



School of Psychology

# 2023 Research Supervision Honours and Forensic Masters

This document is to be used by internal Honours applicants for 2023, and Master of Psychology (Forensic) students intending to submit a thesis in 2023. The academics listed have indicated their availability for supervision, and may be available to supervise either Honours students, Forensic Masters students, or both.

**Important:** This list is first published in July but may be edited after its initial publication. Students must ensure they are viewing the most up-to-date version of the list directly from the School's website ([Honours](#) and [Masters](#)).

The coloured letter next to each academic's name indicates which theses they are willing to supervise (**H** = Honours, **F** = Forensic). To demonstrate:

**Roger Federer H** means Roger is only available for Honours supervision

**Ash Barty F** means Ash is only available for Forensic Masters supervision

**Lady Gaga H, F** means Gaga is available for BOTH Honours and Forensic Masters supervision

Question about this document should be directed to the School, via the [Ask a Question webform](#).

## **Dr Tuki Attuquayefio H**

I am available to supervise Honours students. My research focuses on the effects of unhealthy Western diets and obesity on cognitive function in humans. Specifically, I use a combination of randomised controlled trials and cross-sectional studies to explore the relationship between learning/memory and dietary intake of ultra-processed foods high in saturated fats and refined sugars. I also use machine learning methods to further explore these complex relationships.

## **Prof Bernard Balleine H, F**

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: <https://www.unsw.edu.au/staff/bernard-balleine>.

**Dr Jay Bertran-Gonzalez H, F**

I am available to supervise Honours and Master of Psychology students. My students' research projects aim to explore the neural signatures left by defined forms of learning in critical neural circuits as animals acquire and mature new behaviours. For this, we use mouse models of instrumental action and we take advantage of modern transgenic and microscopy technologies that allow visualisation of circuit activity in the brains of trained animals. You can find more information about my research here: <https://www.neuromodulab.org/research/>.

**Scientia Professor Richard Bryant H**

Posttraumatic stress disorder; cognitive processes in anxiety; memory for trauma; the role of social attachments on stress responses <https://www.unsw.edu.au/staff/richard-bryant>.

**Dr Kelly Clemens H, F**

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 <https://www.unsw.edu.au/staff/kelly-clemens>.

**Prof Colin Clifford H, F**

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: <https://www.unsw.edu.au/staff/colin-clifford>.

**A/Prof Lucette A. Cysique H**

I am available to supervise Honours students. My research focuses on the neurocognitive and mental health of clinical populations with chronic immune conditions (HIV and COVID-19). Both this population are well represented internationally, so I also work on developing tools for valid cross-cultural neuropsychological assessments. Please find more details at: <https://research.unsw.edu.au/people/dr-lucette-cysique>.

**Prof Tom Denson H, F**

I am available to supervise Honours and Master of Psychology (Forensic) 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, the evolutionary psychology of aggression, attentional biases with eye-tracking, aggression in women, anger regulation and how to reduce aggression. Students will conduct a high-quality laboratory-based experiment with over 100 participants. However, should COVID shake things up again, there will be alternative options: online experiments; conducting a focussed meta-analysis on an aggression-related topic; or using data from national and international data sets to examine alcohol-related aggression. You can find more information here including a link to my full publication list: <https://www.unsw.edu.au/staff/tom-denson>. Many of my journal articles were co-authored by Honours and Masters students. Please note that there will be a limited selection of experiments to choose from because most research on aggression requires ethics approval from the University-wide

committee, which can take several months. Therefore, all projects will be pre-approved in order to make sure thesis students can complete on time.

**Dr Kate Faasse H**

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: <https://www.unsw.edu.au/staff/kate-faasse>.

**Dr Justine Fam H**

I am available to supervise Honours research theses. My research is in behavioural neuroscience and my projects investigate the brain circuitry that support learning and memory. To do this, I use animal models in a wide range of experimental protocols. Some projects assess the involvement of specific neurotransmitters in processing environmental cues and how that may interact with fear and/or reward learning. Other projects aim to identify how a poor diet can affect learning and motivation. For more information, please see: <https://www.unsw.edu.au/staff/justine-fam>.

**Dr Jasmine Fardouly H**

I am available to supervise Honours research theses. My research focuses on social influences on body image and eating disorder symptoms, particularly the impact of social media. I am interested in both positive and negative influences on body image and any stigma experienced as a result of one's physical appearance.

**Dr Erin Goddard H, F**

I am available to supervise Honours and Master of Psychology research theses. My research aims to understand the workings of human visual system and its interaction with related brain systems (e.g., the influences of task, attention, memory on visual processes). I use behavioural methods (psychophysics) as well as neuroimaging (fMRI and MEG). You can find further information on my work here: <https://scholar.google.com.au/citations?user=-ReGIFQAAAAJ&hl=en&oi=ao>.

**A/Prof Bronwyn Graham H**

I am available to supervise Honours 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 H**

I am available to supervise Honours research theses. 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 hoarding disorder and obsessive

compulsive disorder (OCD). 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: <https://www.unsw.edu.au/staff/jessica-grisham>.

**Postdoctoral Research Fellow Cindy Harmon-Jones** H, F

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** H, F

I am available to supervise Honours and Master of Psychology (Forensic) 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 have examined a range of emotive states and traits, including anger, jealousy, desire, sadness, and humility. We also examine conflicts between motivations from the perspective of cognitive dissonance theory. We use multiple measures in our research, including electroencephalography, event-related potentials, electromyography, and transcranial direct current stimulation. More information can be found on the links below:

<https://research.unsw.edu.au/people/professor-eddie-harmon-jones>

<https://scholar.google.com.au/citations?user=YTKUOIEAAAAJ&hl=en&oi=ao>.

**Prof Brett Hayes** H

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. 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** H

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 <https://www.unsw.edu.au/hdr/nathan-holmes>

**Prof Richard Kemp H, F**

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. See my Google Scholar profile for a full list of publications (<https://scholar.google.com.au/citations?user=gSI3LAgAAAAJ&hl=en>).

**Dr Kim Kiely H**

I am available to supervise Honours student research theses. My broad interests are in the areas of geropsychology and late life development. A particular focus of my research concerns the determinants, inter-relationships, and impacts of cognitive and sensory ageing. Please see my research profile for more information: <https://research.unsw.edu.au/people/dr-kim-kiely>.

**Prof Simon Killcross H**

I am available to supervise Honours 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>.

**Prof Eva Kimonis H, F**

I am available to supervise Honours and Masters students interested in child clinical and developmental psychopathology research. Research projects in my lab typically focus on multilevel factors involved in the development of psychopathic traits, antisocial behaviour, and aggression in childhood, including salivary bioscience and emotional processing indices; measurement of psychopathic traits and related constructs (e.g., empathy, parental warmth) in childhood; and parenting interventions for improving and preventing disruptive behaviour problems in young children. Much of this research is conducted with families receiving treatment at the UNSW Parent-Child Research Clinic (<https://www.conductproblems.com/>) that I founded and direct. More information about my program of research is available here: <https://www.unsw.edu.au/staff/eva-kimonis> and <http://www.conductproblems.com/research/>.

**Dr Vincent Laurent H**

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.unsw.edu.au/staff/vincent-laurent>.

**Prof Mike Le Pelley H**

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: <https://www.unsw.edu.au/staff/mike-le-pelley>.

**Dr Jessica Lee H**

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.unsw.edu.au/staff/jessica-lee>.

**Dr Belinda Liddell H**

I am available to supervise Honours research theses. My research investigates the biological, social and cultural mechanisms underlying the psychological and mental health effects of refugee trauma and displacement. I use multimodal approaches including cognitive neuroscience, experimental and longitudinal methods. Honours projects will focus on creating analogue experimental designs that model the psychological, social or cultural mechanisms disrupted by refugee experiences such as family separation, uncertainty, interpersonal trauma, social stress, or discrimination. Another line of research is investigating cultural differences on cognitive, social and affective processes and the implications for how cultural factors influence trauma and the development of stress-related disorders like PTSD. You can find out more information about my research here: <https://www.unsw.edu.au/staff/belinda-liddell>.

**Prof Peter Lovibond H**

I am available to supervise Honours students. My research examines the role of cognitive processes such as expectancy, causal beliefs and reasoning in associative learning in humans. Topics include the role of verbalisable hypotheses 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: <https://www.unsw.edu.au/staff/peter-lovibond>.

**Prof Skye McDonald H**

I am available to supervise Honours 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. Please see my research profile for more information: <http://www2.psy.unsw.edu.au/Users/Smcdonald/>.

**Prof Gavan McNally H, F**

I am available to supervise Honours and Masters 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, computational, and cognitive levels. We are also interested in translating this knowledge into next-generation treatments of psychological conditions. At **Honours** level our work ranges from mice and rats to humans. At **Masters** level we study human decision-making under risk and its relation to compulsive behaviour. We have ongoing projects with leading in-patient and out-patient alcohol treatment services in NSW

and Victoria to study the predictors of treatment efficacy. You can find more information about my research interests and publications here <https://www.unsw.edu.au/staff/gavan-mcnally>.

**A/Prof Kristy Martire H, F**

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>.

**A/Prof Steven Most H, F**

I am available to supervise Honours research theses, and am open to supervising Master of Psychology (Forensic) students. My students' projects sit at the intersection of cognitive, clinical, and social psychology, including (but not limited to) research on attention-emotion interactions, emotion regulation, and the cognitive psychology of how we treat others. Most research in the lab can be described as "motivated attention and perception": how do attention, emotion, and cognitive control shape what we see and remember? You can get to know me on Twitter (which I use for science outreach and communication: @SBMost) and find more about my lab's research at: <https://www.unsw.edu.au/staff/steven-most> or at my lab webpage (<https://motivatedattentionlab.wordpress.com/>).

**Prof Ben Newell H**

I am available to supervise Honours 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, the cost of thinking, and applications of behavioural economics to policy development. You can find more information about my publications here: <http://www2.psy.unsw.edu.au/Users/BNewell/index.html>.

**Prof Angela Nickerson H**

I am available to supervise Honours research theses. My research investigates psychological mechanisms underlying refugee mental health. Typically, Honours and Masters projects are undertaken with undergraduate student samples, simulating exposure to adversity in the lab and investigating factors that influence human responses to these events. For more information, please see my research profile: <https://www.unsw.edu.au/staff/angela-nickerson>.

**Dr Zhi Yi Ong H**

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: <https://www.unsw.edu.au/staff/zhi-yi-ong>.

**Prof Joel Pearson H**

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 (Aphantasia: blind in the mind) and Hyperphantasia, the role extreme imagery plays in everyday life, what is creativity and why are some more creative than others? Please see my research profile for more information: <https://www.futuremindslab.com/science>.

**A/Prof Ruth Peters H**

I am available to supervise Honours students. My research focuses on the prevention of cognitive decline and dementia. I have a particular interest in the relationship between raised blood pressure, frailty and cognition and have recently started working with the community looking at the role of intergenerational programmes to benefit cognitive function in both older adults and children. Please find more details at: <https://research.unsw.edu.au/people/dr-ruth-peters>.

**Dr Yann Quidé H, F**

The Neuroimaging, Neurobiology and Mental Health program aims to identify biomarkers for pain, and associated mental health problems, such as anxiety, depression and posttraumatic stress disorder. In particular, the program aims to determine what is the relationship existing between chronic pain mental health problems on brain morphology and/or function. See also <https://www.neurorecoveryresearch.com/>.

*Techniques:* structural, magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), diffusion-weighted magnetic resonance imaging (DWI), functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI), MR spectroscopy

*Keywords:* pain; imaging; mental health; connectivity.

**Dr Kylie Radford H**

I am available to supervise Honours students. My research focuses on brain health, ageing and neurocognitive disorders in Indigenous populations. We have an established research program in partnership with a number of Aboriginal communities and community-controlled organisations in NSW, supported by NHMRC grants. Also interested in brain health disparities, cultural safety of neuropsychological assessment and cognitive interventions to support everyday function, healthy ageing and dementia prevention. Please find more details at: <https://research.unsw.edu.au/people/dr-kylie-radford>.

**Prof Rick Richardson H**

I am available to supervise Honours 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://richardsonlab.psy.unsw.edu.au/>.

**A/Prof Jenny Richmond H**

I am available to supervise Honours 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. <https://www.unsw.edu.au/staff/jenny-richmond>.

**Dr Susanne Schweizer H**

I am available to supervise Honours 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:

<https://www.unsw.edu.au/staff/susanne-schweizer>.

**Dr Craig Sinclair H, F**

I am available to supervise Honours and Master of Psychology research theses. My research interests are in the areas of older adult decision-making, advance care planning and supported decision-making, as well as other topics relevant to person-centred care for people living with dementia. I have an interest in building capacity for greater engagement and participation in research among culturally and linguistically diverse (CaLD) communities, and collaborate with a number of cultural specific aged care provider organisations. I currently lead a project which is trialling a combined reminiscence (life story work) and future care planning intervention for older adults receiving home care services. This existing project may support student research projects between 2023-2026. You can find more information about my research at

<https://research.unsw.edu.au/people/dr-craig-sinclair>.

**Prof Branka Spehar H, F**

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>.

**Dr Karly Turner H**

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.unsw.edu.au/staff/karly-turner>.

**Prof Lenny Vartanian H**

I am available to supervise Honours 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:

<https://www.unsw.edu.au/staff/lenny-vartanian>.

**Postdoctoral researcher Poppy Watson H**

I am available to supervise Honours students. 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 H***

I am available to supervise Honours research theses in the areas of learning and behavioural neuroscience. For more information, please see my research profile

<https://www.unsw.edu.au/staff/fred-westbrook>.

***Dr David White H, F***

I am available to supervise Honours and Forensic Masters research theses. My research aims to understand how people perceive and recognise faces. 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. Face perception ability plays a critical role in our everyday social interactions, and also in important identification tasks performed in forensic and security settings. The topic of individual differences in face perception is also applicable to clinical work because of the associations between impairment in face perception abilities and other conditions (e.g. ASD, Anxiety). 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>.

***Prof Thomas Whitford H***

I am available to supervise Honours 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:

<https://www.unsw.edu.au/staff/thomas-whitford>.

***A/Prof Lisa A Williams H, F***

I am available to supervise Honours and Master of Psychology (Forensic) students. I am a social psychologist and supervise projects that examine the ways that emotions both arise from and in turn shape social processes. Much of my research focuses on positive emotions such as pride and gratitude and outcomes ranging from prosocial behaviour to loneliness, and psychological wellbeing to relationship dynamics. You can find out more about the lab, including publications here:

[www.lisawilliamsphd.com](http://www.lisawilliamsphd.com).