



COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES
DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY
The UNIVERSITY of OKLAHOMA

Winter 2020 Newsletter



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WELCOME

Welcome to the Department of Psychology at the University of Oklahoma. The University of Oklahoma was founded barely 10 years after Wilhem Wundt established the first formal psychology laboratory in Leipzig, Germany, yet a psychology course appeared in the very first course catalogue published at OU in 1892. Since then, psychology has been a vibrant part of this institution.



WE VALUE DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

The Department of Psychology at the University of Oklahoma is committed to diversity and inclusion in our pursuit of excellence in research and teaching. True excellence in research and teaching can only be achieved in environments that affirm the dignity and inherent worth of all individuals.

As a discipline, psychology firmly recognizes the importance of individual differences. We value and seek to better understand individual differences, including but not limited to: race, ethnicity, skin color, national origin, religious and spiritual beliefs, age, gender, sexual orientation, physical and mental abilities, size and appearance, as well as veteran and socio-economic status. While we value free expression and the critical examination of ideas, we must also be committed to creating an environment of trust, mutual respect and compassion. We have a shared responsibility to continually foster an environment that supports and benefits all, including undergraduate and graduate students, postdoctoral trainees, staff and faculty.

It is important that we all recognize and remind ourselves that feelings of alienation, marginalization, powerlessness and loneliness are detrimental to both physical and mental health. It is, therefore, incumbent upon the Department of Psychology at the University of Oklahoma that we foster an environment where all individuals feel welcome, valued, competent and empowered.

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR:



I'm Eric Day, professor and the chair of the Department of Psychology at the University of Oklahoma. I would like to welcome you to the fourth edition of our psychology newsletter.

For the sixth year in a row, the Department of Psychology has increased in its number of undergraduate students, both majors and minors. Specifically, we have grown from 703 majors and 281 minors in 2014 to our current enrollement of 1,215 majors and 412 minors, while having 60 students enrolled in our doctoral programs. We also welcomed three new assistant professors! See the following page for details.

In 2020, the Department of Psychology's staff and faculty have transitioned their offices

toward remote work in accordance with the university's response to COVID-19, and remain remote until further notice.

It's a testament to the resilience of our students, staff and faculty that we continue to navigate and weather this storm together. In fact, while credit-hour production was down in other departments, ours increased by over 8% this past fall, and we are seeing a similar trend for this current spring semester.

I would like to thank you for choosing the University of Oklahoma, and thank you to your parents, family members and supporters in your life for entrusting us with your college experience. It's a privilege and real treat to serve as the chair of this amazing department. Thank you.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Eric Day'.

Eric Day

WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST FACULTY



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1. Dingjing Shi is an assistant professor in the Department of Psychology. She received her doctoral and master of arts degrees in quantitative psychology at the University of Virginia, and her master of science degree in learning and developmental sciences at Indiana University Bloomington. Dingjing's research interests focus on developing and applying latent variable models and data-mining techniques to analyze complex-structured, psychometric and contaminated data. She is particularly interested in the methodological aspects of Bayesian statistics, longitudinal models and computational psychometrics. She is also interested in applying statistical methods to developmental, cognitive and health-related studies.

2. Jordan Loeffelman (formerly Jordan Stevens) is an assistant professor in the Department of Psychology. She earned her doctoral and master of arts degrees in quantitative psychology and her master of arts degree in statistics, all from the University of Missouri. Her research centers on exact (e.g., complete enumeration) and approximate (e.g., genetic algorithm, simulated annealing) algorithms for a variety of combinatorial optimization problems. More specifically, she focuses on the development and application of algorithms to clustering and subset/feature selection problems. In application, this research has aided in the shortening of diagnostic sets while minimizing misclassification.

3. Seulki "Rachel" Jang is an assistant professor in the Department of Psychology. She received her doctorate and master of arts degrees in industrial-organizational psychology at the University of South Florida. She was previously an assistant professor of industrial-organizational psychology at Penn State Mont Alto. Her research interests include employee health/wellbeing, organizational citizenship behavior (OCB), cross-cultural differences, gender differences and statistical methods. The three objectives of her research program are to (1) investigate the complex relationship between OCB and employee health/wellbeing, (2) examine cross-cultural differences in employee health/wellbeing and

Lunch Bunch Lecture Series

Each semester the Department of Psychology is proud to invite alumni, professionals in their field and scholars alike to give lectures about topics in which they are experts. This fall, we were proud to have featured the below presentations through our lecture series.

Helen Milojevich

Consequences of Social Context: Early Adversity and Emotional Functioning



Helen Milojevich, assistant professor of pediatrics at the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center, received her doctoral degree in psychology and social behavior from the University of California at Irvine, with a focus on developmental psychology and quantitative methods. She then took a postdoctoral fellowship position at the University of North Carolina at the Carolina Consortium on Human Development. Her research interests include: emotional competence development; early adversity exposure and psychopathology; child maltreatment and social contexts; and parental socialization. Her research has been featured in such academic journals as *Journal of Youth and Adolescence*, *Development and Psychopathology*, *Child Maltreatment*, *Child Abuse & Neglect* and *Applied Developmental Science*.

Lauren Blackwell Landon

Applied Psychology at the Frontier: Interdisciplinary Research at NASA

Lauren Blackwell Landon is a team risk discipline scientist in the Human Factors and Behavioral Performance Element of NASA's Human Research Program. Additionally, she is a scientist in NASA's Behavioral Health and Performance Laboratory. Lauren earned four degrees from the University of Oklahoma, including her doctorate in industrial-organizational psychology. Her research interests include: teams in extreme environments; the influence of individual team-oriented characteristics; teamwork processes; and team cognition as it affects team performance and functioning. Lauren is also a member of the award-winning NASA Astronaut Selection Team and trains team skills to astronauts and flight controllers.



Lunch Bunch Lecture Series

Ashley Jorgensen

REDCap: An Alternative Research Platform to Qualtrics



Ashley Jorgensen is a 2020 graduate of our doctoral program in I/O psychology. She is currently a postdoctoral research fellow at the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center – Center on Child Abuse and Neglect. When thinking about survey platforms, Qualtrics likely comes to mind for many within our department. However, the purpose of her presentation was to present an alternative platform, called REDCap, that is available to faculty and students. Through this presentation, she shared some of the benefits of REDCap and demonstrated some of her favorite features that have made it more usable for her needs over Qualtrics.

Michael Businelle

Using Smartphones to Identify and Intervene Upon Mechanisms of Behavior Change

Michael Businelle is an associate professor in the Department of Family and Preventive Medicine at OUHSC, co-director of the Health Promotion Research Center and director of the mHealth Shared Resource at the Stephenson Cancer Center. His research primarily focuses on using smartphone-based ecological momentary assessment methods in underserved populations to identify and predict health behaviors and lapses, as well as develop and test novel smartphone-based just-in-time adaptive interventions for health behavior change. He is currently PI or MPI on five ongoing NIH-funded studies, including mHealth applications that focus on smoking cessation, alcohol cessation, case management and COVID-19.



Faculty Grants and Achievements

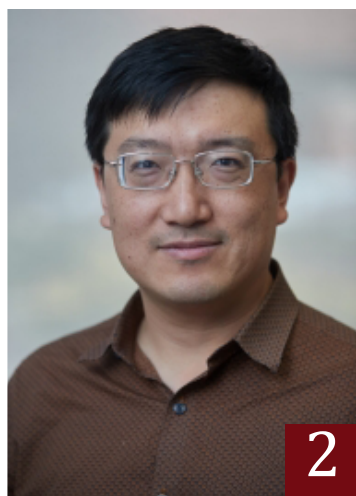


Professors Natalie Youngbull (1; Department of Educational Leadership and Policy Studies), Lori Snyder (2; Department of Psychology) and Jill Irvine (3; interim senior vice president and provost) recently obtained a seed grant for their upcoming project titled “Understanding the Unique Experiences of Intersectional Faculty.”

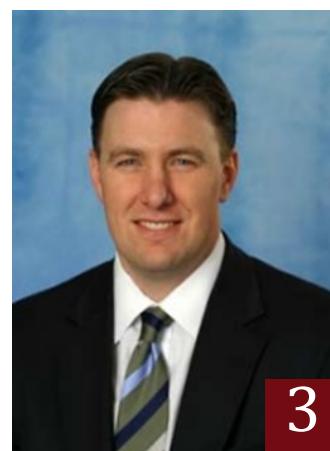
Research over the past several decades has clearly established that female faculty and faculty from underrepresented groups experience various types of bias in the academy, including a climate of ostracism and incivility, inequity in service assignments, and bias in student evaluations of teaching. Intersectionality is a means of delving into the complexities of lived realities and the processes that shape them.

Applying this concept to the realm of higher education, intersectional faculty are more likely to experience bias from several perspectives, and their representation among the faculty ranks is notably low, resulting in their voices and perspectives currently being neglected in consideration of policies and resources that will support and reward the research conducted by intersectional faculty. The percentage of underrepresented racial/ethnic faculty (Black, Hispanic, Latinx, Native American) at OU has remained stable at between 7-9% of the total ranked faculty for the past 15 years

Faculty Grants and Achievements



Primary Investigator Steven Crossley (Department of Chemical, Biological and Materials Engineering; 1), Co-Investigator Bin Wang (Department of Chemical, Biological and Materials Engineering; 2), Co-Investigator Lance Lobban (Department of Chemical, Biological and Materials Engineering; 3) and Co-Investigator Adam Feltz (Department of Psychology; 4) were recently awarded \$1,999,987 in funding from the Emerging Frontiers and Multidisciplinary Activities division of the National Science Foundation (NSF). The research project is titled "EFRI E3P: Tuning catalyst design to recycle mixed polymer streams."



Shane Connelly (Co-PI; 1) and her collaborators in the OU Price College of Business's MIS program Shaila Miranda (Co-PI; 2) and Matt Jensen (PI; 3) recently received a \$200,079 grant award from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's National Counterterrorism, Innovation, Technology and Education Center (NCITE) titled, "Ideological Influence and Radicalization in Online Microblog Platforms." This project examines the use of microblog strategies by violent ideological groups and self-propagating malware acting on their behalf. The goal of this project is to learn about the process by which these groups identify and attract new adherents, coordinate their interactions and activities and increase commitment to the ideology through radicalization.

Faculty Grants and Achievements



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Lori Snyder (associate professor, Department of Psychology; 1), Megan Elwood Madden (presidential professor, Robert and Doris Klabzuba Chair, School of Geosciences; 2), Mashhad Fahes (associate professor, School of Petroleum and Geological Engineering; 3), Gerilyn Soreghan (David L. Boren professor, director and Eberly Chair, School of Geosciences; 4) and Elinor Martin (assistant professor, associate director for undergraduate studies, School of Meteorology; 5), recently received a \$299,878 NSF grant to fund their upcoming project "EAGER GOLD-EN Rewards: removing barriers and supporting geoscience diversity leaders by revising evaluation and reward systems."

Faculty Grants and Achievements



Assistant professor Lauren Ethridge (departments of Pediatrics and Psychology, subaward PI) and her collaborators Dr. Craig Erickson (Cincinnati Children's Hospital; PI), Dr. Kimberly Huber (UT Southwestern Medical Center; Site PI) and Dr. Devin Binder (UC Riverside, Site PI) recently received the NIH P50 Fragile X Centers for Collaborative Research award. This multi-site project focuses on translational sensory and cognitive biomarkers for novel drug discovery across development in Fragile X Syndrome. Dr. Ethridge's lab heads the human sensory neuroscience focus of this project.



This past summer, associate professor Erin Freeman won the Consortium for the Advancement of Undergraduate Statistics Education's (American Statistical Association) electronic Conference on Teaching Statistics (eCOTS) Dollar Street Lesson Plan Contest.

Erin also recently became a chair for a subcommittee within the STP Presidential Task Force on Statistical Literacy, Reasoning, and Thinking. STP, Society for Teaching Psychology, is the American Psychological Association's Division 2. Dr. Freeman is chairing the subcommittee focused on statistics within psych majors as a whole.



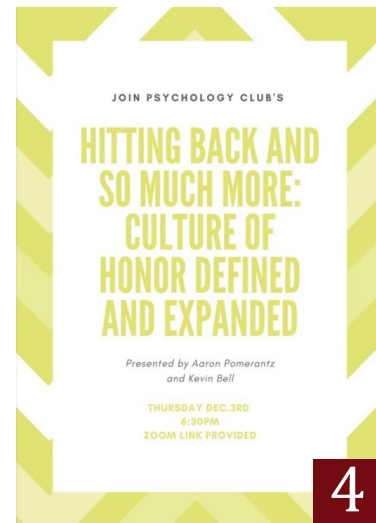
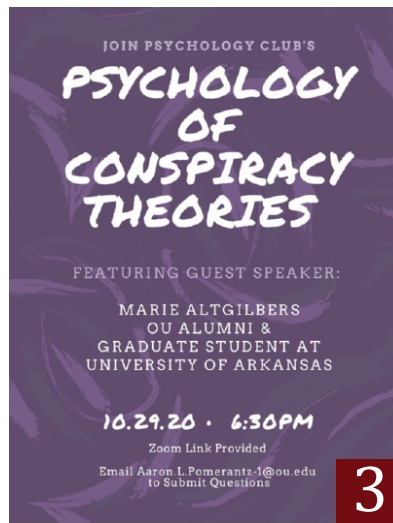
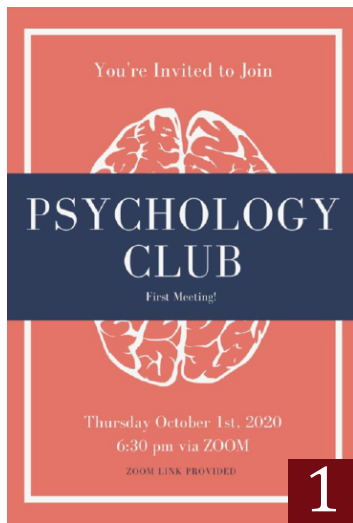
Robert Glenn Rapp Presidential Professor Jennifer Barnes' most recent novel *The Inheritance Games* broke the top 10 of the *New York Times* Young Adult Hardcover Bestseller list in 2020.

The Inheritance Games also got selected in the Spring of 2020 for a TV-series by Amazon Studios, to be produced by Osprey Production.

Psychology Club

The Psychology Club is an organization for students to get together throughout the semester to learn more about psychology and meet other students and faculty who are interested in the field. The club is led by undergraduate officers, along with graduate and faculty liaisons.

The Psychology Club has biweekly meetings throughout each semester. They come together to learn about psychology and related areas. Meetings are open to everyone and publicized as widely as possible. Their goal is for people who are interested in psychology to meet one another and learn about various psychology topics. This past semester, they had four meetings, all through Zoom.



1. They kicked off the semester with a meeting introducing officers and the club. Department chair Eric Day attended and introduced himself to attendees and discussed new programs and certifications offered by the psychology department.
2. The second meeting of the semester featured graduate students in the psychology department. A panel of current graduate students in the psychology department answered attendees' questions about navigating the graduate school process.
3. The third meeting of the semester featured OU alumna Marie Altgilbers. Marie graduated from OU in 2019, where she worked in professor Mauricio Carvallo's lab. She is currently a graduate student at University of Arkansas whose research explores political psychology. Marie joined us on Zoom to discuss current research and perspectives on the psychology of conspiracy theories.
4. The final meeting of the semester featured our graduate liaisons, Kevin Bell and Aaron Pomerantz. Kevin and Aaron both have an interest in Honor Culture and presented about the history of research on Honor Culture and current perspectives on the topic, including some of their own research findings in the area.

Psychology Club Officers



Logan Mealer

President

Logan is a senior, double majoring in psychology and criminology.

He is still figuring out his future plans, but wants to choose a career in which he can help people. After graduation, he plans on going to graduate school, possibly for clinical psychology.



Matthew Morris

Vice President

Matthew is a sophomore, majoring in psychology with a minor in human relations.

His plans for the future are to get a doctorate in either Clinical or IO Psychology after undergrad. His hobbies include kickboxing, writing, coding and hanging out with his dogs. He is also a member of OUR Mental Health, UPB, and works part time at the University Counseling Center.



Mia Bockelman

Treasurer

Mia is a sophomore, majoring in psychology and minoring in criminology on the pre-law track.

Her goal is to become a family and divorce attorney.

Psychology Club Officers



Grace Rogers

Secretary

Grace is a sophomore, studying psychology and community health.

She is involved with the Four-Year Research Experience psychology lab with professor Jennifer Barnes. She was named a top 15 outstanding freshman and is also involved with President's Community Scholars and Oklahoma Blood Institute OUtreach. She has not solidified any future plans but hopes to work in the juncture between psychology and public health. She loves pub trivia, listening to podcasts and her dog Gemma.



Khandis Brewer

Media Outreach

Khandis is a senior, majoring in psychology.

She is from Tulsa, Oklahoma, and plans on going to graduate school for clinical psychology after graduating in 2021. She has been a teaching assistant and research assistant for professor Jenel Cavazos, and is currently a research assistant for professor Shane Connolly. Her hobbies are finding new recipes to cook, new books to read and new shows to binge-watch!



Colbi Hargus

Psi Chi Representative

Colbi is a junior majoring in psychology and minoring in criminology.

She is from Ada, Oklahoma, and enjoys watching documentaries and spending time with family.

Psychology Club Graduate and Faculty Liasons

Graduate Student Liasons: *Aaron Pomerantz and Kevin Bell*



Aaron is a doctoral candidate in social psychology from Stratford, New Jersey.

His research focuses on the intersection of culture, social judgments and decision-making within the criminal justice system. Aaron's hobbies include cooking, hot-sauce making and weightlifting.



Kevin is a fifth year doctoral candidate in social psychology from Inola, Oklahoma.

His research interests focus on morality, positive psychology and stigma. In his spare time, he enjoys hiking, running and watching movies.

Faculty Liasons: *Erin Freeman and Tess Chevalier*



Erin is an associate professor and master teacher of Applied Statistics in the psychology department. Her primary focus is on statistical literacy and education, with research interests that include statistical pedagogy, undergraduate student success and individual differences in the experience of emotion. In addition to statistical literacy, Erin enjoys impromptu dance parties to '90s hip hop with her amazing 3-year-old daughter Ella, getting lost in a good book or binge-worthy TV show and spending (virtual) time with her family and friends.



Tess is in her second year as a lecturer of in the psychology department. Prior to coming to OU, she taught psychology at Wake Forest University in her home state of North Carolina.

While she focuses on teaching courses, her research interests are children's developing social and moral cognition. Outside of psychology, her hobbies include reading fantasy novels, practicing guitar and playing with her dog, Riblet.

Undergraduate Honors Theses



1. Akansha Chandrasekar: *Resting state differentiates self vs other processing: Evidence from a trait judgement task*

2. Anusha Gopalam: *Survey analysis of common problems in FXS research*

3. Jade Fite: *Care and consent: Empowering clients in psychiatric treatment*

4. Jason Webb: *The use of viral vectors to deliver therapeutic genes for optogenetics: A literature review over the current state of viral vectors for neuroscience research*

5. Monica Huerta: *Effect of ethnic identity on academic performance in Native American college students*

6. Rachel Fisher: *Applying the theory of planned behavior to predict CC screening behaviors among rural Honduran women*

Undergraduate Research Grants

Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program:

Through the support of the Office of the Vice President of Research, the Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program offers financial assistance for scholarly and creative projects under the mentorship of a faculty member.



Congratulations to Kyla Patterson (1), Kelly Chong (2) and Lori Boss (3), undergraduate researchers in the Carvallo Lab, on receiving grants from the College Honors Undergraduate Opportunities Program last semester.

UROP offers financial assistance for scholarly and creative projects under the mentorship of a faculty member and is open to all University of Oklahoma main campus and Health Sciences Center students who compete for research grants of up to \$1,000 each semester. These recipients will present the results of their research or accounts of their work in progress at the Honors College's Undergraduate Research Day, a professional-like conference held in April of each year.

Graduate Dissertations

Congratulations to these graduate students on completing their dissertations in the summer and fall of 2020!



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1. **Ashley Jorgensen:** *Incremental effects of discrete emotions and targeted positive emotion control strategies in the context of complex skill learning*
2. **Chanda Sanders:** *Communication, constraints, and moral intensity: A study in decision-making processes and ethical outcomes*
3. **Doug Bryant:** *Dopaminergic genes predictive of unmotivated confirmation bias are not predictive of motivated confirmation bias*
4. **Jon Huck:** *Who makes better decisions? The relative importance of numeracy and cognitive abilities for elements of decision making*
5. **Megan Turner:** *Helping in the eyes of the beholder: The impact of OCB type and fluctuation in OCB on coworker perceptions and evaluations of helpful employees*
6. **Melody Reese:** *The self versus others: Spatial localization and timing of trait judgments in the MPFC and PCC/Precuneus*

Graduate Teaching Awards:

The Provost's Certificate of Distinction in Teaching:

The recipients of the Provost's Certificate of Distinction in Teaching award represent the top 10% of all graduate assistants across the University of Oklahoma campus by student evaluations for courses taught during the spring 2020 semester.



The Department of Psychology is proud to name two of our graduate students, (1) Jessica Becerra and (2) Keith Strasbaugh, as graduate students who were awarded this honor. To be awarded this past spring semester is especially impressive, given the onset of the pandemic and the abrupt change to online instruction in the middle of the semester.



Stay up-to-date on the latest news and events by following us on
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University of Oklahoma

DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY
NORMAN, OKLAHOMA

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