



School of Psychology

# 2020 Research Supervision Honours and Master of Psychology

This document is intended for use by UNSW students only – those interested in an Honours year in Psychology commencing in 2020, and those intending to submit a Master of Psychology thesis in 2020.

Enrolled students are to use this list to identify a potential supervisor for their thesis, and follow the supervisor nomination instructions provided to them by the School.

Students should ensure that the supervisor has specifically stated they are available for supervision of the type required (e.g., “*I am available to supervise Master of Psychology (Clinical) students*” indicates that supervisor is not available for Honours or Forensic supervision).

**Important note:** This list is updated twice a year – March/April for Clinical nominations and August/September for Honours and Forensic nominations. Before submitting their nominations, students must ensure they are viewing the most up-to-date version of the list directly from the School's websites (either <http://www.psy.unsw.edu.au/current-students/undergraduate/honours> or <http://www.psy.unsw.edu.au/current-students/postgraduate-coursework>).

**Prof Kaarin Anstey** I am available to supervise students in the areas of cognitive ageing and dementia, and also in the area of older drivers – examining how cognitive and sensory ageing impacts on driving safety: <https://research.unsw.edu.au/people/scientia-professor-kaarin-jane-anstey>.

**Dr Kathryn Baker** I am available to supervise Honours and Master of Psychology research theses. I supervise projects in behavioural neuroscience that aim to extend our knowledge about fear regulation in adolescence. My students' projects examine the neural and/or behavioural mechanisms of fear extinction in adolescent rats as well as how unhealthy diets, chronic stress, and pharmacological adjuncts alter fear regulation. You can find more information about my research and publications here <https://research.unsw.edu.au/people/dr-kathryn-baker>.

**Prof Bernard Balleine** I am available to supervise Honours and Master of Psychology student research theses. My current research projects examine the psychological and neural bases of learning and motivation particularly relating goal-directed action, reward learning, predictive learning and decision making. We use animal and human subjects, and numerous cutting edge techniques to image and manipulate brain processes. For more information, see my research profile: <http://www.psy.unsw.edu.au/contacts-people/academic-staff/scientia-professor--bernard-balleine>.

**Dr Denovan Begg** I am available to supervise Honours and Master of Psychology research theses. My research projects utilise a range of molecular neuroscience techniques to examine the neuronal basis of motivated behaviours such as food and fluid intake. For more information, see my research profile - <http://www.psy.unsw.edu.au/contacts-people/academic-staff/dr-denovan-begg>.

**Dr Bertran-Gonzalez** I am available to supervise Honours and Master of Psychology students. My students' research projects aim to determine the neuronal processes by which actions are planned, executed and optimised. For this, we use mouse models of instrumental action and we take advantage of modern transgenic and microscopy technologies to visualise circuit activity in the brains of trained animals. You can find more information about my research here:

<https://research.unsw.edu.au/people/dr-j-bertran>.

**Scientia Professor Richard Bryant** Posttraumatic stress disorder; cognitive processes in anxiety; memory for trauma; the role of social attachments on stress responses

<http://www.psy.unsw.edu.au/contacts-people/academic-staff/scientia-professor-richard-bryant>.

**Dr Kelly Clemens** I am available to supervise Honours and Master of Psychology (Forensic) research theses. My research focuses on behavioural neuroscience and behavioural epigenetics. I am particularly interested in the changes in the brain that occur as drugs of abuse come to control behaviour, and what pharmacological or behavioural interventions could be used to reverse this process. You can find more information about my publications

here <http://www.psy.unsw.edu.au/contacts-people/academic-staff/dr-kelly-clemens>.

**Prof Colin Clifford** I am available to supervise Honours and Master of Psychology research theses. The primary focus of my laboratory is vision. I am particularly interested in aspects of face and gaze perception, visual feature binding, and the role of spatial and temporal context in perception. Please see my research profile for more information: <http://www.psy.unsw.edu.au/contacts-people/academic-staff/professor-colin-clifford>.

**Prof Tom Denson** I am available to supervise Honours and Master of Psychology (Forensic or Clinical) research theses. The students in my laboratory primarily conduct research on anger and aggression. This work includes aggression between strangers, intimate partner violence, sexual aggression, alcohol-related aggression, aggression in women, anger regulation and how to reduce aggression. I also plan on doing research on brain stimulation as a means to reduce anger. We also study psychoneuroendocrinology (the effects of hormones on psychology and vice versa). You can find more information here including a link to my full publication list:

<http://www.psy.unsw.edu.au/contacts-people/academic-staff/associate-professor-tom-denson>.

**A/Prof Chris Donkin** I am available to supervise Honours research theses. I supervise projects that aim to improve our understanding of a range of aspects of human cognition, including short- and long-term memory, categorisation, simple and complex decision-making. You can find more information about my publications here <http://www2.psy.unsw.edu.au/users/cdonkin/>.

**Dr Kate Faasse** I am available to supervise Honours students. My students' projects involve using experimental paradigms to enhance our understanding of placebo and nocebo effects, for example the role of social information, branding, and other treatment context factors, and how placebos can still be effective when they are given without deception (open-label placebo effects). You can find more information on my research profile: <http://www.psy.unsw.edu.au/contacts-people/academic-staff/dr-kate-faasse>.

**A/Prof Bronwyn Graham** I am available to supervise Honours and Master of Psychology research theses. My research investigates the interaction between biological and psychological processes that contribute to the development, maintenance, and treatment of anxiety disorders. Given that anxiety disorders are twice as prevalent in women compared to men, a key focus of my research is on the impact of uniquely female variables, like fluctuating sex hormones, hormonal contraceptive use, pregnancy, and motherhood, on anxious symptoms. Projects in my lab are conducted using animal models (e.g., fear extinction and pharmacological manipulations), as well as healthy and clinically anxious human samples. Please see my research profile for more information: [https://scholar.google.com.au/citations?user=ny1W\\_AUAAAAJ&hl=en&oi=sra](https://scholar.google.com.au/citations?user=ny1W_AUAAAAJ&hl=en&oi=sra).

**Prof Jessica Grisham** I am available to supervise Master of Psychology (Clinical) students. My students' projects primarily examine psychological factors that contribute to the etiology and maintenance of anxiety and obsessive-compulsive spectrum disorders, with a particular focus on obsessive compulsive disorder (OCD) and hoarding disorder. Studies in my lab are conducted with clinical samples, non-selected samples, and undergraduate at-risk samples. Please see my research profile for more information: <http://www.psy.unsw.edu.au/contacts-people/academic-staff/associate-professor-jessica-grisham>.

**A/Prof Sylvia Gustin** I am available to supervise Master of Psychology (Clinical) students. My student's projects involve using brain imaging techniques and psychological assessment to investigate the central and psychological circuits underlying chronic pain in humans. In particular, projects will be aimed to define affective, cognitive and social factors underlying the experience of chronic pain. The projects will include people who suffer from chronic low back pain, chronic orofacial pain and neuropathic pain after spinal cord injury. You can find more information about my laboratory here: <http://www.gustinpil.com>.

**Postdoctoral Research Fellow Cindy Harmon-Jones** I am available to supervise Honours and Master of Psychology (Forensic) students. My students' projects examine ideas related to emotion and motivation. Specific topics include cognitive dissonance, positive consequences of physical pain, symbolic self-completion, emotion regulation, and the examination of discrete emotions including anger, determination, and sadness. For more information, please see my Google Scholar profile: <https://scholar.google.com.au/citations?user=s7kkfRkAAAAJ>.

**Prof Eddie Harmon-Jones** I am available to supervise Honours and Master of Psychology (Clinical) students. Research in my lab focuses on emotion and motivation in humans. More specifically, our research examines how emotion and motivation influence attentive, cognitive, and social processes. We also examine conflicts between motivations and cognitions from the perspective of cognitive dissonance theory. We use multiple measures in our research, including ones from neuroscience. Please see my research profile for more information: <https://research.unsw.edu.au/people/professor-eddie-harmon-jones>.

**Prof Brett Hayes** I am available to supervise Honours research theses. I'm a cognitive psychologist interested in the "high level" cognitive processes that make human beings so smart, such as reasoning, judgment and decision-making. I also study how these processes develop over the early part of the lifespan. Some of my projects examine the fundamental cognitive processes involved in human reasoning and judgment. Others focus on how we can apply basic research on reasoning and judgment to solve real-world problems such as helping people to better understand climate change science and improving judgment in forensic situations. Specific current projects include: How do people make judgments when some of the relevant evidence is missing or censored? How many different types of reasoning systems are there in the brain? How do people reason and make judgments in "echo-chambers" where they only hear one side of a debate or one type of evidence? For more information and sample publications see:

<https://research.unsw.edu.au/people/professor-brett-hayes>.

**Dr. Nathan Holmes** I am available to supervise research theses for the Honours program. I use animal models to study the behavioural and neurobiological substrates of attention, learning and memory. I am interested in the factors which regulate these processes in a normal brain, cause disturbances to these processes in a diseased brain, and the implications of these disturbances for disorders like post-traumatic stress (PTSD). In one line of inquiry, I study how basic information is processed in the brain, and how motivational states (like fear) change the way that information is processed. In a second line of inquiry, I study how the brain deals with contrasting information, and the role of context in processing this information. You can find more information about my publications here <http://www.psy.unsw.edu.au/contacts-people/research-staff/dr-nathan-holmes>

**Dr Rebecca Keogh** I am able to supervise Honours students. I supervise students on topics in the fields of visual cognition and cognitive neuroscience. Broadly I research visual memory and visual imagery, as well as visual hallucinations. To study these topics I use a combination of psychophysics and behavioural testing, in addition to non-invasive brain stimulation techniques (TMS and tDCS). You can find out more about my research here: [https://scholar.google.com.au/citations?user=dcjsy\\_wAAAAJ&hl=en](https://scholar.google.com.au/citations?user=dcjsy_wAAAAJ&hl=en).

**Prof Richard Kemp** I am available to supervise Honours and Master of Psychology (Forensic) students. I am interested in topics relating to face identification and identity verification, eyewitness memory, forensic science evidence, and jury deliberation in complex trials. Richard Kemp and Ben Newell would also be interested in jointly supervising a project on rip spotting – *What is the best way to train people to spot rips at the beach?* See my Google Scholar profile for a full list of publications (<https://scholar.google.com.au/citations?user=gSI3LAgAAAAJ&hl=en>).

**Prof Simon Killcross** I am available to supervise Honours and Master of Psychology (Clinical) research theses. Projects my students undertake typically involve investigations of the neurochemical and brain systems underpinning different forms of learning and behaviour (e.g., Pavlovian vs. instrumental actions, goal directed vs. habitual responses); some of this work is basic neuroscience research, and some is directed towards animal models of human mental disorders, including schizophrenia, drug addiction and disordered gambling. More information can be found from my research profile: <https://research.unsw.edu.au/people/professor-simon-killcross> or <https://scholar.google.com.au/citations?user=dWc6OjYAAAAJ&hl=en&oi=ao>.

**Dr Vincent Laurent** I am available to supervise Honours students. My research examines the psychological and brain mechanisms underlying decision-making processes. I am particularly interested in understanding how we use cues in our environment to influence our choices between actions. To achieve this goal, I use animal subjects and various cutting edge techniques to manipulate brain function. You can find more information about my research here: <https://www.psy.unsw.edu.au/contacts-people/academic-staff/dr-vincent-laurent>.

**A/Prof Mike Le Pelley** I am available to supervise Honours students. I supervise projects looking at the cognitive processes underlying attention and learning, and how these processes may be implicated in addiction and psychotic disorders such as schizophrenia. Projects focus on reward learning, decision-making, and the role of eye-movements in cognition. Please see my research profile for more information: <http://www.psy.unsw.edu.au/contacts-people/academic-staff/associate-professor-mike-le-pelley>.

**Dr Jessica Lee** I am available to supervise Honours research theses. My research investigates the role of higher-order cognitive processes (e.g., rule learning, inductive reasoning, explicit beliefs) in learning and generalisation of simple associations (e.g., tone-shock). I run experiments in causal learning scenarios and in fear conditioning in humans. For more information and publications see: <https://www.psy.unsw.edu.au/contacts-people/research-staff/dr-jessica-lee>.

**Prof Peter Lovibond** I am available to supervise Honours and Master of Psychology (Clinical) students. My research examines the role of cognitive processes such as expectancy, causal beliefs and reasoning in associative learning in humans. I am also interested in the application of this basic research to psychopathology such as anxiety and addiction. Topics include the role of conscious awareness in learning, fear conditioning and avoidance, reward cues in goal-seeking behaviour, inductive reasoning in generalisation, and rule learning in inhibition. Please see my research profile for more information: <http://www.psy.unsw.edu.au/contacts-people/academic-staff/professor-peter-lovibond>.

**Prof Skye McDonald** I am available to supervise Honours and Master of Psychology (Clinical) students. My research focuses upon the neuropsychology of social cognition, that is, empathy, theory of mind, emotion and communication. We examine these processes by assessing people with traumatic brain damage, other clinical disorders (such as Autism Spectrum Disorders) or normal young adults using social tasks, questionnaires and psychophysiological measurement. Social cognition is a fundamental ability but how it is expressed across cultures can differ. A project that would suit a bilingual Chinese Honours student would be to examine social cognition in Chinese speaking groups. Please see my research profile for more information: <http://www2.psy.unsw.edu.au/Users/Smcdonald/>.

**Prof Gavan McNally** I am available to supervise Honours students. Research in my group is concerned with the fundamental psychological and brain mechanisms for learning and motivation, and how these apply to clinical conditions such as addictions, anxiety disorders, and mood disorders. We are interested in identifying these mechanisms, at the cellular, circuit, and systems level. We are also interested in translating this fundamental information into next-generation treatments of psychological conditions. You can find more information about my research interests and publications here <http://www.psy.unsw.edu.au/contacts-people/academic-staff/professor-gavan-p-mcnally>.

**Dr Damien Mannion** I am available to supervise Honours and Masters of Psychology (Forensic) research theses. Students in my research group conduct behavioural projects relating to perception. We investigate surface, object, and scene perception within and across visual and auditory modalities. Please see my website for more information: <http://www.djmannion.net>.

**A/Prof Kristy Martire** I am available to supervise Honours and Master of Psychology (Forensic) research theses. I supervise projects that aim to improve our understanding of the development of expertise; processes of evidence evaluation in criminal trials; and communication between experts and lay decision-makers in forensic settings. You can find more information about my publications here <https://research.unsw.edu.au/people/associate-professor-kristy-martire/publications>.

**Dr Steven Most** I am available to supervise Honours and Master of Psychology (Clinical) research theses, and am open to supervising Master of Psychology (Forensic) students. My students' projects sit at the intersection of cognitive and clinical psychology, including (but not limited to) research on attention-emotion interactions and the impact of stress and emotion on cognitive control. How do emotion, stress, and cognitive control shape what we see and remember? How do their interactions affect psychological and physical well-being? You can find more about my lab's research at: <http://www.psy.unsw.edu.au/contacts-people/academic-staff/dr-steven-most> or at my lab webpage (<https://motivatedattentionlab.wordpress.com/>).

**A/Prof Dani Navarro** I am available to supervise Honours and Master of Psychology (Forensic) research theses. I supervise projects that focus on how people learn, reason or make decisions in everyday life. I have interests in language and cultural evolution, the wisdom (and foolishness) of crowds, expert opinions in forensic and other settings, and how scientific data are analysed and evaluated. You can find more information about my research here <http://www.compogscisdney.com/>.

**Prof Ben Newell** I am available to supervise Honours and Master of Psychology (Forensic) research theses. My research focusses on the cognitive processes underlying judgment, choice and decision making and the application of this knowledge to environmental, financial, medical, and forensic contexts. Current projects include understanding the psychology of 'not wanting to know', the role of experience in risky-decision making, and applications of behavioural economics to policy development. Richard Kemp and Ben Newell would also be interested in jointly supervising a project on rip spotting – *What is the best way to train people to spot rips at the beach?* You can find more information about my publications here: <http://www2.psy.unsw.edu.au/Users/BNewell/index.html>.

**Dr Zhi Yi Ong** I am available to supervise Honours students. Student research projects will explore the neural mechanisms underlying the control of different feeding behaviours (e.g., motivation to work for food, alcohol-seeking behaviours/relapse) to better understand how these behaviours can become dysregulated in certain health conditions such as obesity and addiction. Research projects will involve the use of a variety of techniques in rodent models including chemogenetics, behaviour pharmacology, histology and microscopy. Please refer to my research profile for more information: <http://www.psy.unsw.edu.au/contacts-people/research-staff/dr-zhi-yi-ong>.

**Dr Colin Palmer** I am available to supervise Honours students. My research aims to understand the role of the visual system in producing our social experience. The project will use psychophysics together with 3D graphics to investigate the visual mechanisms that underlie our perception of other people, such as eye gaze cues and interactive behaviour. For more information, see my research profile: <https://www.psy.unsw.edu.au/contacts-people/research-staff/dr-colin-palmer>.

**A/Prof Joel Pearson** I am available to supervise Honours students. I supervise projects on many topics including the scientific study of intuition, the human imagination or lack of it, the cognitive traits and neural mechanisms that lead to successful entrepreneurs and innovation in organisations, what is creativity and why are some more creative than others? Please see my research profile for more information: <http://www.psy.unsw.edu.au/contacts-people/academic-staff/associate-professor-joel-pearson>.

**Dr Asheeta Prasad** I am available to supervise Honours and Master of Psychology (Clinical) students. This project applies a combination of behavioral, pharmacological and molecular biology tools to identify the neural circuitry underlying drug addiction and Parkinson's disease. Students will be trained to use optogenetics, chemogenetics, animal behaviour, human tissue analysis and imaging techniques. For more info: <http://www.psy.unsw.edu.au/contacts-people/research-staff/dr-asheeta-prasad>.

**Prof Rick Richardson** I am available to supervise Honours and Master of Psychology (Clinical) students. We use animal models to study fear/anxiety, especially from a developmental perspective. We also explore potential pharmacological adjuncts to enhance the loss of fear. Finally, we also investigate the adverse effects of early-life adversity and possible treatments to ameliorate those effects. More details about our work can be found either here <https://scholar.google.com.au/citations?user=zSifUDMAAAAJ&hl=en&oi=ao> or here <http://www.richardsonlab.com.au/>.

**Dr Jenny Richmond** I am available to supervise Honours and Master of Psychology (Clinical) research theses. I supervise projects that aim to improve our understanding of how learning, memory, and emotion understanding develop in infants and young children. Studies in my lab involve behavioural, eye-tracking, and psychophysiology (EMG) methods. <http://www.psy.unsw.edu.au/contacts-people/academic-staff/dr-jenny-richmond>.

**Dr Susanne Schweizer** I am available to supervise Honours and Master of Psychology (Clinical) students. My current student projects focus on emotion regulation in mental health across the lifespan. Projects explore questions such as the possibility of improving emotion regulation to prevent common mental health problems (e.g., depression) using cognitive training. Other projects explore the neurocognitive building blocks of developing emotion regulation and the role of emotion regulation in social processes (e.g., social decision making) in individuals at-risk for depression. You can find out more about my work here: <http://www.psy.unsw.edu.au/contacts-people/academic-staff/dr-susanne-schweizer>.

**Prof Branka Spehar** I am interested in a broad range of topics in perception and visual cognition including perceptual foundations of aesthetic preferences, individual differences in perception (including in autism and schizophrenia) and visual attention. I am also open to suggestions from students regarding different ideas and projects within these domains. For more information see <https://research.unsw.edu.au/people/professor-branka-spehar>.

**Prof Marcus Taft** I am available to supervise Honours research theses, and am open to developing projects in any area that relates to the cognitive processes involved in language use. This might involve reading or spoken word recognition, and may look at bilinguals or even the processing of languages other than English. You can find more information about my research and publications here: <http://www.psy.unsw.edu.au/contacts-people/academic-staff/professor-marcus-taft>.

**Dr Karly Turner** I am available to supervise Honours students. My research uses rodent models to investigate the neural circuits underlying attention, learning and decision-making. We use sophisticated behavioural paradigms to dissect the psychological mechanisms underlying complex behaviour, in combination with various tools to manipulate brain circuits. I am particularly interested in translational preclinical mental health research to bridge the bench to bedside gap, with my current work focused on understanding inappropriate responding in disorders such as obsessive-compulsive disorder (OCD). <https://www.psy.unsw.edu.au/contacts-people/research-staff/dr-karly-turner->.

**Prof Lenny Vartanian** I am available to supervise Honours and Master of Psychology (Clinical) students. My research focuses on the psychology of eating and weight, and specific areas of focus include body image, self-regulation, social influences, and weight bias and discrimination. Please see my research profile for more information: <http://www.psy.unsw.edu.au/contacts-people/academic-staff/professor-lenny-r-vartanian>.

**Postdoctoral researcher Poppy Watson** My work examines how cues that signal reward (such as the golden M of McDonalds or a beer logo on a sign) can come to bias our attention and the choices we make. I am interested in the conflict between goal-directed intentions and more automatic responding and how this conflict influences real-world behaviour, for example, in the development and maintenance of addiction or simply when choosing what food to eat. <https://research.unsw.edu.au/people/dr-poppy-watson>.

**Scientia Prof Fred Westbrook** I am available to supervise Honours research theses in the areas of learning and behavioural neuroscience. For more information, please see my research profile <http://www.psy.unsw.edu.au/contacts-people/academic-staff/scientia-professor-fred-westbrook>.

**Dr David White** I am available to supervise Honours and Masters research theses. My research aims to understand how people perceive and recognise faces. This visual skill plays a critical role in our everyday social interactions, and in important identification tasks performed in forensic and security settings. In recent years I have supervised student projects studying individual differences in people's face identification ability, cognitive processes underlying expertise in face identification and the first impressions people form when viewing faces. Interested students are very welcome to contact me to discuss potential projects. You can find a list of my representative publications here: <https://research.unsw.edu.au/people/dr-david-white>.

**A/Prof Thomas Whitford** I am available to supervise Honours and Master of Psychology (Clinical) students. My students' projects use behavioural and EEG-based methods to investigate how the brain distinguishes between self-generated and externally generated actions and thoughts. This question has significant implications for understanding psychotic disorders, such as schizophrenia. Please see my research profile for more information: <http://www.psy.unsw.edu.au/contacts-people/academic-staff/associate-professor-thomas-whitford>.