

PSYCHED @ BROCK NEWSLETTER

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Issue No. 14, 2023



Message from our Co-Chairs

Happy New Year Everyone!



**Co-Chairs: Drew
Dane and Tanya
Martini**

We hope you all had a good, relaxing holiday and are ready to start the winter term. It's nice to start the year looking back at all the activities and accomplishments of last year that have been compiled in this newsletter. Maybe that will provide us with a bit of inspiration for 2024!

For starters, it's great to see that so many of our former graduate students have moved on to Assistant Professor positions or postdocs in interesting and prestigious universities.

Congratulations also go out to all the graduate students who received awards and scholarships. I'd like to give a special mention to Sarah Henderson and Oya Pakkal, winners of the Wendy Murphy Memorial Award for graduate students who embody the core values of our program, in showing both academic excellence and exceptional collegiality.

Of course, there is also lots of news to note about our faculty. I'd like to wish Dawn Good and Sid Segalowitz all the best in retirement; their many contributions to the department and university will be missed. On the other end of the spectrum, congratulations are in order for Scott Neufeld, who successfully defended his dissertation in December. It's also great to see that many of our faculty received awards, distinctions and grants last year, and have been in the media spreading the news about all the interesting research happening in our department.

We'd like to close with thanks for a few of our colleagues. First, thanks to our social committee (Scott and Will) for organizing the departmental holiday lunch in December. We had a good time at Spicy Thai enjoying the food and having a chance to chat and catch up with each other. Finally, thanks to Angela Evans for putting this newsletter together with impressive editing and design skills!

All the best in the winter term and 2024 everyone!

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Where Are They Now? (Student Updates)

Kristen Baker (PhD, 2023) is currently a Postdoctoral Fellow at University of Kent

Victoria Dykstra (PhD, 2023) is now a SSHRC Postdoctoral Fellow at the University of California, Irvine

Taylor Heffer (PhD, 2022) is now an Assistant Professor at Ontario Tech University

Alison O'Connor (PhD, 2022) is now an Assistant Professor at Mt. Allison University

Claire Matthews (PhD, 2021) is now a Research Facilitator for the Faculty of Education at Brock University.

Tessa Mazachowsky (PhD, 2021) started a new position as a Research Officer on the SSHRC Portfolio in ORS at Brock in October 2023.

Brent Pitchford (PhD, 2023) is currently a Postdoctoral Fellow in the Icelandic Vision Lab, Iceland

Elvira Prusaczyk PhD (2023) is now an Assistant Professor of Social Psychology at St. Francis Xavier University

Dawn Ryan (PhD, 2023) is now an Assistant Professor at Acadia University in Nova Scotia.

Breanne Wylie (PhD, 2022) is currently a SSHRC Banting Postdoctoral Fellow at the University of Southern California



Congratulations!

Student Awards

Gurprince Atlas was awarded the FMS Graduate Student Leadership Award and the OSSTF-Student Entrepreneurial award for pitching a business idea and in September she started her own business called Diverse Expressions. The aim of the company is to be more inclusive and diverse with the greeting cards that we see in stores: <https://diverseexpression.com>

Orlin Chowdhury won the “Martha Abra Best Use of Computer Technology Award” for her presentation at the Niagara Regional Science and Engineering Fair.

Emily Davis received the Wendy Murphy award as well as an Ontario Graduate Scholarship this year.

Victoria Dkystra received the Canadian Psychological Association 2023 Certificate of Academic Excellence award for her dissertation.

Veronika Fendler was awarded the Ralph D. Morris Graduate student this fall.

Hi Leung received the Canadian Psychological Association 2023 Certificate of Academic Excellence award for his honours thesis.

Oya Pakkal was awarded several scholarships and awards this year including the Brock Horizon Graduate Student Scholarship, the Teaching Assistant Award, Ralph D. Morris Graduate Student Award, the COGDOP Graduate Research Scholarship from the American Psychological Foundation, the 2023-24 Open Education Research Fellowship as well as a CPA Student Section Research Grant.

Aisha Sonnekan received the President’s Surgite Award and the YWCA Niagara Program Volunteer Award.

Anita Twele received SSHRC funding for her dissertation work as well as the President’s Poster Commendation Prize at the Experimental Psychology Society conference.

Megan Vlahiotis received the FOSS undergraduate student research award and presented her thesis at the FOSS research symposium

Wendy Murphy Memorial Award

Wendy Murphy was a member of the first psychology graduate class. Unfortunately, Wendy passed away in 1997 just after beginning her PhD studies. She was described as the “heart” of that first cohort, always looking out for others and doing what she could to make the world a better place. A more detailed description of her life and the award can be found [here](#)

The award is made annually to a returning Psychology graduate student based on consistent academic excellence and collegiality (i.e., a student with a “good head” and a “good heart”). The award committee is comprised of faculty, staff, and former awardees who are still registered students. This is important because the type of person we want to receive this award often does good things, but in a quiet way. Sometimes unobserved by anyone except the person who has benefitted from their kindness. This year the award committee chose to make two Wendy Murphy Memorial Awards. The students chosen are **Sarah Henderson** and **Oya Pakkal**. Both awardees received multiple nominations that described their numerous positive characteristics and actions. The letters of reference and general discussion about both students outlined their academic excellence, level of commitment and helpfulness around their labs, the department, the university, and in the community. Here are a few brief highlights (or paraphrased quotes) for each student.

Sarah is very helpful and encouraging to student in the lab, always willing to assist/teach/mentor/counsel newer members or help in data collection etc. She also did volunteer work with her therapy dog locally and helps to organize a local academic conference (L.O.V.E.). Sarah also won the outstanding research poster at the Rotman Research Institute Conference.

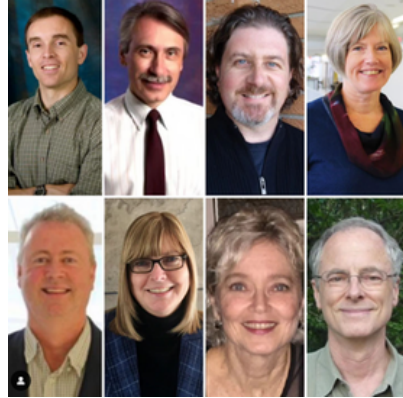
Oya has received an award for her work as a TA. Multiple nominators spoke of her concern/care for her lab-mates and other students. She has been exceptionally supportive, especially through the “COVID days” of online classes when many students felt isolated and discouraged. Oya reached out to an international student in case they required information about Brock (Canada?) because they were travelling here from so far away. A couple nominators credited Oya’s support with their ability to even remain in the program. The “COVID years” took their toll and multiple letters included comments on her ability to reach out and support/comfort her fellow students.

Nominations for the Wendy Murphy Memorial Award are solicited each July (watch your email for notification). Students, staff and faculty are strongly encouraged to send in a letter of nomination. The funding for this award comes primarily from a golf tournament that takes place each September. The 28th annual Wendy Murphy Memorial Golf Tournament will be held on **Saturday September 14th, 2024** so mark your calendars now. This year’s tournament raised \$5,210 that will be added to the endowed account of over \$400,000. The money raised is invested by Brock and only a portion of the interest that has been earned is awarded. Thus, this award will continue on indefinitely, can be increased periodically to account for inflation, and keep Wendy’s memory alive.

Staff & Faculty Grants, Awards and Accomplishments

Eight researchers from our Psychology Department are included in the most recent update of the publicly available [database of top-cited scientists](#) compiled by Stanford University, including:

Michael Ashton
Stefan Brudzynski
Gordon Hodson
Cheryl McCormick
Catherine Mondloch
Sid Segalowitz
Gary Pickering, Psychology/ESRC
Teena Willoughby



Caitlin Mahy received a NSERC Discovery Grant for 2023–2028 and was also the recipient of the 2023 Chancellor’s Chair Award for Research Excellence.

Angela Evans received the American Psychology–Law Society award for Outstanding Teaching and Mentorship.

Veena Dwivedi was recently appointed as the next Director of the [Centre for Neuroscience](#) here at Brock University, starting July 1, 2024 (to 2027). She is honoured and looking forward to taking on this new role.

Kirsti Van Dorsser and Stevie have been volunteering with Therapeutic Paws of Canada and Kirsti is the Co-Cordinator for the Brock PAWS room on Campus. Once a month there will be 7–9 dog therapy teams on campus for students to come visit! Keep an eye out for them on campus and come say “Hi!”



Our Research in the News

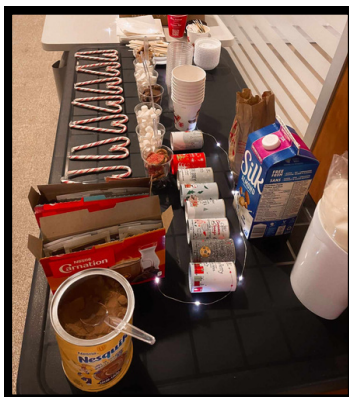
Caitlin Mahy's research on Children's Procrastination received media attention in March 2023 including radio interviews with [580 CFRA](#), The Morning Show with Devon Peacock on [Global News](#), The Gormley Show, [650 CKOM](#), and Good Morning Hamilton, [900 CHML](#)

Veena Dwivedi wrote an OpEd, "The futile fight against franglais" published in [the Globe and Mail](#) in response to a recent social media post by the Quebec minister responsible for promoting and protecting French. She also wrote a letter to the editor in the Globe and Mail clarifying that social attitudes towards dialects affects both understanding and speaking. Check it out here: [The Globe and Mail](#)

Scott Neufeld has been building community connections, giving numerous community talks, and his research has been highlighted in the news. Scott has been collaborating with the Overdose Prevention and Education Network of Niagara (OPENN) and the People with Lived and Living Experience working group to help lay the groundwork for the first ever local, Niagara-based advocacy group by and for people who use(d) drugs. He has given talks to public health and addictions/substance use organizations from across Ontario about combatting substance use stigma. Scott gave invited talks to the City of Greater Sudbury, Public Health Sudbury, and Public Health Ontario. Scott also gave a keynote speech at Northern College for National Addictions Awareness Week. He talked about his research and offered some recommendations for how to fight substance use stigma. You can check out Scott's interview with CTV about the event [here](#).

Grad Student Social Committee Events

The Psychology Graduate Students Social Committee ran some successful social events this year including Paint Night on Mar 14th, Pumpkin Carving on Oct 24th, and the Mark & Movie event on Dec 5th. More events can be found [here](#) on their [Instagram](#) page.



Lab Teams Having Fun!

In May, **The Campbell Neurocognitive Aging Lab** raised \$2,928 for the Alzheimer's Society of Niagara by completing their annual fundraising walk. This summer the Campbell lab members joined a softball league (team name: Bad Pitches). Ironically their pitches were quite good but they still came dead last.



Caitlin Mahy's DMC lab collected data from over 300 children aged 3-5 years at the Ontario Science Centre during several weekends in May and July this past summer. A team of 7 researchers helped with this effort and the results of the research are currently under review at the Journal of Experimental Child Psychology.

The Forensic Lab (Angela Book) had a holiday party and created crime scene cookies!



The Dwivedi Lab members celebrated Hi Leung and Haorong Ding's birthday, along with co-op officer Simone Lammers and Neuropsychology TA, Racheal Herlehy.

Retirement Celebrations

The Psychology Department celebrated **Dr. Sid Segalowitz's** 50-year career at Brock University. Dr. Segalowitz has made significant contributions to the department and across the university. He made an impact as a mentor to students in the classroom and lab, supported junior faculty, helped secure funds for the building of the Lifespan Institute, and much much more. All with endless energy and enthusiasm. Enjoy retirement, Sid. We can't wait to see what you do next!



The Psychology Department celebrated the retirement of **Dr. Dawn Good**. Dr. Good will be greatly missed by our department. She has been at Brock University for 35 years and has been a wonderful colleague to many across the university serving on numerous university wide committees including serving as the first BUFA President following it being unionized and most recently was Vice-President of BUFA. We hope you are enjoying retirement Dawn!

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](https://www.instagram.com/brockpsyc) [#brockpsyc](https://www.facebook.com/brockpsyc)



Travel

Sarah Henderson and **Emily Davis** attended the 64th Annual Meeting of the Psychonomic Society in San Francisco in November.



Will Hall's lab went to the Breaking Barriers and Building Bridges Conference (hosted by the Engendering Success in STEM research partnership and the Institute for Gender and the Economy). This conference took place on November 16th & 17th at the Rotman School of Management in Toronto. Dr. Hall gave a talk and participated in a Q&A panel, and Rebecca Anderson and Estera Houshang Tehrani were attendees.

The Youth Development Lab members (pictured: Oya, Dr. Shulman, & Veronika) attended CPA this year in Toronto as well as the Society for Research on Adolescence conference in San Diego.



Sophia Thierry, a PhD student in **Cathy Mondloch's** Face Perception lab, did a 6-month research apprenticeship in Chicago, supported by the Michael Smith Foreign Study Supplement. Collaborating with Dr. Alex Todorov's research team, Sophia first created a set of artificially generated (yet highly realistic) faces to use in the research project. Then, the research team recruited 200 children ages 4-10 from various community locations in Chicago, such as daycares and libraries, to participate in their research project that examined how children form first impressions of faces.

Travel

During her sabbatical, **Caitlin Mahy** spent 4 weeks in Victoria, BC, 6 weeks in Davis, CA at UC Davis, and then travelled to Germany and Spain to give talks at Johannes Gutenberg University and to attend the meeting of the Jean Piaget Society in Madrid, Spain, that she co-organized with Susan Rivera (University of Maryland). Photo: Caitlin Mahy and a group of developmental psychologists from Turkey at the JPS conference.



Veena Dwivedi presented at the 30th Anniversary Meeting of the Cognitive Neuroscience Society, the 44th Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society in San Francisco, the 15th Annual Meeting of the Society for Neurobiology of Language at the Palais du Pharo, in Marseille, France and organized a symposium on “Emotional Context and Communication” at the Canadian Society for Brain, Behaviour and Cognitive Science at the University of Guelph. She also organized a dinner for the South Asian Psychology and Neuroscience Association (founded by Lucina Uddin, UC Berkeley) at the SNL conference. Dr Dwivedi is pictured here with Akanksha Gupta, PhD Student at Institut de Neurosciences des Systèmes, and Swarnendu Moitra, pre-doctoral RA at Queen Mary University of London.

In June 2023 several members of the CARE Collective presented their research at the Canadian Psychological Association (CPA) conference in Toronto. **Scott Neufeld** chaired and presented in a symposium alongside graduate students Tia Greto and Hamnah Shahid on “Ending stigma how, and for whom? Critical, structural and intersectional analyses of interventions to address substance use stigma in Canada”. Dr. Neufeld also chaired a CPA symposium in which 3 of his former honours students (Megan Vlahiotis, Michael Hinderyckx, Julianne Sheppit) presented their work.



Travel

My 2500-km train ride.

By Dr. Cathy Mondloch

I took a 12-month sabbatical in 2023. A highlight was a spring trip to the UK. I visited 6 universities (University of Lincoln, University of Plymouth, Open University, University of York, Durham University, and University of Aberdeen) over a 3-week period, all travelling by train. The value of face-to-face interactions with collaborators and colleagues cannot be overestimated. I came home with new ideas, new grant proposals, and helpful feedback about ongoing projects. There is a lot of exciting work happening in the UK!

An unexpected treat was climbing the tower of the Lincoln Cathedral to watch the bell ringers at work. Carefully following the instruction to 'keep my feet on the floor at all times' (there are a lot of ropes), I was fascinated by 13 people working collaboratively to make perfectly timed music! Visiting a former postdoc at the Open University afforded an opportunity to tour Bletchley Park in Milton Keynes. Standing in the very huts where Alan Turing worked certainly brought codebreaking to life! I had visited the University of York twice before (it is a hotbed of face perception research), so my host planned a new outing. We spent a memorable evening at a folk singing club. There was a wide range of talent indeed, leading to some suppressed chuckling in the audience. Nonetheless, it was a great opportunity to be immersed in British culture.

The last stop was the University of Aberdeen—worth the trip just for the scenery from a seaside seat on the train. I love hiking, as does my collaborator, and so we set out twice to enjoy the surrounding area. We enjoyed a 3-hour Sunday morning hike around Loch Muick, followed by lunch—and then a second hike in Cairngorms National Park! It was well worth it. We saw cairns, Scotland's only pyramid, and Balmoral Castle. Two days later, I gave a colloquium at 4:00 PM after which a small group drove an hour to Bennachie for a hill walk! A 9 PM curry dinner never tasted so good!

My sabbatical was both restorative and productive. I enjoyed a 2-month trip to Spain and Italy, spending time immersed in art and good food; I read outside of my area and listened to podcasts; I painted two rooms in my house. Collectively, these sparked new lines of research. It always amazes me how inspiration comes while on a ladder/walk and rarely in front of a computer screen!

Photo: The top of Bennachie! (I didn't know this photo was taken until a week later, but it reinstates the joy.)



Have You Read Anything Good Lately?

Check Out Some of Our Recent Publications

Campbell Neurocognitive Aging Lab

Ryan, A. D., Smitko, R., & Campbell, K. L. (in press). The effects of situation similarity on episodic simulation of helping behaviour in younger and older adults. *Scientific Reports*, 13, 9167. doi.org/10.1038/s41598-023-36189-y.

Henderson, S. E., & Campbell, K. L. (in press). Reduced distinctiveness of event boundaries in older adults with poor memory performance. *Psychology & Aging*. Advance online publication. <https://doi.org/10.1037/pag0000765>

O'Connor, A. M., Hall, W., & Campbell, K. L. (in press). Rating the honesty of White and Black children via implicit and explicit measures: Implications for child abuse victims. *Child Maltreatment*, 28, 450–461. DOI: [10.1177/10775595231173363](https://doi.org/10.1177/10775595231173363)

Guardia, T., Mazloum-Farzaghi, N., Olsen, R. K., Tsvetanov, K. A., & Campbell, K. L. (2023). Associative memory is more strongly predicted by age-related differences in the prefrontal cortex than medial temporal lobes. *NeuroImage: Reports*, 3, 100168. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ynirp.2023.100168>

Torres, R. E., Emrich, S. M., & Campbell, K. L. (2023). Age differences in the use of positive and negative cues to filter distracting information from working memory. *Attention, Perception, & Psychophysics*. doi.org/10.3758/s13414-023-02695-4

Lugtmeijer, S., Geerligs, L., Tsvetanov, K. A., Mitchell, D. J., Cam-CAN, & Campbell, K. L. (2023). Lifespan differences in visual short-term memory load-modulated functional connectivity. *NeuroImage*, 270, 119982. doi.org/10.1016/j.neuroimage.2023.119982

Davis, E. E., & Campbell, K. L. (2023). Event boundaries structure the contents of long-term memory in younger and older adults. *Memory*, 31, 47–60.

Developing Memory and Cognition Lab (Mahy)

Mahy, C. E. V., Kamber, E., Conversano, M. C., Mueller, U., & Zuber, S. (in press). A parent-report diary study of young children's prospective memory successes and failures. *Journal of Cognition and Development*.

Kamber, E., Fuke, T. S. S., Alunni, M., & Mahy, C. E. V. (2024). Procrastination in early childhood: Associations with self-regulation, negative affectivity, and the home environment. *Early Childhood Research Quarterly*, 66, 75–85.

Nyhout, A., & Mahy, C. E. V. (2023). Episodic thought in development: On the relation between memory and future thinking. *Developmental Review*, 70, 101103.

Zuber, S., Joly-Burra, E., Mahy, C. E. V., Loaiza, V., & Kliegel, M. (2023). Are facet-specific task trainings efficient in improving children's executive functions and why (they might not be)? A multi-facet latent change score approach. *Journal of Experimental Child Psychology*, 227, 105602.

Fuke, T. S. S., Kamber, E., Alunni, M., & Mahy, C. E. V. (2023). The emergence of procrastination behaviour in early childhood: Relations with executive control and future-oriented cognition. *Developmental Psychology*, 59(3), 579–593.

Have You Read Anything Good Lately?

Check Out Some of Our Recent Publications

Dwivedi Brain and Language Lab

Dwivedi, V. D. (2023). A pilot study: Affect and grammatical anomaly in discourse. In Reisinger, D. K. E, Morzycki, M., Matthewson, L., Csipak, E. & Bochnak, R. M. (eds.), *The title of this volume is shorter than its contributions are allowed to be: Papers in Honour of Hotze Rullmann* (pp. 127–140). University of British Columbia, Occasional Papers in Linguistics.

Face Perception Lab (Mondloch)

Davis, E.E., Matthews, C.M., & Mondloch, C.J. (2024). Ensemble coding of facial identity is robust, but may not contribute to face learning. *Cognition*, 243, 105668.

Social Cognitive-Development Lab (Evans)

Baker, M., Berens, K. A., Giesbrecht, C. J., Bruer, K. C, Evans, A. D., Price, H. L., & Williams, S. (2023). “Locked in a jail cell in your own home”: Child maltreatment investigators’ perspectives of COVID-19’s effects on maltreated children. *Child Maltreatment*.

Turchio, V. M., & Evans, A. D. (2023). Moral evaluations of children’s truths and lies in a prosocial context: The role of reputation. *Journal of Experimental Child Psychology*, 239, 105825.

Evans, A. D. & Talwar, V. (2023). Encouraging Honesty: Developmental Differences in the Influence of Honesty Promotion Techniques. *Developmental Psychology*.

Henderson, H., Sullivan, C. E., Wylie, B. E., Stolzenberg, S. N., Evans, A. D., & Lyon, T. D. (2023). Child Witnesses Productively Respond to “How” Questions About Evaluations but Struggle With Other “How” Questions. *Child Maltreatment*, 28(3), 417–426.

Dykstra, V.W., Willoughby, T. & Evans, A.D. (2023). A Latent Profile Analysis of Lie-Telling to Parents and Friends during Adolescence. *J. Youth Adolescence*. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10964-023-01834-2>

Berens, K. A., Bruer, K. C., Schick, K. D., Evans, A. D., & Price, H. L. (2023). A taxonomy of groomer profiles: Comparisons of in-person, online, and mixed groomers through the examination of Canadian judicial decisions. *Child Abuse & Neglect*, 145, 106407.

Giesbrecht, C. J., Berens, K. A., Baker, M., Williams, S., Evans, A. D., Price, H. L., & Bruer, K. C. (2023). Working with Child Victims During the COVID-19 Pandemic: A Qualitative Study of Child Maltreatment Investigators’ Experiences. *Journal of Forensic Social Work*, 7(1), 91–110. <https://doi.org/10.15763/issn.1936-9298.2023.7.1.91-110>

Wylie, B. E., Evans, A. D., McWilliams, K., & Stolzenberg, S. N. (2023). Children’s understanding of implied coaching questions: Does acquiescence influence perceptions of believability? *Journal of Applied Developmental Psychology*, 85, 101510. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.appdev.2022.101510>

Dykstra, V. W., Turchio, V. M., Willoughby, T., & Evans, A. D. (2023). Longitudinal associations between impulsivity and lie-telling in childhood and adolescence. *Developmental Science*, 00, e13370.

Have You Read Anything Good Lately?

Check Out Some of Our Recent Publications

CARE Lab (Neufeld)

Scher, B. D., Neufeld, S. D., Butler, A., Bonn, M., Zakimi, N., Farrell, J., & Greer, A. (2023). "Criminalization Causes the Stigma": Perspectives From People Who Use Drugs. *Contemporary Drug Problems*, 00914509231179226.

A plain language summary of this paper was also produced by the Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA) and is available [here](#).

Scott Neufeld co-authored a paper with UBC and community colleagues from Vancouver published in *Harm Reduction Journal* describing our "Community-Engaged Research Ethics Training" (CERET) that we developed in order to make training such as the TCPS2 "CORE Tutorial" more accessible and relevant for community member collaborators (e.g. people who use drugs, harm reduction workers). You can find the open access article [here](#).

Scott Neufeld published a co-authored book chapter with four co-authors and collaborators from Vancouver's Downtown Eastside neighborhood titled: "Introducing the Downtown Eastside Community Research Ethics Workshop: Notes on a Process for Community Ethics Review" In a book titled "Ethical Issues in Community and Patient Stakeholder-Engaged Health Research" Edited by Emily Anderson and published by Springer.