



School of Psychology

2024 Research Supervision Honours and Forensic Masters

This document is to be used by internal Honours applicants for 2024, and Master of Psychology (Forensic) students intending to submit a thesis in 2024. 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

Rafael Nadal H, F means Rafael 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 Kelly Grace Garner H

I am available to supervise Honours students. My research examines the psychological and neural basis of task-learning, i.e. how do we learn an appropriate set of behaviours given our goals and the contexts we find ourselves in? What determines which of these behaviours become habitual, and what impact does this have in novel circumstances? My current projects seek to understand how mindfulness and dopamine interact to influence learning and switching between task-relevant behaviours, as well as how the brain codes task-relevant knowledge across contexts. These projects would particularly suit students interested in neuroimaging, eye-tracking and computational approaches to understanding brain and behaviour. <https://scholar.google.com/citations?user=nmeSIZkAAAAJ&hl=en>

Dr Adrienne Withall H, F

I am available to supervise Honours and Master of Psychology (Forensic) students. I lead the Ageing at the Margins lab and equity and digital innovation in cognitive assessment is a key focus of my research. I specialise in young onset dementia, particularly priority populations at risk of accelerated cognitive decline (including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, people with harms from

drug and alcohol, and older justice-involved people). I use mixed methods to aid the translation of my research into policy and clinical practice. You can find out more about my work here:

<https://www.unsw.edu.au/staff/adrienne-withall>

Dr Christin Schulze H, F

I am available to supervise Honours and Forensic Masters research theses. My research investigates the cognitive processes underlying judgements and decisions under uncertainty, with a focus on the development of decision making in childhood. Some of my current projects seek to understand how adults and children make judgements and decisions under uncertainty, how adaptive decision strategies develop during childhood, how the choice strategies of individuals in dealing with uncertainty differ from those of groups in social contexts, and how first-hand experience shapes people's judgements and decisions. These projects would be well suited for students interested in developmental, social, or computational aspects of decision making. Please see my Google Scholar profile for a list of publications: <https://scholar.google.de/citations?user=GbwQYtEAAAAJ&hl=de>

Dr Philip Jean-Richard Dit Bressel H

I am available to supervise Honours students. When our actions have negative consequences, we are usually able to learn about this relationship to avoid making that action again in the future ("punishment learning"). Our research seeks to understand how this learning happens and how decisions based on this learning are resolved, at psychological and neurobiological levels. We investigate these processes using state-of-the-art neuroscience techniques in rodent models, as well as experimental tasks in humans.

Dr James Dunn H, F

I am available to supervise Honours and Forensic Masters research theses. I study how people's brains work differently when they perform different cognitive tasks to understand why some are better at these tasks than others. I am particularly interested in understanding individual differences in cognitive abilities that are important for everyday life as well as forensic tasks like fingerprint comparison, face recognition, eyewitness testimony, and police officer memory. I use a variety of techniques to study these abilities, including eye-tracking and computer-based tasks. 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-james-daniel-dunn>.

Scientia Professor Robert Brooks H

I am available to supervise Honours students. My research group studies the conflict and cooperation inherent to romance, sex, reproduction, and parenting. This includes studies about how individuals respond to inequality, the importance of status in online and offline interactions, and the ways in which new technologies (e.g. social media, AI, robotics) engage human users.

<https://www.unsw.edu.au/staff/robert-brooks>

Dr Sam Robson H

I am available to supervise Honours research theses. I have research interests in attention, developing expertise, forensic decision-making, reasoning and misinformation. I will supervise projects that aim to understand how people come to believe misinformation and implausible claims with a focus on how they evaluate information and persuade others. For more information, please see my research profile: <https://research.unsw.edu.au/people/dr-sam-robson>

Laurie Hopkins F

I am available and eager to co-supervise Master of Psychology (Forensic) thesis students alongside Professor Richard Kemp. I am a Clinical Nurse Consultant working in the role of Eating Disorder Coordinator for Justice Health NSW, across both Adult & Youth settings. Currently published literature and publicly available policy documents both domestically and internationally indicate that very little is known regarding eating disorders in correctional settings; it appears that NSW is set to be a world leader on eating disorder care in the custodial environment. Enormous opportunities exist for research in this field. Your project would be the first of its kind and become cornerstone or seminal works. Projects we can consider include: simple pilot studies to establish estimated prevalence rates in adult and/or youth; descriptive studies of symptomatology of different eating disorders within the custodial setting; analysis of the custodial environment and likely contributors to development of disordered eating or eating disorder symptoms; or preventative programmes or health promotion efforts in the local environment and their effects on bodied image or other mental health measures. I am also open to your suggestions or specific interest areas. The eating disorder sector is vibrant and rapidly evolving, and there are substantial grants we would be able to access for this work. Justice Health NSW also has a research and development team who would be able to assist with ethics and research design.

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

Prof Colin Clifford H

I am available to supervise Honours 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.

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. Honours students will conduct a high-quality laboratory-based experiment with over 100 participants. For Masters students, there are other options: online experiments; conducting a focused meta-analysis on an aggression-related topic; or using data from national and international data sets to examine real-world violence. 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 Honours projects will be pre-approved in order to make sure thesis students can complete on time.

A/Prof 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: <http://www.psy.unsw.edu.au/contacts-people/academic-staff/dr-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.psy.unsw.edu.au/contacts-people/research-staff/dr-justine-fam>.

Dr Erin Goddard H, F

I am available to supervise Honours and Master of Psychology (Forensic) 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>.

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.

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.psy.unsw.edu.au/contacts-people/academic-staff/professor-jessica-grisham>.

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 are currently conducting research on anger, humility, and conspiracy theory beliefs. 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 <http://www.psy.unsw.edu.au/contacts-people/research-staff/dr-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>).

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 (Forensic) students interested in child clinical and developmental psychopathology research. Students in my lab typically conduct research on multilevel factors involved in the development of psychopathic traits and antisocial behaviour in childhood, including salivary bioscience and emotional attention; measurement of psychopathic traits and related constructs (e.g., empathy) in childhood; and parenting interventions for improving and preventing disruptive behaviour problems in young children. More information about my program of research is available here: <https://www.psy.unsw.edu.au/contacts-people/academic-staff/associate-professor-eva-r-kimonis>.

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.psy.unsw.edu.au/contacts-people/academic-staff/dr-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: <http://www.psy.unsw.edu.au/contacts-people/academic-staff/associate-professor-mike-le-pelley>.

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; and inductive reasoning in generalisation, inhibition and causal illusions. Please see my research profile for more information: <http://www.psy.unsw.edu.au/contacts-people/academic-staff/professor-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 Steven Most H, F

Did you know that strong emotional reactions can blind you to things that are right in front of your eyes? (How's that for "blinded by emotion"?) Did you know that feeling nervous or anxious can sway what you remember or how well you can pay attention? My research combines cognitive experiments (i.e., on attention, perception, and memory) with questions about the how our conscious experience of the world is influenced by our emotional and social lives. As you might imagine, this kind of research is both theoretically interesting and holds real life implications, including for real-world safety (e.g., when driving), eyewitness testimony, and understanding of clinically-relevant individual differences. I am available to supervise Honours research theses and am open to supervising Master of Psychology (Forensic) students. Most of my students develop thesis projects that extend ongoing research in the lab; I am also open to helping you develop new ideas (as long as they fall within the general scope of my expertise). You can find more about my lab's research at: <http://www.psy.unsw.edu.au/contacts-people/academic-staff/dr-steven-most>.

Prof Ben Newell H, F

I am available to supervise Honours and Masters of Psychology (Forensic). Research in my lab focusses on the cognitive processes underlying judgment, choice and decision making and the application of this knowledge to environmental, financial, medical, and forensic contexts. We use a variety of experimental techniques to ask questions like what drives risk preferences, and how do

people understand and deal with uncertainty? Beyond these fundamental issues we ask how these behavioural insights can be applied to pressing societal issues such as improving climate literacy, financial literacy, and sustainable behaviour. A key focus is to drive research that applies psychological science to improve people's decision-making. To find out more about these topics and read sample papers, see <http://www2.psy.unsw.edu.au/Users/BNewell/index.html>. From 2024 onwards there is strong potential to conduct projects that align with the focus of the new UNSW Institute for Climate Risk and Response, which I direct, see: <https://www.unsw.edu.au/research/icrr>

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>.

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

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>..

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.