

PsychNews Ψ

Department of Psychology | St. Thomas University | Fredericton, NB

Welcome

Welcome to PsychNews, a publication of the Department of Psychology, St. Thomas University. We produce two issues per year.

Purpose

PsychNews provides readers with updates on faculty, honours students, and honours programme alumni, as well as other noteworthy information about the department.

Editor

The current editor of PsychNews is Dr. Suzanne Prior. Suggestions and/or updates for issues can be sent to Dr. Prior (prior@stu.ca). The Department of Psychology reserves the right to determine the content of PsychNews.

Editor's Note

We are nearing the end of another busy semester. Honours thesis research is in full swing and faculty are actively engaged with teaching and research.

Dr. Thomson Goes Back to School!



Dr. Sandra Thomson took time out of her maternity leave to talk to grade 8 students at George Street Middle School about her research. Her presentation was entitled *Attention and Multitasking: Can we really do two things at once?* Many thanks to Mr. Beaudry (grade 8 science teacher) and George Street Middle School for inviting Dr. Thomson! Thanks as well to Dr. Thomson for her great outreach and for bringing STU Psychology to the classroom! The grade 8 students reported really enjoying the presentation. Dr. Thomson helped them learn some important lessons about multi-tasking and effective studying!

Current Honours Thesis Projects

Personality, relationships, and attractiveness: Who do certain people find attractive? **Hannah Anstey** (Advisor: Dr. Mihailo Perunovic)

An investigation of tanning and cosmetic surgery as forms of body modification. **Paige Boisvert** (Advisor: Dr. Suzanne Prior)

Themes of Resilience in Caregivers of Seniors. **Kailey DeLucry** (Advisor: Dr. Michelle Lafrance)

Personality and conflict in romantic relationships. **Claire Deweyert** (Advisor: Dr. Mihailo Perunovic)

Cognitive and metalinguistic advantages of bilingualism. **Nicolas Levesque** (Advisor: Dr. Suzanne Prior)

Directed forgetting for complex information. **Anna MacDermid** (Advisors: Drs. Tyler Bancroft and Sandra Thomson)

Testing the knowledge of potential jurors concerning the scientific research dealing with the fallibility of eyewitness testimony. **Janelle Marchand** (Advisor: Dr. Ian Fraser)

Unrealistic optimism: An investigation of the effects of causal complexity and controllability. **Tyson O'Donnell** (Advisor: Dr. Nancy Higgins)

Honours Class 2016-2017

The honours class is hard at work on their thesis research. They are also preparing applications for post-graduate studies in a variety of fields, including clinical psychology, audiology, speech-language pathology, and occupational therapy. We wish them a very successful year and look forward to learning more about their thesis projects as they progress.



Back Row (L-R): Tyson O'Donnell, Hannah Anstey, Nicolas Levesque, Anna MacDermid

Front Row (L-R): Kailey DeLucry, Paige Boisvert, Janelle Marchand, Claire Deweyert

Recent Faculty Publications and Conference Presentations

Peer-Reviewed Publications

Fraser, I., Bond-Fraser, L. & Morrison, B. (2016). The role of witness confidence as it relates to credibility in the courtroom. *Solicitor's Journal*, 32(1), 1-4.

Bond-Fraser, L., Ferris, K., Waite, K., & **Fraser, I.** (in press). Assessing the perceptions of police officers concerning the number of exonerations in which eyewitness error was a factor. *Journal of Behavioral and Social Sciences*.

Lafrance, M.N., Stelzl, M., & Bullock, K. (in press). "I'm not gonna fake it": Women's accounts of resisting the normative practice of faking orgasm. *Psychology of Women Quarterly*.

Wigginton, B., & **Lafrance, M.N.** (in press). Researching stigma in online and offline spaces: Methodological lessons and challenges. *Sage Research Methods Cases: Health*.

Nicholson, I. (2016). Milgram goes to Hollywood. [Review of the movie *The Experimenter*]. *PsycCritiques*, 61.



Conference Presentations

Nicholson, I. (2016). "Apocalyptic Pessimism": Stanley Milgram, Laboratory Theatre and the 1970s Culture of Malaise. Presentation at the joint meeting of the *Cheiron Society and the European Society for the History of the Human Sciences*, Barcelona, Spain.



Spurr, A., Green, P., & **Prior, S.M.** (2016). The impact of an appearance-based intervention on UVR-protective behaviours of outdoor lifeguards. Presentation at the *91st Canadian Dermatology Association Annual Conference*, Saskatoon, SK.

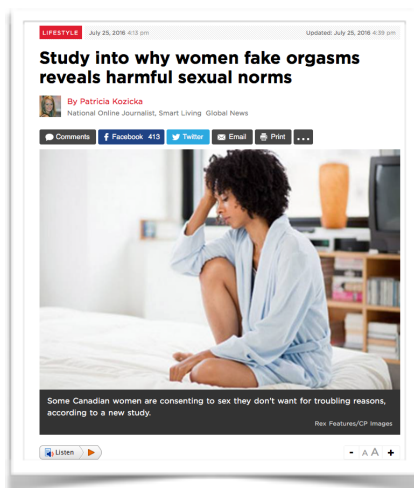
Watter, S., Ptok, M.J., **Thomson, S.J.**, & Humphreys, K.R. (2016). Central stage-specific mechanisms of desirable difficulty effects. Presentation at the 57th annual meeting of the *Psychonomic Society*, Boston, MA.

Invited Presentations

Nicholson, I. (2016) A tale of two methods: Gustave Gilbert, Stanley Milgram and the Mysterious Nazi Mind. Presentation at *Psychology Department Colloquium*, University of New Brunswick, Fredericton, NB.

Thomson, S. (2016) Attention and Multitasking: Can we really do two things at once? Presentation at *George Street Middle School*, Fredericton, NB.

STU Psychology Research in the Media



Emily Thomas (BA Honours 2014), **Dr. Michelle Lafrance**, & **Dr. Monika Stelzl**: “Study into why women fake orgasms reveals harmful sexual norms.” *Global News*, July 25, 2016.

Emily Thomas talks about her honours research on women faking orgasms to end unwanted sex in a radio interview for *CJRU* (Ryerson University). The interview starts at 11:04. <https://soundcloud.com/scopeatryerson/femradio-episode-16-faking-to-finish>



Honours Alumni News: A Showcase of Diversity and Excellence

Graduate School Acceptances and Updates



Mitch LaPointe (BA Honours 2008), PhD at McMaster University where he is a post-doctoral fellow.

Mitch LaPointe (BA Honours 2008), PhD successfully defended his PhD dissertation (*Influences of Context on Object Detection and Identification in Natural Scenes*) at McMaster University in 2016. He is staying at McMaster for a post-doctoral fellowship.

Lauren Morrissey (BA Honours 2013), MSc completed her MSc in Speech-Language Pathology at Dalhousie University in 2016.

Career Updates

Lauren Morrissey (BA Honours 2013), MSc is now a Speech-Language Pathologist in St. Anthony, NL.



Ian Davidson (BA Honours 2012), MA presents his PhD research at the joint meeting of the *Cheiron Society and the European Society for the History of the Human Sciences*, Barcelona, Spain.

Congratulations!

Dr. Tyler Bancroft joined the department on July 1, 2016.

Dr. Del Brodie retired on June 30, 2016. Over his 32 year career, Dr. Brodie taught courses in social psychology and statistics, as well as introductory psychology. The department wishes Dr. Brodie the very best in retirement.

Dr. Kim Fenwick was promoted to the rank of Professor on July 1, 2016.

Dr. Dave Korotkov was promoted to the rank of Professor on July 1, 2016.

Dr. Michelle Lafrance received a Major Research Grant & STU Connect Grant from St. Thomas University (valued at \$6000.00) for her research *Informal caregiving in the home: Unpacking the meaning and experiences of 'home care' in rural and urban New Brunswick*.

Nicolas Levesque (current honours student) was nominated by the university for a Rhodes Scholarship.

Kasey Lohnes (BA Honours 2016) received a Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) grant in support of her MSW studies at Wilfred Laurier University.

Dr. Suzanne Prior was promoted to the rank of Professor on July 1, 2016.



Kasey Lohnes (BA Honours 2016) at Laurier University where she is an MSW student in Social Work.



Dr. Suzanne Prior receives the Donald Savage Award.

Dr. Suzanne Prior received the Donald Savage Award in Ottawa from the Canadian Association of University Teachers (CAUT). The award honours and recognizes outstanding achievements in the promotion of collective bargaining in Canadian universities and colleges. Dr. Prior is only the second woman to receive the award since its inception in 1997.

Special congratulations to Dr. Sandra Thomson and Dr. Chris Teeter on the birth of Charlie!

Alumnus in the Spotlight

Craig Mazerolle (BA Honours 2012), JD (2015)

We are pleased to highlight Craig Mazerolle as our **Alumnus in the Spotlight**. Craig completed his honours in 2012 under the supervision of Drs. Michelle Lafrance and Ian Nicholson. His thesis was entitled *“Leaving socio-economic interpretations to other sources”: Trade union research in the Journal of Applied Psychology, 1930-1989.*



After graduation, Craig moved to Toronto to attend Osgoode Hall Law School at York University where he focused on labour/employment and Aboriginal law. He also conducted an independent study into the legal community's response to the AIDS Crisis.

Craig then completed his articles as a clerk with the Ontario Superior Court of Justice. Working for a team of 8-9 judges, he focused on cases involving the judicial review of administrative

decision-making. Since finishing his time with the courts in July 2016, he has been working with the Office of the Ombudsman of Ontario. By ensuring citizens are treated fairly by government agencies and decision-makers, the Ombudsman serves as the provincial government's independent watchdog. Currently, Craig is working as a part of the Office's Operations Team, i.e., the team that collects and investigates complaints about provincial government agencies, municipalities, school boards and universities. This role requires him to review complaints in an independent and open-minded manner, similar to the kind of objective analysis that was required during his time with the courts.

Craig states “This work draws heavily on my time within the Honours Program at St. Thomas. The Ombudsman's focus on independent oversight (as opposed to one-sided advocacy) finds a natural resonance with the Psychology Department's dedication to critical thinking. Additionally, my work puts me in touch with individuals from all walks of life, and so the Department's focus on how psychology is an expression of larger societal forces has helped me immensely. I am particularly reminded of Professor Michelle Lafrance's seminar in "Women and Mental Health" and Professor Ian Nicholson's historical analysis of the social sciences: courses that taught me to look beyond the individual standing before you to see the broader picture.”

Congratulations Craig on pursuing an exciting career in law that draws on your background in psychology and your passion for social justice. We are proud of you and wish you the very best!