School of Psychology
Research Report 2007

CONTENTS

From the Head of School 1

Staff 2

Major New Grants Awarded in 2007 4

Major New Research Contracts Awarded in 2007 5

University of Wollongong Grants Awarded in 2007 6

Professional Service 7

Doctoral Graduates 10

Research Profiles 11

Achievements by Some Doctoral Students 56
FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL

It gives me enormous pleasure to present the 2007 Research Report for the School of Psychology, University of Wollongong. 2007 was a good year. Not only were we successful at the more traditional sources of funding such as ARC and NH&MRC, but staff have also won support from a variety of other sources, including State government, welfare groups, and private industry. Details of these successes are provided in the report. This year we also report on the achievements of some of our doctoral students and it is clear that they are performing at a high level.

Teaching has not been neglected. In 2007 the Australian Psychological Accreditation Council (APAC) accredited, for five years, all undergraduate and postgraduate degree offerings as meeting the requirements of the revised Standards as set out by APAC. APAC was impressed by the quality of the training offered to our Master of Psychology (Clinical) students and were very enthusiastic about our training venue describing Northfields Clinic as an “excellent teaching facility”. APAC also commended the School for the resources which are extended to the clinical program. I would like to acknowledge all clinical staff for their commitment to a high quality program as well as the staff in Northfields Clinic: Chris Allan (Director), Mark Donovan, and Helen Kouksenko. Likewise at the undergraduate level, teaching staff were described as “approachable and responsive to student needs” which is an accurate reflection of our general philosophy and approach to teaching.

In conclusion, 2007 was a successful year for the School. We have consolidated our position as a research intensive School and I trust that you will find this Report of interest.

Patrick C.L. Heaven
STAFF

Academic Staff

Professor and Head of School
Patrick Heaven, BA (Stellenbosch), MA (Hons) (Orange Free State), D.Litt et Phil (South Africa)

Professors
Robert Barry, BSc (UNSW), Dip Ed (Sydney), BA (Sydney), MSc (Macquarie), PhD (Sydney), DSc (UNSW)
Frank Deane, BSc, PhD (Massey)

Associate Professors
Craig Gonsalvez, BA, MA (Baroda), PhD (Bangalore)
Brin Grenyer, BA, MSc (Sydney), PhD (Wollongong)
Nigel Mackay, BSc (Cape Town), DPhil (Oxford)
Steven Roodenrys, BA (Wollongong), PhD (UNSW)
Timothy Charles Skinner BSc (Hons) Westminster PhD (Surrey)
Beverly Walker, BA, PhD (Sydney)

Senior Lecturers
Peter Caputi, BA (Wollongong), Grad Dip Math (Wollongong), PhD (Melbourne)
Joseph Ciarrochi, BA (Youngstown State), PhD (Pittsburgh)
Adam Clarke, BA, PhD (Wollongong)
Stuart Johnstone, BSc, PhD (Wollongong)
Lindsay Oades, BA (Adelaide), PhD (Wollongong)
Stephen Palmisano, BSc, PhD (UNSW)

Lecturers
Blackledge, J. T. BA (California, Los Angeles), PhD (Nevada)
Mitchell Byrne, BA (Adelaide), M. Applied Psychology (Murdoch)
Amy Chan, BSc, PhD (UNSW)
Doug Cornford, BA, MSc (Newcastle)
Nadia Crittenden, BA, PhD (Wollongong)
Simone Favelle, BSc, PhD (Wollongong)
Harold Hill,
Peter Leeson, BSc (Hons), PhD (Wollongong)
Hamish McLeod, BA, MA (Hons) (Massey), PhD (London)
Nicola Ronan, BA (Wollongong)
Nadia Solowij, BSc (UNSW), MSc (Sydney), PhD (UNSW)
Northfields Clinic

Chris Allan, (Director) MA (Clinical & Community Psychology),
(Victoria University of Wellington)
Mark Donovan, (Coordinator, Clinical Placements), BA (UNSW),
Diploma of Psychology (Sydney)
Helen Kouksenko (Administrative Assistant), Dip Arts (Fine Arts),
Illawarra Institute of Technology

Support Staff

Administrative Officer
Len McAlear, BA (Wollongong)

Administrative Assistants
Elizabeth Czubala
Julie Gillman
Kathy Wilson

Honorary Fellows

Professorial Fellow
Linda Viney, BA (Tasmania), MA (ANU), PhD (Cincinnati)

Fellows
Paul Casey, BA Hons, MA (Newcastle) PhD (Newcastle)
Erin Bullen, BA Hons (Macquarie), MA (Wollongong)
Brian Corless, BSc Hons, MA (Wollongong)
Rob Kaplan, PhD (Cape Town)
Jessica Grainger, PhD (Wollongong)
Gerard Stoyles, PhD (Wollongong)
Donna Waters, BPsyc Hons (Macquarie), MA (UNSW)
Lisbeth Lane, PhD (Wollongong)

Len McAlear, Administrative Officer
MAJOR NEW GRANTS AWARDED IN 2007


MAJOR NEW RESEARCH CONTRACTS
AWARDED IN 2007


From left to right: Nadia Sołowij, Chris Allan, Patrick Heaven, Joseph Ciarrochi, Stephen Palmisano, Craig Gonsalvez
UNIVERSITY OF WOLLONGONG GRANTS
AWARDED IN 2007


Left to right: Trevor Crowe, Frank Deane, and Lindsay Oades
PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

*Academic staff in the School of Psychology make a broad-ranging contribution to the profession of psychology, the discipline, as well as the community.*

**Robert Barry** acted as a reviewer for the Israel Science Foundation, the NHMRC, and ARC (International Reviewer). He is also an Associate Editor of the *International Journal of Psychophysiology*. He gave a Keynote Address entitled “Habituation, the orienting reflex, and event-related potentials” to an international Workshop on Habituation, Peter Wall Institute for Advanced Studies, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, which will be published in a special issue of *Neurobiology of Learning and Memory*. He gave an additional Keynote entitled Electrical brain oscillations along the life-span to the COST Action B27 ELECTRIC NEURONAL OSCILLATIONS AND COGNITION (ENOC) meeting, Gottingen, Germany. He was also invited to contribute to an important position paper on standards for clinical applications of event-related potentials for *Clinical Neurophysiology*, to be published in 2008. Robert Barry is a Fellow of the *International Organization for Psychophysiology*, a member of its Board of Directors, and active in the International Scientific Committee for its biennial World Congress of Psychophysiology, to be held next in St Petersburg, Russia, in 2008.

**JT Blackledge** assisted in organising an international conference at the University of Wollongong, *The International Conference on Acceptance and Commitment Therapy (ACT), Relational Frame Theory (RFT), and Contextual Behavioral Science*, attended by over 150 delegates.

**Mitch Byrne** was a runner-up in the open category for the University of Wollongong Trailblazer Award. This Award recognises innovative research ideas. He is also Secretary, Illawarra branch of the Australian Psychological Society.

**Peter Caputi** reviewed grant applications for the ARC (International Reviewer).

**Adam Clarke** is an Associate Editor for *The Journal of Neurotherapy*.

**Amy Chan** received a Teaching Peer Recognition Award from the Australian College of Educators Illawarra/South Coast Regional Group.

**Joseph Ciarrochi** assisted in organising an international conference at the University of Wollongong, *The International Conference on Acceptance and Commitment Therapy (ACT), Relational Frame Theory (RFT), and Contextual Behavioral Science*, attended by over 150 delegates.

**Nadia Crittenden** is Deputy Chair, University of Wollongong Human Research Ethics Committee (Medical).
**Frank Deane** is an External Course Examiner, for the Department of Psychology, University of Hong Kong (2006-2008), a Member of the Clinical Psychology Programs Advisory Board, Central Queensland University, a Member of the Lord Mayor’s Light and Hope Mental Health Awareness Project Committee, and a Member of the Koori Kids Project Reference Committee, South Coast Aboriginal Medical Service. He is also an International Consultant to the University of Manitoba for a 5-year project “From risk factors to culturally-sensitive interventions: A programmatic approach to aboriginal suicide” (2006-2011). This year he also assisted in organising an international conference at the University of Wollongong, *The International Conference on Acceptance and Commitment Therapy (ACT), Relational Frame Theory (RFT), and Contextual Behavioral Science*, attended by over 150 delegates. He also assisted with the organisation of the Australian Regional Group Meeting of *The Society for Psychotherapy Research* attended by 70 delegates.

**Brin Grenyer** reviewed for the Social Sciences & Humanities Research Council of Canada. He is President of the NSW Psychologists State Registration Board and also serves on the NSW Mental Health Sentinel Events Review Committee. In addition, he is a Board Member of the Australian Psychological Accreditation Committee. He helped organise two major conferences this year, namely, *Treatment of Borderline Personality Disorder: Promoting Integration and Evidence-Based Psychotherapy: Discovering the Effective Components of Change*, an Australian Regional Group Meeting of *The Society for Psychotherapy Research*. Both conferences were held at the University of Wollongong.

**Craig Gonsalvez** is Director of Course Approvals, Clinical College of the Australian Psychological Society and served as a Guest Editor for a Special Issue on clinical supervision for the journal *Australian Psychologist*.

**Patrick Heaven** was elected to the Board of Directors, *International Society for the Study of Individual Differences*. He received the annual research award from the *H. J. Eysenck Memorial Fund*, and in 2007 was Chair of the Heads of Departments and Schools of Psychology Association. He also served on the Australian Psychological Accreditation Council as well as the Science, Academia and Research Advisory Group of the Australian Psychological Society. He acted as an International Reviewer for the ARC and is a member of the Editorial Board of *The Journal of Adolescence*. He was appointed Editor of the *Australian Journal of Psychology* (2007-2011).

**Stuart Johnstone** is President of the Australasian Society for Psychophysiology as well as being an Australian reviewer (OzReader) for the ARC.

**Lindsay Oades** gave a Keynote Address to the Gippsland Recovery Conference entitled “*Gippsland: Towards a recovery oriented region*”.

**Stephen Palmisano** is an Australian reviewer (OzReader) for the ARC.
Researchers associated with the Illawarra Institute for Mental Health received a Special Judges Award for a project on “Collaborative Recovery”. The Award was presented by the awards committee of the Australian and New Zealand Mental Health Services Conference which was held in Melbourne. The researchers are Frank Deane, Lindsay Oades, Trevor Crowe, Peter Caputi, and Brin Grenyer.

Researchers associated with the Brain & Behaviour Research Institute had three research papers listed as quarterly “Top 25” downloads in the International Journal of Psychopharmacology between January-March 2007 and July-September 2007, with a total of 5 listings. They also had two papers in Clinical Neurophysiology’s “Top 25” over the same period, with 3 listings. The researchers are Robert Barry, Adam Clarke, Craig Gonsalvez, and Stuart Johnstone.

Steven Roodenrys reviewed grant applications for the ARC (International Reviewer).

Nadia Solowij was elected a Fellow of the Collegium Internationale Neuro-Psychopharmacologicum (CINP). She gave three Invited Addresses to international conferences, namely, the European Union /International Symposium on Cannabis and Cogniite Functioning in Luxembourg, the International Conference on Schizophrenia Research, Colorado Springs, USA, and the Institute of Psychiatry International Symposium on Cannabis and Mental Health in London. She also reviewed grant applications for both the ARC and NH&MRC, and is a Member of the International Advisory Editorial Board for Current Drug Abuse Reviews.

Beverly Walker organised the 17th International Congress of Personal Construct Psychology in Brisbane. She also edited a Special Issue of the Journal of Constructivist Psychology entitled “Diving beneath the waves: Personal construct psychology and the visual”.

DOCTORAL GRADUATES

Doctor of Philosophy

Harper, Jocelyn Rae – “Please do not lean on the computer. It has feelings too”: The Relationships transferred by humans to technology

Maitland, Hilary Ann – Disclosing childhood sexual assault in close relationships: The meanings and emotions women associate with their experiences and their lives now

Rosete, David – Does emotional intelligence play an important role in leadership effectiveness?

Doctor of Philosophy (Clinical Psychology)

Kelly, Peter James – Does homework improve outcomes for individuals diagnosed with severe mental illness?

Doctor of Psychology

Murrhiy, Rachael Cheri – Training general practitioners in evidence-based mental health treatment: Evaluation of a cognitive behavioural therapy group supervision group

Wahlin, T – Parents’ and adolescents’ perceived influences and barriers to mental health services

Marshall, Kellie Lynne – GP education in dual diagnosis

Parker, Gina Ramona – Correlates of self-harm behaviour in patients with borderline personality disorder
RESEARCH PROFILES

Professor Robert J. Barry

My research program is focused on four broad interacting themes: using the Orienting Reflex as a model of stimulus-response processes in perception and cognition; clarification of arousal/activation (the energetic aspects of behaviour); brain function (particularly EEG coherence measures) in normal and AD/HD populations; and understanding the brain dynamics involved in connections between EEG states and ERP markers of stimulus processing.

Research Grants


Research Consultancy


Publications

Refereed Journal Articles


**Published Conference Proceedings and Abstracts**


**Journal Reviewing**
Australian Journal of Psychology
Biological Psychology
Clinical Neurophysiology
International Journal of Psychophysiology
Neuroscience Methods
Journal of Sport & Exercise Psychology
NeuroImaging
Neuroscience Letters
Personality & Individual Differences
Physiology & Behavior
Psychiatry Research
Psychiatry Research - Neuroimaging
Dr John Blackledge

My research focuses on Acceptance and Commitment Therapy (ACT), and includes psychotherapy outcome trials, measurement of the effects of ACT as a primary prevention intervention, analogue psychotherapy component research, and self-report instrument development and validation. I am also interested in outcome research on parent training programs.

Research Grants
Ciarrochi, J., Blackledge, J. T., & Lane, L. (2006-2007). Funds to support a Psycho-oncology clinical fellowship and to evaluate an Acceptance and Commitment Therapy intervention amongst cancer patients. Cancer Institute, NSW, $86,570.

Ciarrochi, J., Blackledge, J. T., & Lane, L (2006-2008). Evaluating the F-ACT NOW program: Developing a Flexible internet delivery system to help helping cancer clients to Adjust to cancer, Commit to the values, and Take action Now. NSW Cancer Council, $70,890.


Publications

Book chapter

Refereed Journal Article
Mitch Byrne

My principle research interests revolve around four core areas of activity, namely, training health care workers in strategies to enhance patient engagement (adherence) in treatment, social skills training for high functioning autistic children, strategies for the provision of brief interventions to people exposed to traumatic events, and Forensic Psychology. I am currently engaged in research on violence risk assessment practices among mental health workers.

Research Grant

Research Consultancy
Byrne, M. & Deane, F. P. Delivery and evaluation of Medication Alliance training in In-Patient Services. Western State Hospital, Washington State, USA, $70,000.

Publications

Refereed Journal Articles


Journal Reviewing
Australian and New Zealand Journal of Psychiatry
Schizophrenia Research
Australian Psychologist
My primary research interests are in the areas of (i) psychological determinants of the adoption and usage of information and computer technology, and (ii) measurement and data modelling issues in clinical psychology, especially personal construct psychology.

**Research Grants**


**Publications**

**Book Chapter**


**Refereed Journal Articles**


Published Conference Proceedings and Abstracts

Journal Reviewing
Australian Journal of Psychology
The Journal of Psychology
The Journal of Constructivist Psychology
Personal Construct Theory and Practice
Personality & Individual Differences
Dr Amy Chan

I am interested in the cognitive mechanisms underlying human reasoning, as well as the roles of rules and everyday knowledge in reasoning and classification judgments, both in adults and children. I have recently further broadened my research interests to the investigation of the development and everyday implications of counterfactual reasoning, development of inhibitory control, and the measurement of emotional competence and its development.

Research Grant


Publications

*Published Conference Proceedings and Abstracts*


Dr Joseph Ciarrochi

I am interested in i) designing interventions to reduce suffering, promote vitality, and promote effectiveness; ii) the role of social and emotional intelligence (or competence) in dealing with life problems and stress; iii) studying social, affective, and cognitive factors that contribute to depression and suicide; iv) Acceptance and Commitment Therapy, and v) the critical evaluation of individual difference measures.

Research Grants
Ciarrochi, J., Blackledge, J. T., & Lane, L. (2006-2007). Funds to support a Psycho-oncology clinical fellowship and to evaluate an Acceptance and Commitment Therapy intervention amongst cancer patients. Cancer Institute, NSW, $86,570.

Ciarrochi, J., Blackledge, J. T., & Lane, L (2006-2008). Evaluating the F-ACT NOW program: Developing a Flexible internet delivery system to help helping cancer clients to Adjust to cancer, Commit to the values, and Take action Now. NSW Cancer Council, $70,890.


Publications

Book

Book Chapter
Refereed Journal Articles


Published Conference Proceedings and Abstracts


*Journal Reviewing*

Journal of Research in Personality
Personality & Individual Differences
Dr Adam Clarke

My area of interest is the electrophysiology of children with behavioural disorders. This research was the first to investigate maturational changes in the EEG of children with two subtypes of the disorder, sex differences of children with ADHD, and the effects of comorbid learning and behavioural disorders. Recent research has proposed a re-definition of the disorder based on underlying brain dysfunction. In addition to this work, I have undertaken studies of the effects of medications on these children, which have significantly added to the understanding of how these medications work. This is the most comprehensive electrophysiological investigation of ADHD to date.

Research Grants


Research Consultancy

Publications

Refereed Journal Articles


**Published Conference Proceedings and Abstracts**


**Journal Reviewing**

Clinical Neurophysiology
Biological Psychology
Journal of Neurotherapeutics
The International Journal of Psychophysiology
Dr Nadia Crittenden

My research interests include areas of health psychology (deafness and disability, cancer support and survival, exercise behaviours, and the use and evaluation of research models in all these areas); information technology (acceptance and resistance in the workplace, use and evaluation of models); and development of research methods using Personal Construct Psychology (theoretical, practical and clinical issues).

Publications

Refereed Journal Article

Published Conference Proceedings and Abstracts
Professor Frank Deane

My research interests include understanding the effects of between-session therapeutic homework tasks on treatment outcomes. In particular, the effects of homework on mental health outcomes for people receiving psychosocial interventions for schizophrenia and other psychoses. I am also interested in predictors of help-seeking for mental health problems. Specifically, what are the pathways to care for individuals with mental health problems? What factors determine whether someone will actively seek help for mental health problems? Why do people who are suicidal not seek help from others? What are the factors that make men relatively poor help seekers? I also have general interests in treatment outcome evaluation.

Research Grants


Research Consultancies
Byrne, M. & Deane, F. P. (2007). Delivery and evaluation of Medication Alliance training in In-Patient Services. Western State Hospital, Washington State, USA, $70,000.


Publications

Book Chapters


Refereed Journal Articles


**Published Conference Proceedings and Abstracts**


**Journal Reviewing**

*Journal of Research on Adolescence*
*BMC Public Health*
*Internet Journal of Mental Health*
*Australian Psychologist*
*Australian & New Zealand Journal of Psychiatry*
Dr Simone Favelle

(On maternity leave in 2007)

My research interests are in visual cognition. In particular, my research investigates the different kinds of visual information used in the perception and recognition of both objects and faces. The main finding is that the global, configural aspects of objects and faces are utilized more effectively in visual processing than local shape information. This “configural advantage” has implications for theories of object recognition and is currently being investigated in applied settings including vehicle control and security situations.

Publications

Refereed Journal Articles


**Associate Professor Craig Gonsalvez**

My research interests are in clinical psychophysiology and cognitive behaviour therapy. Clinical psychophysiology: I am interested in the application of psychophysiological methods to further our understanding of information processing abnormalities in anxiety and impulse control (e.g., gambling) disorders. More specific examples are (i) examining whether problem gamblers manifest different physiological response patterns to win- and loss- events during gambling, and (ii) studying the nature of activation and inhibition deficits characteristic of obsessive compulsive disorder. Cognitive Behaviour Therapy: I am interested in designing innovative therapy- and supervisor-training programs and evaluating their effectiveness.

**Research Grant**

**Research Consultancy**

**Publications**

**Refereed Journal Articles**


**Published Conference Proceedings and Abstracts**


**Journal Reviewing**

Australian Psychologist  
Behaviour Research and Therapy  
International Journal of Psychophysiology

Associate Professor Craig Gonsalvez (left) and Dr Adam Clarke (right) have won an *ARC Linkage Grant* to examine the physiological reactions to wins and losses in problem gambling
Associate Professor Brin Grenyer

My research program focuses on the treatment of chronic and complex psychological problems. Research topics span chronic depression, aggression and violence, personality disorders, chronic lifestyle diseases, and substance dependence. Treatment methods are individual and group psychotherapy and structured training. Research methods include quantitative-clinical psychiatric assessments, content analyses of qualitative reports, and health, biomedical and neuropsychiatric assessments.

**Research Grants**


**Publications**

**Book**

**Refereed Journal Articles**


**Letter to the Editor**

**Non-refereed Article**

**Research report**
**Published Conference Proceedings and Abstracts**


**Journal Reviewing**

Clinical Psychology
Journal of Social & Clinical Psychology
Psychotherapy Research
Psychotherapy Counselling & Psychotherapy Research
Professor Patrick Heaven

I am interested in the individual difference factors associated with a range of different behaviours, in particular, adolescent adjustment, as well as the factor associated with trajectories of personality change. I am also interested in the personality factors associated with relationship adjustment. I am involved in the Wollongong Youth Study, a prospective study of the psychological, social, and academic development of over 700 adolescents in the Wollongong/Sydney region. The project was begun in 2003 and is ongoing.

Research Grants


Publications

Refereed Journal Articles


**Non-refereed Publication**

**Published Conference Proceedings and Abstracts**


**Journal Reviewing**
Australian Journal of Psychology
British Journal of Psychology
Personality & Individual Differences
Journal of Community & Applied Social Psychology
My research centres on the visual processing of faces. I am interested in vision and see faces as a pinnacle of our ability to pick up visual information from the world. I am particularly interested in how we are able to recover three-dimensional shape given that the backs of our eyes, and photographs, are two dimensional. I am also interested in facial motion and in using and developing computer animation systems based on motion capture to study this. Applications include forensic face recognition and animated talking head systems.

Research Grants

Publications

Refereed Journal Articles


Published Conference Proceedings and Abstracts


Journal Reviewing
Australian Journal of Psychology
Journal of Experimental Psychology: Applied
Memory and Cognition
Perception
Dr Stuart Johnstone

I am interested in the development of psychological processes such as inhibition and attention throughout childhood and into adulthood, and use task performance indices and concurrent measurement of brain electrical activity (specifically, event-related potentials or ERPs) to understand the neural correlates of this development. My primary focus is the influence of energetic factors such as arousal and effort in children with AD/HD. Concurrent lines of investigation examine the neural correlates of inhibition processes (response inhibition and interference control) in adults, clarifying our understanding of typical/“normal” mechanisms, and allowing accurate interpretation of clinical results. ERPs are typically examined in traditional terms and using waveform decomposition (filtering, wavelets) to further clarify brain/behaviour relationships.

Research Grants
Barry, R. J., Clarke, A. R. & Johnstone, S. J. (2006-2008). Exploring the brain mechanisms underlying hyperactivity in Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder. ARC Discovery Grant, $175,000.


Publications

Refereed Journal Articles


**Published Conference Proceedings and Abstracts**


**Journal Reviewing**
Clinical Neurophysiology
International Journal of Psychophysiology
Brain and Cognition
Psychophysiology

Exposing the effects of psychophysiological processes on childhood disorders
Dr Peter Leeson

My current research interests are focused on the role of personality and individual differences as predictors of life outcomes. These include areas such as school performance, religious beliefs, as well as psychological wellbeing. I also have a continuing interest in both individual and group based explanations of prejudice.

Publications

Refereed Journal Articles

Associate Professor Nigel Mackay

My research focuses on the conceptual foundations of psychology and the logic of psychological explanation, with special interests in psychoanalysis, general clinical theory, and cognitive psychology.

Publications

Book
Mackay, N., & Petocz, A. Realism and Psychology. This manuscript is currently under active consideration for the PATH series (Publications for the Advancement of Theory and History in Psychology), under the general editorship of R. W. Rieber. Springer: New York.

Dr Hamish McLeod

My theoretical research focuses primarily on autobiographical memory; specifically, how disturbances of the ability to encode, store and retrieve personally experienced events affect psychological and behavioural functioning. One application of this has been to examine the contribution of impaired autobiographical memory functioning to the development and maintenance of delusions in schizophrenia and Alzheimer’s disease. My applied research focuses on the development and evaluation of psychological assessment and treatment strategies for people with psychotic disorders.

Research Consultancy

Publications

Refereed Journal Articles

Journal Reviewing
Australian Journal of Psychology
Australian Psychologist
Dr Lindsay Oades

My research interests involve the application of goal striving approaches to mental health and well-being. This includes applications in serious mental illness including the development and evaluation of the Collaborative Recovery Model (CRM) and applications within non-clinical areas including a randomized controlled trial on Coaching Psychology using positive psychological constructs.

**Research Grant**

**Publications**

**Book Chapter**

**Refereed Journal Articles**


**Journal Reviewing**

Australian Psychologist
Journal of Mental Health
Dr Stephen Palmisano

I focus on the problems faced by our visual system when interacting with 3-D environments. My work spans the following areas: i) The role of visual cues in aircraft control; ii) The role of stereoscopic vision in motion and surface detection; iii) Visual perception of self-motion and self-tilt; and iv) Visual object and face recognition.

Research Grants


Publications

Refereed Journal Articles


**Published Conference Proceedings and Abstracts**


**Journal Reviewing**

Experimental Brain Research
Vision Research
Perception
Journal of Vestibular Research
Australian Journal of Psychology
Appetite
Associate Professor Steven Roodenrys

My research interests fall under the broad heading of human memory. My major research program investigates the mechanism by which information about the sounds of words stored in long-term memory influences performance in verbal short-term memory. Short-term memory is closely related to the concept of working memory – a system for the short-term maintenance and manipulation of information – which is another of my research interests. I am interested in how these systems operate in normal adults, their normal development and their impairment in developmental disorders and ageing. I also have a general interest in the relationship between health and cognitive function, and have had some involvement in projects examining the effect of dietary factors and dietary supplements on memory.

Research Grants


Publications

Book Chapter

Refereed Journal Articles


Published Conference Proceedings and Abstracts


Journal Reviewing
Australian Journal of Psychology.
Developmental Psychology
Dyslexia
Journal of Experimental Psychology: Learning, Memory and Cognition,
Scientific Studies of Reading
Associate Professor Chas Skinner

I have three main research interests. The first is the psychosocial aspects of diabetes, involving the development of psycho-education interventions to promote self-care and emotional well-being in both Type 1 and Type 2 diabetes. Related to this, is my research on personality and health behaviour, and the aetiology of Type 2 diabetes. My third interest is mindfulness and meditation, and how these can facilitate optimal physical and psychological health.

Research Grants


**Publications**

**Refereed Journal Articles**


Cameron, F. J., Skinner, T. C., de Beaufort, C. E. et al., for and on behalf of the Hvidoere Study Group on Childhood Diabetes (in press). Are family dynamics a universally critical determinant of metabolic diabetes outcomes in adolescents with Type 1 diabetes? *Diabetic Medicine*.


*Journal Reviewing*
- Diabetic Medicine
- Diabetes Care
- Social Science & Medicine
- Journal of Pediatric Psychology
- Psychology & Health
- Psychosomatic Medicine
- Australian Journal of Psychology
- British Journal of Health Psychology
Dr Nadia Solowij

My primary area of expertise is in the long term cognitive effects of cannabis. I use psychophysiological, neuropsychological and brain imaging techniques to assess memory, attention and executive functioning in long-term heavy cannabis users. I also conduct research on schizophrenia and the interactions between substance use and psychosis. A particular area of interest is in the role of the endogenous cannabinoid system in cognition and schizophrenia. Further research interests are in the area of functional brain imaging.

Research Grants


Publications

Book Chapter

Refereed Journal Articles


**Published Conference Proceedings and Abstracts**


**Journal Reviewing**
- Addiction
- Archives of General Psychiatry
- Biological Psychiatry
- Current Drug Abuse Reviews
- Drug and Alcohol Dependence
- Journal of Psychiatry and Neuroscience
- Journal of Psychopharmacology
- Neuropsychopharmacology
- Progress in Neuro-Psychopharmacology and Biological Psychiatry.
Associate Professor Beverly Walker

My broad areas of research focus on personality, life span development and individual differences. My approach to these areas is using personal construct psychology (PCP) and related methodologies. Areas of focus include people's dependencies on others, identity and stereotypes including gender, sexuality and age. Recent work has focused on theoretical issues within PCP, including the concept of disorder and the role of values as well as methodologies, including laddering and using nonverbal techniques such as photography, to explore identity.

Publications

Refereed Journal Articles


Journal Reviewing
Australian Journal of Psychology
Journal of Constructivist Psychology
Personal Construct Theory and Practice.

Beverly Walker was senior author on a publication in the Annual Review of Psychology
ACHIEVEMENTS BY SOME DOCTORAL STUDENTS

Nick Benikos

The cognitive function of inhibition is crucial for allowing us to effectively navigate and interact with our external environment, with deficits in this ability being implicated in various clinical disorders (e.g. Attention-deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder). The focus of my PhD is the investigation of how targeted inhibition training can improve these processes, via examination of behavioural and psychophysiological measures, such as the event-related potential (ERP).

Published Conference Abstracts


Linda Bilich

My research involves using Acceptance and Commitment Therapy (ACT), Emotional Intelligence and Mindfulness training with the New South Wales Police to promote their well-being, resilience and vitality. Several workshops have been conducted with the police based on this ACT approach. My professional interests include organisational psychology, and family and adolescent issues.

Book Chapter

Refereed Journal Article
Jessica Browne

My research investigates intergenerational family communication as a novel vehicle through which to promote screening mammography to target women (aged 50-69). Upward communication (communication from the younger generation up to the older generation) and the role it might play in influencing target women's decisions about mammography is of particular interest.

Published Conference Proceedings and Abstracts


Doctoral students Robert Battisti (left) and Nick Benikos
Andreas Comninos

Considerable numbers of patients experience large robust reductions in depression in early sessions across a range of psychotherapeutic modalities. Yet, surprisingly few researchers have investigated the therapeutic processes that might help explain this phenomenon. The aims of my thesis are to 1) replicate previous findings of a rapid response to psychotherapy, 2) investigate the role of empirically supported pre-existing interpersonal patient factors, and to 3) examine systematically the therapeutic processes that characterise both rapid and gradual response profiles, using the Psychotherapy Process Q set (PQS; Jones, 2000). Preliminary results indicate that interpersonal patient factors found to predict a rapid response translate to significant differences in psychotherapeutic processes between rapid and gradual responders. These effects were detectable as early the third session, which carries implications for identifying gradual responders prior to therapy for the purposes of tailoring treatment to meet their interpersonal needs.

Conference Presentation

Refereed Journal Article

Fiona Davies

Mental disorders and everyday emotional states are often seen as existing on a continuum, such that improved emotional well-being may prevent or delay disorders. This research investigates the impact of positive thinking (self-esteem, explanatory style, and hope) on changes in emotional states between Years 7 and 8 among 660 adolescents. This research may assist in the targeting of prevention programmes for adolescents.

Refereed Journal Article
Desley Hennessy

My PhD examines the psychological reasons people obtain tattoos. I hypothesise that, on the most part, tattoos are an expression of the individual’s identity. Under the rubric of identity the reasons can be further classified into belongingness (need for group membership), personal beliefs (philosophy or religion), remembrance or rootedness, rites of passage, and psychological growth.

Conference Presentation

Doctoral students Fiona Davies (left) and Desley Hennessy
Peter Kelly

My thesis concerns the role of therapeutic homework assignments when working with individuals diagnosed with severe mental illness (e.g. schizophrenia, bi-polar). I am currently coordinating a multi-site evaluation of The Salvation Army residential detoxification and rehabilitation services located across Eastern Australian.

Research consultancy

Refereed Journal Articles


Michael Matthias

My thesis is concerned with the behaviour of people in and around information technology (IT) enabled information systems (IS) within organisations. The focus is upon the impact of individual and group behaviour on the implementation success of such systems, and this focus necessitates exploration of the concept of implementation success, its measurement and how implementation success is perceived throughout an organisation. One important deliverable from this study is the formulation of a meta-model of IS-related behaviours which delineates the boundaries and conditions within which previous models of behaviour and implementation success are applicable.

Published Conference Proceedings and Abstracts
Leonie Miller

I am investigating the nature of the word frequency effect in serial recall (an experimental paradigm used to examine short-term memory), where participants are involved in remembering lists of words. The frequency effect has been shown to be more complicated than first considered in the literature, with the size and appearance of the effect altered by what items constitute the list and the order in which they appear. These observations provide an indication of the types of long-term memory mechanisms that may be involved in remembering verbal material over the short-term.

*Refereed Journal Article*

*Published Conference Proceedings and Abstracts*


Jacqueline Rushby

I am about to submit my PhD thesis on the neurophysiological correlates of the Orienting Reflex. I was recently appointed Research Officer at POWMRI where I will use fMRI and brain stimulation methods to study cognitive deficits in schizophrenia.

*Refereed Journal Articles*


Published Conference Proceedings and Abstracts


Sue Thomas

My PhD examines brain and ANS activity in clinical anxiety. In particular it focuses on anomalies in obsessive-compulsive disorder (OCD) during information-processing (i.e. task switching, inhibition, facilitation and processing of threat-related information). I am measuring behavioural performance, event-related potentials, skin conductance and heart rate and comparing people with OCD to those with diagnoses of panic disorder and healthy controls in order to identify OCD-specific problems.

Refereed Journal Article


Published Conference Proceedings and Abstracts

Benjamin Wilkes

Problem gambling is reported to affect 1 in 20 Australian adults. Moreover, for every problem gambler, 5-7 others are directly affected by their behaviour. The current program of research focuses on investigating psychophysiological differences between problem and non-problem gamblers while they play on electronic gambling machines. The focus is on cardiac and electrodermal responses to win and loss events during play.

Conference Presentations

Wilkes, B. L., & Gonsalvez, C. G. (2007). The psychophysiological profile of win and loss events while playing on an electronic gaming machine. Presented to the 17th Annual Conference of the Australasian Society for Psychophysiology, Brisbane, 7-9th December.