

Faculty Research Interests

Department of Psychology
Saint Joseph's University

Phyllis Anastasio, Ph.D.

Research interests:

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

Current research projects:

- (1) have messages of entitlement in advertising increased in the last decade?
- (2) identifying the dimensions of psychological entitlement
- (3) effects of entitled advertising on overconsumption
- (4) media consumption and perceptions of psychiatric disorders
- (5) effects of violent media consumption on entitled behavior

Matthew J. Anderson, Ph.D.

Research interests:

Animal learning and behavior

Current research projects:

- (1) social influences on lateral behavior in Caribbean flamingos
- (2) cognitive list learning capabilities of rats
- (3) differences between distributed and massed learning of spatial information
- (4) investigation of factors influencing reaction to novel stimuli

Judith G. Chapman, Ph.D.

My research:

Motivational bases of flirting with implications for misperception of sexual intent.

Research in my lab is focusing on:

- The effect of relationship status on misperceptions of sexual intent.
- Gender differences in the experience of and responses to jealousy.
- The impact of mortality salience on infrahumanization of the outgroup.

Patrick Garrigan, Ph.D.

Research interests:

Shape Perception, Visual Memory, Perceptual Learning

Current research questions:

- (1) What makes some shapes easy or hard to remember
- (2) How is our memory for shape related to our memory for places, events, and scenes?
- (3) How can training change the way we perceive the world?

Elizabeth Jaeger, Ph.D.

Dr. Jaeger is a developmental psychologist, with both basic and applied research interests. Her basic research examines the origins of individual differences in parent-child attachment relationships and the consequences of these differences for adaptation in adolescence and adulthood. As a Co-Principal Investigator on the NICHD Study of Early Child Care and Youth Development, her research examines the impact of early child care on the mother-child relationship and children's overall development. She is particularly interested in how these processes are affected by ethnicity and culture. Her applied research has evaluated the impact of interventions aimed at increasing the quality of early child care environments. Most recently, Dr. Jaeger completed the Philadelphia Child Care Quality Study for the Improving School Readiness Project of the United Way of Southeastern PA. The purpose of this project was to describe the level of child care quality experienced by Philadelphia children in a variety of settings, including both center-based and home-based care.

Chris Lawson, Ph.D.

Research interests:

Category and concept development from birth to 5 years, development of reasoning, decision-making

Current research projects:

- (1) Exploring the mechanisms that support the development of categorization in preschoolers
- (2) Factors influencing the development of inductive reasoning
- (3) Identifying precursors to reasoning biases in infancy

Donald S. Leitner, Ph.D.

Research interests:

Sensation and perception

Neuroanatomy

Neurophysiology

Psychopharmacology

Computer acquisition of data in real time

Current research projects:

Mathematical analyses of auditory temporal resolution in human and non-human species

The accuracy with which computers can measure time

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; and (4) the role of sleep in treatment adherence in adolescents post renal transplant.

Catherine S. Murray, Ph.D.

Dr. Murray is a developmental psychologist, with an interest in gerontology, directs the graduate program in Gerontological Services. Her research interests include gender differences in achievement and the role attributional processes play in such differences.

Current research is focusing on:

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

Current research projects:

(1) Examining gender differences in stress generation. Are men and

women more or less likely to contribute to having a stressful environment in their lives. If so, why?

(2) Examining the factors (e.g., personality) that predict stress generation in college students

(3) Comparison of social support use in European Americans and Asian Americans.

Alex Skolnick, Ph.D.

Research Interests:

Emotion, Emotion-Health interactions, Psychophysiology

Current Interests:

- (1) nature and physiology of disgust and how disgust impacts behavior
- (2) nature and physiology of positive emotion
- (3) role of health knowledge in health behavior
- (4) social buffers of stress