Message from the Co-Chairs

We hope everyone has had a good fall term as many of us are now wrapping up our courses. As this is our first newsletter for this academic year, it might be a good time to remind you who is doing what in our various administrative roles. Tanya Martini and I have begun our terms as Co-Chairs of the psychology department. Tanya will be handling tasks relating to budgeting and teaching scheduling. I will be responsible for liaising with the Dean’s office; chairing department meetings; approving requests, applications, and grade changes; answering email or questions about miscellaneous departmental business; and (nominally) supervising staff, though they actually make sure I know (more or less) what I’m doing. If you are unsure whether you should contact Tanya or me for assistance, just email the psychchair@brocku.ca account and we’ll coordinate a response.

I would also like to thank Mike Ashton for volunteering to be our Undergraduate Officer, Steve Emrich for continuing as Graduate Program Director, and Angela Evans for serving again this year as the Associate Chair, overseeing academic integrity cases.

It is also a pleasure to share that Vaisnavi Sugumar now has a full-time, permanent position as the departmental academic advisor. I know our students will benefit from her assistance with all their questions about our courses and programs. I would also like to welcome Dr. Rajiv Jhangiani, Vice-Provost Teaching and Learning, as a new cross-appointed member of the psychology department.

On a research front, congratulations to Karen Campbell, Cheryl McCormick, Cathy Mondloch, and Paula Duarte-Guterman for being awarded CIHR or NSERC grants! Further congratulations are in order for the many publications listed below, showing that faculty and students in our department are producing some really interesting research.

Finally, as we enter the exam period and near the end of the term, I’d like to wish you all a happy holiday, and I hope you have an enjoyable and relaxing break.
**Where Are They Now? (Student Updates)**

Christine Salahub is now a Research Associate at University Health Network. Joel Robitaille is now a Defence Scientist at the Department of National Defence. Both are former PhD students of Dr. Stephen Emrich.

Beth Visser (PhD 2010) is now an Associate Professor of Psychology at Lakehead University (Orillia). Julie Jonas (PhD 2012) is now Partner, Head of Assessment Services for Canada at Odgers Berndtson Canada. Both are former PhD students of Dr. Mike Ashton.

**Sept. 30 – National Day for Truth and Reconciliation at Brock**

On Friday, Sept 30 all regular Brock classes and seminars were cancelled to observe Canada’s second National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. Students and faculty alike were encouraged to spend time learning and reflecting on the legacy of colonization in Canada, the history of residential schools, the ongoing impacts of intergenerational trauma and the resilience and beauty of Indigenous cultures.

Several Brock faculty and staff participated by donning orange shirts or incorporating assignments or discussions into their teaching this week to encourage reflection on this important day. For example, students in PSYC 3P62 “Intro to Qualitative Methods in Psychology” (Scott Neufeld) critically analyzed a qualitative research paper on (former) Senator Lynn Beyak’s residential school denialism. Students in PSYC 3P65 “Brain and Language” (Veena Dwivedi) discussed colonization and Indigenous language loss.

*Pictured in collage clockwise from Top Left: Angela Evans and children, Scott Neufeld and family, Angela Book’s children, Kirsti van Dorsser, Veena Dwivedi.*
Faculty and Staff News, Grants, Awards and Accomplishments:

• Congratulations to Kirsti! Congratulations to our department’s resident academic advisor Kirsti van Dorsser on her recent wedding to her long-time partner! Here’s how she describes the day: “Alan and I finally (after many cancelled plans thanks to COVID) got married in August! We decided to tie the knot on lovely Cape Breton Island, on our property. An off-grid camping wedding seemed appropriate for us. Everything was amazing, Mother Nature was kind and gave us a beautiful day, our new friends and neighbours on the Island came together to help us provide a delicious meal (not an easy feat with no power or fresh water), and 35 of our friends and family made the long and sometimes complicated trip to the Island. The party was a blast - and no one fell off the cliff! It was a wonderful opportunity to celebrate our relationship and also introduce our friends and family to the wonders of Cape Breton Island, and our little piece of heaven.”

• Brock Psych is now the official academic home to Dr. Rajiv Jhangiani! Dr. Jhangiani came to Brock in Summer 2022 from Kwantlen Polytechnic University (BC) to serve as the new Vice Provost, Teaching and Learning at Brock to work closely with staff at Brock’s Centre for Pedagogical Innovation (CPI) in addition to the Co-Op, Career and Experiential Education team at Brock. In addition to his administrative position as Vice Provost, Dr. Jhangiani also has a primary faculty appointment in the Department of Educational Studies as well as a cross-appointment in the Department of Psychology, given his academic background in social psychology. The psychology department is pleased to offer an academic ‘home’ of sorts to Dr. Jhangiani at Brock! Learn more about our latest department member on Brock’s website here and at his personal website here.

• Professor Cheryl McCormick received an NSERC RTI grant (Assistant Professor Paula Duarte-Guterman was a Co-PI) to fund the purchase of new molecular equipment for their research labs.
Professor McCormick also received an NSERC Discovery Grant to study “Adolescence: A Sensitive Period for Shaping the Adult Social Brain”

- In honour of her status as one of Brock’s newest Canada Research Chair’s Dr. Duarte-Guterman has also been featured on one of several banners celebrating Brock’s CRCs around campus. Dr. Duarte-Guterman also received an NSERC Discovery Grant to expand her research on “Modulation of neuroplasticity and behaviour through parental experience”. Read more about NSERC awards in the Psychology Department in the Brock News here

- Congratulations to Dr. Karen Campbell was honoured to receive the “outstanding co-op supervisor of the term” award after being nominated by her co-op/honours student Kiran Randhawa.

- The Campbell lab has been awarded a $340K Project Grant from CIHR to look at the cognitive and neural mechanisms underlying age-related declines in associative memory and to develop a novel technique to improve older adults' memory for events in everyday life. The goal of this research is to broaden our understanding of the cognitive and neural mechanisms underlying age-related declines in associative memory and to develop a simple technique that older adults can use in everyday life to improve their event-related memory.

- In May 2022, Dr. Veena Dwivedi was very honoured to give an invited lecture for the Faculty of Linguistics, Philology and Phonetics “General Linguistics Seminar, Trinity Term 2022” at Oxford University on the subject of “Affect and linguistic anomaly in sentence: An ERP investigation”.

- Professor Cathy Mondloch was awarded an NSERC Discovery Grant ($275,000 over 5 years) for her project titled Learning to Recognize Faces Despite Within Person Variability in Appearance: A Developmental Approach. These federal funds will allow Cathy and her students to deepen their understanding of the mechanisms underlying face learning in children, and in young and older adults.

Conference Travel!

Several faculty and their students have enjoyed presenting their research at in-person conferences once again in the past year. Dr. Stephen Emrich and graduate students Alyssa Thibeault and Rosa Torres travelled to Florida to present at the annual Vision Sciences Society conference this year. In July 2022, Dr. Veena Dwivedi pictured here with Dr. Iris Berent of Northeastern University presented “Affect and
grammatical anomaly in discourse” and graduate student Pratik Nath presented “A neurophysiological investigation of noisy channel sentence”, at the 44th Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society in Toronto, Canada.

The CARE Collective: Lecturer Scott Neufeld travelled with graduate students Hamnah Shahid and Tia Greto to Puerto Rico to co-present their respective research at the Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues’ (SPSSI) annual conference in a joint symposium titled “Critical Perspectives on Structural Interventions to Address Substance Use-Related Stigma”. Tia also had a co-authored poster presented by our colleague Dr. Rachel Young (University of Iowa) at the Kentucky Conference on Health Communication (April 2022) and Hamnah travelled to Minneapolis, MN in August 2022 for the annual APA conference to present their work on “Shifting the Social Boundaries of “Criminal”: (De)Criminalization as a (De)Stigmatizing Process”.

The Face Perception Lab (Dr. Cathy Mondloch) took their findings on the road, with presentations at Development 2022 (Calgary: Claire Matthew, Sophia Thierry, Anita Twele), Vision Sciences (Florida: Kristen Baker), and the European Conference on Visual Perception (Netherlands: Kristen Baker).

Celebrating Grad Student Success!

Shealin Murray (pictured here presenting her MA research at Brock’s Faculty of Math and Science graduate conference) successfully defended her MA thesis titled “Characterizing the Development of Reward Evaluation Across Adolescence in Female and Male Long-Evans Rats”. Little is known about how reward evaluation may change throughout adolescence, and how these developmental trajectories may vary between reward types and between sexes. Shealin’s thesis work focused on characterizing changes in sensitivity to and motivation for reward across adolescence in female and male Long-Evans rats. Overall, her thesis work suggests that the development of reward processing is dynamic across the adolescent period, and that peaks in reward evaluation depend on sex and procedure. Shealin ALSO received OGS funding for the first year of her PhD at Brock where she will continue working with Dr. Cheryl McCormick. Congratulations Shealin!

PhD student Sarah Henderson (Supervised by Dr. Karen Campbell) presented her recent work on age differences in event segmentation at the 2022 Rotman Research Institute Conference and received an Outstanding Poster Presentation award. Congratulations!
In March 2022, Dawn Ryan (PhD student with Dr. Karen Campbell) had a co-authored paper featured on the Psychonomic Society website. Check out the post here: https://featuredcontent.psychonomic.org/the-dark-side-of-older-adults-motivation-to-do-well-in-the-lab/

Former PhD student Dr. Caitlyn Gallant (currently a post-doctoral fellow at the Developmental Disability and Mental Health Lab at York University) was honoured with the highly prestigious “Spirit of Brock” medal at the Spring 2022 Convocation. Read more about Caitlyn’s incredible successes and amazing contributions to the Brock community in the Brock News: https://brocku.ca/brock-news/2022/06/psychology-grads-embody-the-spirit-of-brock/

Annual Wendy Murphy Memorial Golf Tournament

The 26th Annual Wendy Murphy Memorial Tournament was held on Saturday Sept 10, 2022. All in all, it was another successful year! A total of 34 golfers raised about $5,000 for the Wendy Murphy Memorial Scholarship endowment which now sits at almost $400,000! Thanks to the tireless efforts of Dr. Tim Murphy and supporters, this amazing scholarship that supports outstanding graduate students in the department noted for their “good head and good heart” will continue on well into the future. Thanks to all who organized and supported this annual event!

Celebrating Undergraduate Students

Message from the Undergraduate Program Director

Welcome to all our new and returning undergraduate students!

Here’s a brief overview of the year ahead in Brock Psychology.

Our introductory psychology course—the legendary PSYC 1F90—remains in excellent hands. Two of its co-instructors—Prof. Tanya Martini and Prof. Drew Dane—are long-time veterans of the course and eager to get back to the lecture podium. They will be joined this year by Prof. Will Hall, who in his fourth year as a prof at Brock is bravely taking on this course for the first time. With the able assistance of our long-time PSYC 1F90 Coordinator, Tammy Stewart, these fantastic teachers will be introducing over 1400 students to the field of psychology.

Our second-year students are choosing from an awe-inspiring variety of courses, a veritable buffet of knowledge: Perception! Social Psychology! Cognition! Brain & Behaviour! Community Psychology! Lifespan Development! Abnormal Psychology! Learning! Sports Psychology! Health Psychology! Plus the greatest of them all: Personality! (This is a totally objective assessment and totally not due to my bias as the personality instructor.)
All of our second-year students are taking our Roadmap to Careers in Psychology course (PSYC 2P01), instructed this year by our Department Coordinator, Tammy Stewart. And of course, all of our second-year students are also taking our spectacular statistics course: PSYC 2F23. Prof. Tim Murphy has been teaching this course since 1995, and he’s as enthusiastic as ever. With his uncanny knack for explaining subtle ideas to statistical novices, Prof. Murphy will no doubt once again be an outlier at the high end of the statistics teaching distribution.

Among our exciting third-year courses this year are two new offerings. Prof. Scott Neufeld is teaching Qualitative Psychology (PSYC 3P62), and the instructor for Puberty and Adolescence (PSYC 3P26) is yet to be announced.

At the fourth-year level, our capstone course Psychology Students’ Transition to Work (PSYC 4P07) is back again, with well over 100 students being taught this year by Prof. Karen Arnell. And also in fourth year, we have 35 empirical thesis students—thank you to the psychology faculty members who have taken on students for supervision, and best of luck to the students for the year of research discovery ahead!

If you have any questions about your program, be sure to contact our ever-wise and ever-helpful Academic Advisors, Vaisnavi Sugumar and Kirsti van Dorsser. They can meet with you online or in person to discuss your program plans with you.

-UPD Dr. Mike Ashton

Brock Psychology Hosts the Annual Ontario Psychology Undergraduate Thesis Conference (AOPUTC)...Online!

Pictured in collage clockwise from Top Left: Welcome with graduate student volunteers and Tim Murphy, Brock virtual campus, Poster session in Room E, Closing speech from Tim Murphy in virtual auditorium
On June 24, 2022 Brock Psychology welcomed thesis students from across Ontario at the 52nd Annual Ontario Psychology Undergraduate Thesis Conference (AOPUTC). This virtual conference featured 144 poster presentations including presentations from 18 Brock thesis students and a keynote speech by #BrockPsych Assistant Professor of Applied Social Psychology Dr. Will Hall.

A major highlight of this virtual conference was how conference organizers Tim Murphy, Osama Chattha, and Sara Stephenson created a virtual Brock campus on Gather.Town allowing students and guests to virtually visit our beloved Brock campus (see photos). With over 250 registrants in total, this conference was a great celebration for thesis students and their research. They were joined by graduate student volunteers Sarah Henderson, Alyssa Thibeault, Rosa Torres, Andrew Armstrong, Emily Davis, and Gurprince Attlas who assisted on the day of the conference.

Special congratulations go out to our 18 Brock Honours Students who presented, many of them for their first time ever presenting at a conference:

Edyta Houshang Tehrani, Meher Damathia, Ishita Kapoor, Ron Smitko, Jasmine Gagnon, Jessica Johnson, Perla Matusof, Cassandra Campanella, Michelle Praymayer, Samantha McMahon, Cody Ellis, Monique Zizzo, Hanna Puffer, Madeleine Maheu, Lauren Stepien, Benjamin Johnson, Emma Donahue, and Chae Lynn Bush

Read more about this amazing virtual event in the Brock News Ontario Psychology students showcase research at Brock conference – The Brock News (brocku.ca)

Honours Student Highlight

Undergraduate student Meher Damathia presented her Honours thesis from the Dwivedi Brain and Language Lab entitled: Emotional perception of Indian popular music: A cross-cultural study. She was one of Brock’s 18 undergraduate poster presenters at the virtual AOPUTC conference hosted by #BrockPsych.

Undergraduate Awards

Undergraduate research assistant Maddy Maheu not only presented her research (in collaboration with MA student Gurprince Attlas and supervisor Dr. Paula Duarte-Guterman) at the Brock Faculty of Math and Science GRaD conference (see photo) but also was the recipient of a Spirit of Brock Award at convocation this past summer. Maddy graduated from the neuroscience program and did her Honours thesis on how “Exercise affects microglia perineuronal net expression in the mouse dentate gyrus” with Dr. Duarte-Guterman and Dr. Rebecca MacPherson (Applied Health Sciences).

Former undergraduate #BrockPsych student Ben Johnson was honoured with the “Spirit of Brock” medal at Spring 2022 Convocation. This award is bestowed by Brock’s “Board of Trustees” and recognizes the recipient’s “leadership, courage and dedication to improving the Brock community”. Read more about Ben’s incredible accomplishments at Brock https://brocku.ca/brock-news/2022/06/psychology-grads-embody-the-spirit-of-brock/. See photo on the top of page 6.
Updates from the Brock Psych Society

“Hey Badgers! The Psychology Society is looking for a Head Mentor to run our mentorship program, if interested - please email psycsoci@gmail.com. If you are also interested in being a mentor or joining the club you can email us as well!

Follow our Instagram (@BrockPsycSociety) for the latest updates on events such as movie night, holiday cookie decorating, merchandise sales - students vs professor trivia, and more!”

- Olivia Detlor (Brock Psych Society president)

Department Fun!

Department Coffee time Rides Again

Faculty members Scott Neufeld, Angela Evans and Will Hall have revitalized an old department tradition this year…meeting together in person occasionally for coffee, snacks and informal conversation! The department has purchased a coffee urn and these three are planning to make this a monthly tradition. Our first ‘coffeetime’ was held on Monday Sept. 19 from 1-2pm in the Psychology department lounge and common areas. It has been held on the third Monday of each month since then. We will continue this new tradition into the Winter semester – stop by for a chat, some coffee and some snacks!

Making Community Connections

- On Sunday May 29th at Fireman's Park, the Neurocognitive Aging Lab (Dr. Karen Campbell) joined Brock's Face Perception Lab (Dr. Cathy Mondloch) at the 2022 Walk for Alzheimer's. The Campbell Lab managed to raise $2206 for the Alzheimer Society of the Niagara Region! The Alzheimer Society of the Niagara Region is an incredible organization, filled with passionate staff, care partners, and clients. Since getting involved, both labs have managed to raise over $11,000 in total. Thank you to our wonderful team for participating!
Resident department Community Psychologist Scott Neufeld has been busy contributing to several community-engaged projects around Canada. In May 2022 Scott was invited to co-facilitate a virtual workshop and talk for BC graduate students hosted by Simon Fraser University’s Graduate Student Society and the Simon Fraser Public Research Interest Group (SFPIRG) on “Research 101: Community Research Ethics and Resisting the Institutional Research Ethics Industrial Complex”. He co-presented with long-time community collaborator and Downtown Eastside resident/advocate Nicolas Leech-Crier.

Scott also helped to co-research, co-produce and “starred in” a mini documentary about his (and many others’…) long-standing work on community research ethics in Vancouver’s Downtown Eastside. “Don’t read us the book we wrote”: Telling the story of the Downtown Eastside Community Research Ethics Workshop” (Quotidian Productions) is a short (17:41) mini-documentary that was officially launched at a community-engaged research conference in Vancouver in May 2022. It can be accessed online here at the newly designed dedicated website for this project: www.dtescrew.ca.

Scott also served as an advisory consultant for another short film released in July 2022 titled “Building Hope: Substance use in the trades”. Influenced by Scott’s ongoing research on substance use-focused anti-stigma campaigns in Canada, this short video was co-produced by Tides of Change White Rock/South Surrey (BC) Community Action Team, Base Two Media and Health Canada and is designed to reach a target audience of men working in the trades who may be at risk of death from illicit drug toxicity (overdose). The video can be accessed online here.

Cathy Mondloch shared her research in Researchers’ Corner as part of Brock’s 2022 Homecoming Celebrations. Way to represent the department Cathy!

Faculty Hobbies

Paula Duarte-Guterman grew some lovely tulips in her garden this year!

Cathy Mondloch continued her quest to hike the Bruce Trail (a 900-km trail running from Queenston to Tobermory, ON). She put 100+ kms behind her this spring – enjoying spectacular rock formations in the Sydenham section. Just 40% of the trail left to go! Cathy also hiked in the Rockies, finally making it to Lake Agnes Tea House (a 7km hike with 385m elevation gain) where there is great food, tea, and t-shirts! (Insert photo of Cathy Mondloch at Lake Agnes).

Scott Neufeld and his two boys Ethan (6) and Adley (4) excelled at growing zucchini and cucumbers this year!
A Smattering of Recent Publications from the Department!

Kristen Baker (PhD student) and Cathy Mondloch publish a paper examining whether photography experience (a component of some training protocols) actually improves face recognition:


Claire Matthews (former PhD student & Postdoc), Sarah Laurence (Former Postdoc), and Cathy Mondloch publish a paper addressing a long-standing question: Do we have one age-independent representation for a familiar face (e.g., Paul McCartney) or multiple age-specific representations (e.g., one for McCartney in the Beatles and one for him at 64)? You can read the paper to find out:


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 on Twitter and @brockpsychology on Instagram