

Messages to Potential Thesis Students

for the 2014-15 Academic Year

Arnell, Karen

Professor

Office: MC B333 Phone: 3225

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Message to potential thesis students:

I am hoping to accept one or two undergraduate thesis students next year. In my lab we investigate attention – its limits in dual-task situations, what captures our attention, attentional distraction, how attention and emotion interact, and individual differences in breadth and capture of attention. Ideally, students will have taken Cognition (PSYC 2P20). Students will work with me one-on-one. My goal is to involve my thesis students in all aspects of a study including experiment design, creation, data collection, and analysis, with the potential to co-author a conference poster and/or journal article.

Ashton, Michael

Professor

Office: MC B316 Phone: 3993

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Message to potential thesis students:

I supervise students who would like to study research questions about personality characteristics in relation to other variables that are of interest to them and to me. Students who have taken PSYC 2P25 are preferred.

Belicki, Kathryn

Professor

Office: MC B314/B307 Phone: 3873

E-mail: kbelicki@brocku.ca

Message to potential thesis students:

Dr. Belicki will not be supervising Thesis Students in 2014-15.

Bogaert, Anthony

Professor, Health Sciences

Office: MC AS321 Phone: 4085

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Message to potential thesis students:

Dr. Bogaert will not be supervising Thesis Students in 2014-15.

Book, Angela

Associate Professor

Office: MC B330

Phone: 5223

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Message to potential thesis students:

The goal of my research is to examine the relationship between psychopathy and victim selection. Students who are interested in completing a thesis under my supervision can contact me by email and we can meet to discuss specific research interests.

Brudzynski, Stefan M.

Professor

Office: MC B335 Phone: 4653

E-mail: sbrudzyn@brocku.ca

Message to potential thesis students:

Dr. Brudzynski will not be supervising thesis students in 2014-15.

Busseri, Michael

Associate Professor

Office: MC B316

Phone: ext. 4798

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Message to potential thesis students:

I am a social/personality psychologist who studies 'subjective well-being', which pertains to how people experience and evaluate their lives in positive ways. My current research activities are focused primarily on how individuals view their well-being through time, that is, their personal evaluations of recollected past, present, and anticipated future well-being. Additional information can be found at the following URLs:

<http://www.brocku.ca/psychology/people/busseri.htm>

<https://www.brocku.ca/social-sciences/undergraduate-programs/psychology/research-labs/well-being-lab-2>

I am interested in supervising Honours theses in the research areas noted above, particularly with students who have excelled in the following Psychology courses: 2P25 or 2P30; 2F23, 3P39, and 3F40. Typically, thesis students work closely with me on an empirical project reflecting both their and my interests, with the goal of producing a high-quality (and publishable) study.

Cote, Kimberly

Professor

Office: MC B319

Email: kcote@brocku.ca

Message to potential thesis students:

My students and I conduct research on “Sleep, Performance, & Cognition”. In the past, undergraduate and graduate students have worked together on studies of sleep deprivation, daytime napping, the role of sleep in memory, and attentional mechanisms at sleep onset and during sleep. My students gain highly specialized skills in the field of sleep and electrophysiology, including recording and analysis of sleep, waking EEG, and evoked brain potentials. It would be helpful, but not essential, if students have taken Sleep and Wakefulness (PSYC 3P68) and Physiological Psychology (2P36/37). Currently, we are investigating the impact of sleep restriction on emotion processing.

Dane, Drew

Associate Professor

Office: MC B332 Phone: 4805

E-mail: adane@brocku.ca

Message to potential thesis students:

If you are interested in completing a thesis under my supervision, please contact me by e-mail and we can set up an appointment to discuss your research interests. Students completing their thesis with me would be able to analyze data from one of several databases, all of which address the issue of how parenting, peer factors, temperament, and other psychological factors combine to predict the development of emotional and behavioural difficulties in children and adolescents

Dwivedi, Veena

Associate Professor, Applied Linguistics

Office: MCD 350H Phone: 5389

E-mail: veena.dwivedi@BrockU.ca

Message for potential thesis students:

Dr. Dwivedi’s research programme is designed to understand how human language is processed by both younger and older adults. Her current work focuses on semantic ambiguity in English, via the examination of quantifier phrases such as “every tree” and “each kid”. She investigates the role of heuristic (real-world experience biases) vs. algorithmic (grammatical rules) processing in language processing in real-time. Her methods include the neurophysiological tool of EEG, as well as behavioural measures such as self-paced reading. She also has research interests in the processing of Hindi, as well as the role of structure in processing language and music.

Emrich, Stephen

Assistant Professor

Office: MC B336 Phone: 6181

E-mail: semrich@brocku.ca

Message to potential thesis students:

I conduct research in the area of visual cognitive neuroscience. I employ both behavioural and neuroimaging (EEG, fMRI) methods to examine how the brain selects (attention), maintains (visual working memory) and ultimately perceives (consciousness) visual information. I am also interested in questions such as how personality or aging affect these different processes.

I anticipate that I will accept one or two undergraduate thesis students to conduct a study in my lab. Ideally, students will have taken either perception (PSYC 2P49) or cognition (PSYC 2P20). Additional knowledge of statistics, neuroscience, or computer programming will be helpful but not necessary. Students will be involved in all aspects of a study (either behavioral or with a neuroimaging component), including experiment design, data collection and analysis. My goal is to work closely with thesis students with the aim of completing a project that will provide students an opportunity to co-author a conference poster and/or journal article.

Evans, Angela

Assistant Professor

Office: MCB 321 Phone: 5367

E-mail: aevans@brocku.ca

Message to potential thesis students:

I study how children and adolescents' lies change and develop with age as well as the social and cognitive influences on children's moral development. I am also interested in issues related to child eyewitness testimony such as children's competency, credibility and our biases in detecting their lies. Studies in my lab span from childhood to adulthood. I am interested in supervising Honours thesis students who have completed and excelled in PSYC 2P12 (It would also be an asset to be taking/or have taken the Development of Deception - PSYC 3P32). If you are interested in completing a thesis under my supervision, please contact me via e-mail and we can set up an appointment to discuss your research interests.

Good, Dawn

Associate Professor

Office: MC B308 Phone: 3869

E-mail: dgood@brocku.ca

Message for potential thesis students:

I would welcome Honours students interested in doing an empirical thesis on issues related to cognitive neuropsychology (brain and behaviour/cognition). My lab has a particular emphasis on research that examines the relationships between cognitive capacity, decision making, social awareness, affect, emotional control (e.g. stress, underarousal), memory and functional independence (i.e. everyday decisions, choices and activities, school competence and reintegration) in identified populations (e.g. persons who have acquired a brain injury) using both behavioural and psychophysiological measures of behaviour. Students will find it helpful to have taken courses in related fields such as brain & behaviour, cognition, neuropsychology, and/or development.

Hafer, Carolyn

Professor

Office: MC B331 Phone: 4085

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Message for potential thesis students:

Dr. Hafer will not be supervising thesis students in 2014-15.

Hodson, Gordon

Professor

Office: MC B307 Phone: 5127

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Message for potential thesis students:

My research interests involve stereotyping, prejudice, dehumanization, and discrimination, with a particular focus on personality differences (as causes of prejudice), and intergroup contact and/or friendship (as a solution for reducing intergroup bias). I am also interested in emotions such as empathy and disgust as they relate to prejudice. The lab researches prejudice against a wide range of social groups (e.g., immigrants, homosexuals, the homeless, women, and nonhuman animals). I am normally interested in supervising students who have completed and excelled in both Psyc 2P25 and 2P30.

For more details, please visit the following websites:

<http://brocku.ca/psychology/people/hodson.htm>

<http://tinyurl.com/intergroup-lab>

Mantonakis, Antonia

Associate Professor, Marketing

Office: TA 446 Phone: 5383

E-mail: amantonakis@brocku.ca

To learn more about Dr. Mantonakis and her research please visit her website <http://www.antoniamantonakis.com/> or her lab's website at <http://consumerlaboratory.ca/>

Markiewicz, Dorothy

Professor

Office: MCB315 Phone: X5241

E-mail: dmarkiewicz@brocku.ca

Message for potential thesis students:

Dr. Markiewicz will not be supervising Thesis Students in 2014-15.

Martini, Tanya

Professor

Office: MCB310 Phone: 3086

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Message for potential thesis students:

Skills-based learning is an important part of what is being fostered during your degree, but for many undergraduates it is not “front and centre”. Instead, students tend to focus their attention on the subject matter when they take courses; that is, they're much more concerned with course content (what's written in the textbook, or presented in lecture) than they are with transferable job-related skills.

Unfortunately, the reality is that when students have to apply for jobs questions related to course-related material rarely come up, and a good understanding of course content is almost never the basis for someone deciding to hire you. Instead, employers are much more interested in your skill set – Do you know how to solve problems? Are you a good communicator? Are you a team player? Do you have leadership potential?

My research examines how undergraduates think about the skills that are being fostered during university experiences, both inside and outside the classroom. I am interested in what students know about job-related skills, and how they connect those skills with their university experiences. I'm also interested in how we can improve students' understanding of career-related skills so that they are in a better position to leverage them when they apply for jobs or post-graduate programs.

McCormick, Cheryl

Professor

Office: B410 Phone: 3700

E-mail: cmccormick@brocku.ca

Message for potential thesis students:

My research interests are in the fields of behavioural neuroscience and developmental neuroendocrinology using primarily animal models (including people). Examples of research topics that the people in my lab are working on are: the role of testosterone in aggressive behaviour and in competition, the relationship between facial masculinity and aggressive behaviour, the effects of stress on behaviour and cognitive function; the relationship between stress and drugs of abuse and the relevant neural systems underlying this relationship; the long-term effects of stress on the brain; sex differences in stress systems; age differences in the neural and behavioural effects of drugs of abuse. Students should have taken some courses in neuroscience, physiological psychology, or cognitive neuropsychology as preparation for thesis research with me. Students are encouraged to seek some experience in my lab before senior year as preparation for thesis.

Mondloch, Cathy

Professor

Office: B320 Phone: 5111

E-mail: cmondloch@brocku.ca

Message to potential thesis students:

Every day we see hundreds of faces. Even though all faces are very similar (they all have 2 eyes over a nose and mouth) we are able to recognize individual identities with ease. In addition, we are sensitive to a variety of other social cues (e.g., emotional expressions, direction of eye gaze). I investigate how this expertise develops. To do that my students and I develop child-friendly tasks designed to tell us how sensitive children are to facial information. For example, by morphing happy and sad faces we can ask how happy a face has to be for children to detect that emotion. We also investigate limitations in adults' expertise. For example, we tested adults in China and Pennsylvania on a series of tasks that included both Caucasian and Asian faces. This work helps us explain why adults often make mistakes when recognizing other-race faces. We are also interested in children's ability to deceive and detect deceit when playing a game.

Students interested in doing a thesis in my lab should have taken some courses in developmental psychology in addition to PSYC 2F12 (2P12); courses in cognition/perception are an asset. Students in the neuroscience program also are welcome. Students are encouraged to learn more about my work by visiting <http://www.psyc.brocku.ca/research/infantchildlab>. Research in my lab will appeal most to students with an interest in social/perceptual development.

Muir, Cameron

Associate Professor

Office: MC B334 Phone: 4681

E-mail: cmuir@brocku.ca

Message to potential thesis students:

I am interested in supervising thesis students who would like to learn about hormones and behaviour. Specifically, I have been investigating the role of several steroid hormones in aggression, sex and stress. I have developed an immunological measuring technique for screening and measuring steroid content in biological fluids such as urine, perspiration and saliva. This non-invasive method can be employed to measure ongoing behaviours associated with hormonal changes. Some specific projects include: the investigation of steroid hormones acting as pheromones in human perspiration, the role of role of cortisol and testosterone in people living in close quarters such as in a space flight simulation.

Murphy, Tim

Associate Professor

Office: B336 Phone: 4639

E-mail: tmurphy@brocku.ca

Message to potential thesis students:

Ever pull and “all-nighter”? How did you feel? I am interested in performance under various adverse conditions (e.g. sleepiness) and how this relates to brain function as measured by the electroencephalogram and event-related potentials. Of special interest is performance and associated event-related potentials (ERPs) relating to attention, risk assessment, error detection and cognitive control. I am accepting honours students for the 13/14 year. My students will learn how to apply electrodes, collect and analyze EEG and relate these measures to performance. I typically like to have at least 2 students because of the nature of my research. Because half of the data is collected very late at night students usually work in pairs on one project; however, each student will obtain their own independent data set to analyze. I share a laboratory with professors Sid Segalowitz and Jane Dywan (<http://www.brocku.ca/social-sciences/undergraduate-programs/psychology/research-labs/cognitive-affective-neuroscience>). This is a very collaborative lab so you will be exposed to the research of several other undergraduate and graduate students during lab meetings. We have large lab meetings as needed (usually 3-5 times per term) but I typically meet with honours students on a weekly basis. If you have any questions feel free to drop by my office (MCB325) or call me (ext 4639).

Pickering, Gary

Professor, Biological Sciences and Psychology

Associate, Environmental Sustainability Research Centre

Office: MC F235 Phone: 4719

E-mail: gpickering@brocku.ca

Message to potential thesis students:

There are 2 quite different research programs in our lab for which I am interested in supervising thesis students. The first concerns how genetics influence taste and smell, and the associated behavioral consequences. We use 2 proxies for taste sensitivity (thermal taste and PROP status) to assess how individuals differ in their psychophysical response to various flavor stimuli – including food and alcoholic beverages – and relate this to liking scores (which are good predictors of dietary intake), health status, and various psychological measures. The second area concerns the psychological barriers that restrict individual action on climate change mitigation. We use various tools, including internet-based surveys, to investigate how factors such as risk perception, scepticism, powerlessness and the commons dilemma influence our attitude and behavior toward climate change and adaptation. Our research is very inter-disciplinary, and we work from a well-equipped, modern lab in Inniskillin Hall at Brock.

Rose-Krasnor, Linda

Professor

Office: MC B311 Phone: 3870

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Message for potential thesis students:

In my research lab, we study links between child and youth relationships and adjustment, with a specific focus on shy/withdrawn children. We also research youth engagement and youth-adult partnerships, in which we explore how youth become involved in activities (e.g., volunteer work, sports, music), factors that sustain or discourage their involvement, and the outcomes of their engagement, as well as examining the effectiveness of programs designed to increase positive engagement. We are particularly interested in the activity-related experiences of shy/withdrawn youth. For more information, please see our lab webpage at <http://www.brocku.ca/psychology/research/socialdevelop/index.htm>

I meet with honours thesis students weekly and students also are expected to attend research lab meetings. By mid-September, we will have determined a schedule for submission of each section of the thesis. Students will submit a 2-3 page outline of each section before writing their first draft of that section and are allowed to re-submit sections until the thesis is completed at the end of April.

I would be happy to meet with potential honours students to talk about the process of doing a thesis, as well as potential research topics.

Segalowitz, Sidney J.

Professor

Office: PL600E Phone: 5446

E-mail: ssegalowitz@brocku.ca

Message to potential thesis students:

Most likely, your thesis research project will involve the perception of faces, words, objects, or patterns as they relate to early brain responses using EEG and ERPs. Honours students may get involved in current projects investigating, for example, the effects emotional expression in faces on brain responses, or how faces and non-face stimuli promote different brain activation, or how expertise (practice with certain kinds of stimuli) affects brain responses. Or for language processing, we are studying how the brain processes words as a function of fluency of the reader (e.g., in a first versus second language), or difficulty of the word (frequent versus rarely read words), etc.

What you will learn: Honours students help collect data on EEG machines and learn to analyze brain wave patterns using our computer software, and then compare the patterns with the psychological characteristics of the participants. Some background in neuroscience is helpful, but not required. Comfort with computer-data processing is important. Some experience with programming is helpful but not required (we'll teach you what you need to know). All projects normally have multiple students (some undergraduate, some graduate students) involved to share the load and learning experiences. We are working with new technologies (e.g., brain-computer interfaces) and new analysis techniques for neural signals, which may be available to those with the technical interest.

Willoughby, Teena

Professor

Office: B317 Phone: 4281

Lab: PL519 Phone: 5474

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Message to potential thesis students:

My research interests are in the field of developmental psychology. I conduct research on adolescent and emerging adult development, particularly with regard to risk taking, academic achievement, adjustment, non-suicidal self-injury, and video game play. As a student in my lab, you can conduct an empirical study within one of these research areas or you have the opportunity to use high school or Stressed@Brock databases, which are longitudinal surveys of the relation between adolescent/emerging adulthood lifestyle choices and psychosocial adjustment. Students are encouraged to learn more about my work by visiting www.brocku.ca/adolescentdevelopmentlab.

Volk, Tony

Associate Professor

Office: CRN 347 Phone: 5368

E-mail: tvolk@brocku.ca

Message for potential thesis students:

Messages to Potential Thesis Students

I am a faculty member in the Department of Child and Youth Studies and an associate member of the Department of Psychology. My research involves studying child development using a multidisciplinary blend of biology, neuroscience, evolutionary psychology, developmental psychology, and anthropology. In particular, I focus on three primary areas: bullying, parenting, and the evolution of childhood. I am available to supervise students in each of these areas. Within those areas we cover a wide range of topics, from gender issues, to personality, to psychopathy, to infant facial cues, to infant mortality rates, to cross-cultural research, etc. I'm therefore open to a wide range of students and currently have both CHYS students and PSYC students (mostly social or developmental) working in my lab. The two best ways to learn more about my research are to visit my lab web page at: brocku.ca/volklab and to arrange a meeting with me (or just drop by!), as I'm very happy to talk to prospective students about any shared interests.