DEPARTMENT NEWS

2016 STUDENT SATISFACTION SURVEY

The Department of Psychology at the University of Calgary is now conducting its annual survey of student satisfaction. All psychology majors in the Class of 2016 are being invited to complete the survey. If you are graduating this June you should have received an email with a link to the survey (if not, contact sears@ucalgary.ca for the link).

The Student Satisfaction Committee (Chris Sears, Melissa Boyce, Susan Boon, Vina Goghari, and Mike Boyes) created the survey to learn about the experiences of psychology majors and to use this information to improve the psychology program. The survey asks a variety of questions about your experiences in the psychology program and your satisfaction with those experiences (e.g., course scheduling, class sizes, quality of teaching in lectures, academic challenge, opportunities research experience, etc.). There is also an opportunity to share your thoughts and ideas on how to improve the psychology program.

The survey should take about 10-15 minutes to complete. Responses are completely confidential and no personal identifying information will be shared with anyone. The aggregated responses will be used to evaluate the psychology program and may be used for research purposes if the analyses reveal common themes that may be of interest to other psychology departments. Students who complete the survey before May 15 will be entered into a draw for one of three $50 gift cards from the University of Calgary Bookstore.

Please check your inbox for an email invitation to take part in the 2016 Student Satisfaction Survey!

RECENT PHD DEFENCES

Congratulations to Cody Tousignant who successfully defended his PhD dissertation on April 12th entitled Context effects on beauty ratings of painted artworks: contrast, contrast, everywhere! Thanks go to Cody’s examining committee – Glen Bodner, Giuseppe Iaria, Penny Pexman, Justin Weinhardt (Management) and Debra Zellner (New Jersey Postsecondary). Thanks also goes to Kibeom Lee who served as Neutral Chair. Congrats Dr. Tousignant!

Congratulations to Jennifer Moore who successfully defended her PhD dissertation on April 12th entitled Single-at-midlife women and their accounts of their sexual lives. Thanks go to Jennifer’s examining committee – Lorraine Radtke, Liza McCoy (Sociology), Hank Stam, Barbara Schneider (Communication and Culture) and Maria Gurevich (Ryerson University). Thanks also goes to Mike Antle who served as Neutral Chair. Congrats Dr. Moore!

Congratulations to Stephanie Korol who successfully defended her MSc dissertation on April 14th entitled The Effects of a Sad Mood Induction on Attentional Disengagement from Emotional Images in Previously and Never Depressed Individuals. Thanks go to Stephanie’s examining committee – Chris Sears, Keith Dobson, Kristin von Ranson and Emma Climie (Education Psychology). Thanks also goes to Suzanne Curtin who served as Neutral Chair. Congrats Stephanie!
Megan R. Gunnar is a Regents Professor and Distinguished McKnight University Professor at the University of Minnesota. She received her Ph.D. in Developmental Psychology at Stanford University and then completed a post-doctoral fellowship in stress neurobiology at Stanford Medical School. In 1979 she came to the University of Minnesota as an Assistant Professor moving through the ranks to Full Professor by 1990. Professor Gunnar has spent her career studying how stress affects human brain and behavioral development and the processes that help children regulate stress. She is the Associate Director of Center for Neurobehavioral Development and the Director of the Institute of Child Development. She is the recipient of lifetime achievement awards from the American Psychological Association, Division 7 Developmental Psychology, and the Society for Research in Child Development and a lifetime mentor award from the Association for Psychological Science.
This one year MSc Programme equips students with knowledge about cutting edge developments and issues in applied social psychology, in addition to an array of analytical, methodological and communication skills, important for those progressing to a PhD and graduates looking for jobs in applied sectors such as commercial and governmental settings.

The seven modules are designed to give students in-depth insights into topical issues and the latest research in Social Psychology in a wide range of applied settings. Teaching with an emphasis on group discussions and the development of independent thought and analysis, appropriate to such an advanced level of study. The research project offers students the option to work closely with academic staff and carry out high quality research in an area of interest to the student.

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EMPLOYMENT AND VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

RESEARCH COORDINATOR

LOCATION: Dalhousie University (http://www.dal.ca/), Psychology (http://psychology.dal.ca/), Personality Research Team (http://personality.psychology.dal.ca/)

GRANT HOLDER: Dr. Simon B. Sherry

The successful candidate will be an employee of the grant holder and not an employee of Dalhousie University.

POSITION STATUS: full-time; grant-funded

ANTICIPATED CLOSING DATE: May 15, 2016; review of applications begins immediately and continues until the position is filled

START DATE: May, 2016; there is some flexibility regarding the start date

DURATION: May, 2016 to August 31, 2017; the position may be extended past August 31, 2017

SALARY: competitive salary offered; salary will depend on experience and qualifications

HOURS OF WORK: 40 hours per week

JOB SUMMARY: The position involves coordinating and conducting research projects on personality traits (e.g., perfectionism), interpersonal processes (e.g., conflict) and various forms of psychopathology (e.g., depression, disordered eating, and alcohol abuse).

DUTIES INCLUDE (BUT ARE NOT LIMITED TO) ASSISTING WITH:

· recruiting research participants
· literature searches
· screening and scheduling research participants
· organizing and conducting data collection
· entering and analyzing research data
· preparing and disseminating research results
· creating and maintaining research-related websites
· preparing applications for ethics review boards
· financial management of grants
· various other research-related duties

QUALIFICATIONS:

Education: university degree (honors preferred) in Psychology or related research discipline required

Skills/Requirements:

· recent related experience in conducting and disseminating research
· strong oral and written communication skills
· high degree of computer literacy (e.g., familiarity with Microsoft Word, Microsoft Excel, SPSS, and the Internet)
· excellent organizational skills; attention to details is a must
· excellent time management skills including an ability to prioritize work, to work under pressure, and to meet deadlines
· excellent interpersonal skills, including an ability to work in a team environment and to work with research participants regarding sensitive topics (e.g., depression or suicide)
· ability to problem-solve
· ability to follow specific directions and research protocols
· ability to work both independently and collaboratively with undergraduate students, graduate students, and professors

APPLICATION PROCEDURE: Email a cover letter and your CV to simon.sherry@dal.ca to the attention of Dr. Simon B. Sherry. Include a copy of all your university transcripts. We will only contact you if you are selected for an interview.
RESEARCH NOTES AND ACTIVITIES

GRANTS AWARDED:

Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) Connection Grant, Wesley, J (PI), Cavanagh, F. (collaborator), Krosgman, N. (collaborator), MacInnis, C.C. (collaborator), Hansen, N. (collaborator). Café Pracadémique ($25000).

University of Calgary Research Grants Committee Seed Grant, MacInnis, C.C. (PI). “Everybody’s doing it”: Exploring intergroup contact norms as a means to promote intergroup contact behaviour ($14935)

University of Calgary Research Grants Committee Seed Grant, Russell-Mayhew, S. (PI), Elland, J.H. (Co-Investigator) & MacInnis, C.C. (Co-Investigator). What is in a name? The impact of framing obesity as a disease on the stigmatization of people with obesity ($14966)

RESEARCH PUBLISHED:


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Monday Memo

Do you have something you would like to include in the Monday Memo newsletter? Please send it to k.macklon@ucalgary.ca before Friday at noon.

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CANADA

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