their court case with the Government of Canada concerning compensation to children affected by government negligence. They asked for a report on the issue of when adulthood begins. The Caring Society wanted the compensation funding to be held in trust not only until 18 years, but later. Dr. Segalowitz’s review of literature from neuroscience and developmental psychology found that brain maturation is gradual and there are wide individual differences, but at a minimum there is a slow

ramp to at least 25 years with respect to brain changes. With this evidence backing up the common sense knowledge that young adults do not instantly become mature adults at age 18, the Caring Society hoped this would help shift policy towards delaying large government pay outs for affected children to an age of more developmental maturity. This in turn would help protect more vulnerable young adults, especially if they have had a disrupted and stressful childhood. This is not a new issue for those in developmental psychology and neuroscience, of course, but the Caring Society found the affidavit helpful. Cindy Blackstock wrote that “the Tribunal did take note of your affidavit and we are continuing to rely on the evidence to promote more supports for young people. It also has been very helpful to the Caring Society writ large. I had all the staff read it and we are ramping up our efforts to support this age group.” This case offers an

important reminder for psych students and faculty: often what we know and take for granted is not always thoroughly understood in the wider society. It is up to us to help spread our understanding of critical developmental knowledge.

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 on twitter and @brockpsychology on instagram #brockpsyc



Consider following some of the more active Psych Department Faculty on Twitter:

Angela Evans - https://twitter.com/angelad_evans

Cheryl McCormick - <https://twitter.com/cherylmcc>

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Check Out Some of Our Recent Publications

- Atance, C. M., Rutt, J., Cassidy, K., & Mahy, C. E. V. (2021). Young children's future-oriented reasoning for Self and Other: Effects of conflict and perspective. *Journal of Experimental Child Psychology*, 209, 105172.
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