

Research Opportunities for Undergraduate Psychology Majors

The Department of Psychology strongly encourages undergraduate psychology majors to become involved in psychological research during their time here at Saint Joseph's University. The benefits of research experience are numerous. Indeed, such experience not only provides students with a more complete understanding of the field of psychology, but also is highly marketable when applying for graduate school or a variety of careers. Working closely with a faculty member typically guarantees stronger letters of recommendation from that faculty member, and those students who make significant contributions to research projects may earn authorship on posters or publications that the research generates. Students can conduct research for Independent Research credit (this fulfills the psychology major's experiential requirement), or they may work in the lab of a faculty member for work-study funding (if eligible) or simply on a volunteer basis. All faculty members of the psychology department maintain an active research program and are frequently seeking assistance from undergraduate students. If you are interested in being involved in research, the department maintains a 'Help Wanted' bulletin board where faculty members with specific needs will place advertisements. These postings can be found in the psychology department's main office area (Post 229). Alternatively, students are strongly encouraged to simply approach those faculty members whose research area they find most interesting. To facilitate this, the specific research interests of each member of the psychology department are listed below.

Phyllis Anastasio, Ph.D.

Research interests:

Effects of media consumption; analysis of media content; antecedents, correlates, and consequences of psychological entitlement

Current research projects:

- (1) examining the effects of exposure to "entitled" messages contained in television, advertising, political ads
- (2) identifying ways in which psychological entitlement differs from narcissism
- (3) examining potential link between psychological entitlement and depression
- (4) examining potential cultural practices that may engender psychological entitlement

Matthew J. Anderson, Ph.D.

Research interests:

Animal behavior and learning processes, with a particular focus on avian behavior

Current research projects:

- (1) studies of Caribbean flamingo resting, social behavior, laterality, and health
- (2) behavioral and cognitive studies of Parakeets (Budgerigars)
- (3) reaction to novel stimuli in terrestrial isopods (pill bugs)

Elizabeth A. Becker, Ph.D.

Research interests:

Behavioral Neuroendocrinology

Current research projects:

- (1) transmission of paternal care and aggressive behavior across multiple generations
- (2) epigenetics
- (3) neurobiology of aggression
- (4) neurobiology of the parental brain
- (5) effects of maternal and paternal behaviors on development of offspring brain and behavior

Clare Conry-Murray, Ph.D.

Research interests:

Social and moral development, gender development, reasoning about gender and culture

Current research projects:

- (1) children's reasoning about gender norms and distributive justice
- (2) parents' judgments about fairness in housework and childcare, comparing parents in Korea, Turkey and the U.S.
- (3) college students' reasoning about cultural practices

Patrick Garrigan, Ph.D.

Research interests:

Shape Perception, Visual Memory, Perceptual Learning

Current research questions:

- (1) How do we recognize images as familiar?
- (2) How do we remember colors, places, and faces?
- (3) How does learning interact with perceptual processes?

Donald S. Leitner, Ph.D.

Research interests:

Sensation and perception
Neuroanatomy
Neurophysiology
Psychopharmacology
Computer acquisition of data in real time

Current research projects:

- (1) Mathematical analyses of auditory temporal resolution in human and non-human species
- (2) The accuracy with which computers can measure time
- (3) The use of web cameras to acquire behavioral data

Jodi Mindell, Ph.D.

Research interests:

Pediatric sleep and sleep disorders

Current research projects:

- (1) cross-cultural differences in infant and toddler sleep
- (2) prevalence of sleep problems and treatment recommendations in a large primary care network
- (3) efficacy of an online tool in the treatment of infant and toddler sleep disturbances

Catherine S. Murray, Ph.D.

Research interests:

Dr. Murray is a developmental-social psychologist, with an interest in the psychology of gender and gerontology. She directs the Gender Studies Program and the graduate program in Gerontological Services. Her research interests include gender differences in sexual attitudes and behavior, gender and leadership, gender differences in attachment, and gender differences in personality traits (gender types).

Current research is focusing on:

- (1) gender and leadership, gender and sexuality, gender and attractiveness

Philip Schatz, Ph.D.

Research interests:

Sports-related concussion

Current research projects:

- (1) Validating measures used for the assessment and management of sports-related concussion
- (2) Understanding factors which effect recovery from concussion in high school and college athletes
- (3) Identifying methodological issues which may affect athlete's performance on cognitive testing

Josephine Shih, Ph.D.

Research interests:

Understanding stress processes and gender differences in depression. Cultural differences in experience of stress and support-seeking.

Current research projects:

- (1) Do we create stress in our lives? What personality factors would predict who would generate stress vs. who would not?
- (2) Learning more about "co-rumination". What happens (to our relationships, our mood, etc.) when we talk ad-nauseum with our friends about our problems and stressors?

Alex J. Skolnick, Ph.D.

Research Interests:

Emotion, Emotion-Health interactions, Psychophysiology, Pain

Current Interests:

- (1) Nature and physiology of disgust and how disgust impacts behavior
- (2) Gender and emotion
- (3) Disgust and anxiety, masculinity, empathy, essentialism, views of nature
- (4) Social buffers of stress