3rd Year Research Development Scheme – Projects 2008

1. Prof. Robert Barry: Autonomic and central measures in the OR context. The student will be involved in an ongoing project linking autonomic (skin conductance, HR, etc.) and central measures (EEG and ERP components) in various paradigms with adults and children.

2. Dr. Simone Favelle: Achtung baby! What guides visual attention? Is it the case that our attention is drawn to locations at which greater amounts of visual information changes? This project aims to test previous research by using novel objects instead of letters or digits in change detection tasks.

3. Dr. Harold Hill: Face similarity. This project seeks to relate perceived similarity to measured differences in 3D shape. It will involve setting up and running face sorting experiments and then analysing the results in terms of physical and psychological “face spaces”. Training with the necessary 3D modelling and statistical analysis techniques will be provided.

4. A/Prof Brin Grenyer: Processes in the treatment of chronic depression. This project will involve literature reviews, working with data, and assisting with 2 ongoing projects investigating this disorder.

5. A/Prof Steve Roodenrys: Survival memory or just novelty? Nairne et al. (2007) suggested that if memory evolved in order to aid survival, then encoding information in terms of its relevance to survival may make it more memorable. They demonstrated that this was true for a list of words - an encoding task to do with survival in the wild produced better memory than standard encoding conditions traditionally used in memory research - but is it really to do with survival or just the novelty of the task?

6. Dr. Stuart Johnstone: Cognitive training in children with AD/HD. Can a computerised cognitive training program focusing on inhibition and working memory reduce symptoms of AD/HD? This project will involve assisting with data analysis and planning for future studies – all training provided.

7. Dr Stephen Palmisano: Self-motion Perception and Motion Sickness in Situations of Sensory Conflict. Jittering visual displays produce a highly compelling experience of self-motion despite generating significant sensory conflict. The illusion of self-motion generated by these displays is actually superior to that induced by displays generating little/no sensory conflict. The successful applicant will be trained in the use of our head- and eye-tracking equipment and help run simulation experiments aimed at identifying the origin of this surprising jitter effect.

How to apply

Please make sure meet the eligibility criteria (i.e. you intend to apply for entry to 4th year Honours in Psychology in the year following the application AND you have a Credit average to date in Psychology subjects) and consider the projects list.

Finally, send an email containing the following information to stuart.johnstone@uow.edu.au by Friday 21st March 2008:

1. Name and full contact details
2. A list of two project preferences
3. An electronic copy of your current academic transcript – can be cut and pasted into the email from SOLS, or paste it into a Word document and add that as an attachment

You will be informed about the outcome of your application via email by Friday 28th of March 2008.

If you have any questions, please contact me via email stuart.johnstone@uow.edu.au