Department of Psychological Sciences
2nd Annual Faculty Research Showcase

April 8, 2016
If considering research experience, it is a wise idea to complete CITI Training for Research:

http://www.kent.edu/research/compliance-training
Cardiovascular Psychophysiology Laboratory
Joel W. Hughes, Ph.D.
jhughes1@kent.edu

Health Psychology
especially Psychological Factors in Heart Disease
and Mobile Health
and Eating Behavior
Developmental Psychopathology & Interpersonal Relationships Lab (van Dulmen lab)

• Adolescent and Young Adult Romantic Relationships and Experiences
  – Trauma, close relationships, and health
  – Adoption/Foster care experiences and future romantic relationships
  – Risk factors for intimate partner violence (IPV)
  – Relational-Independent Self Construal and IPV
  – Romantic Relationships and Academics
  – Casual Sexual Relationships and Experiences

• For more information contact:
  Lauren Greathouse
  lgreath5@kent.edu
Child Language & Cognition
Research Projects in Dr. Merriman’s Lab

Word Learning in Preschool & Grade School Children
Processes Involved in Learning Words
Differences between Artifacts and Natural Kinds

Judgments of Own Knowledge in Younger & Older Preschoolers
How the Judgments are Made
Role of the Judgments in Word Learning
Interventions for Improving the Judgments
Individual Differences in Judgments

Students who are interested in assisting should email Dr. Merriman at wmerrima@kent.edu
What skills make readers better able to learn vocabulary words during reading?

• Spelling skill
• Working Memory
• Ability to manipulate the sounds of words

How do readers recognize printed words?

• Eye movement patterns when people read
• Help design models of eye movement behavior during reading

How and why do skilled and less-skilled readers differ from each other?

• Differences in their eye movement patterns when they read
• Differences in how much they have to use sentence context to recognize a word
• Differences in how well they can learn the meanings and spellings of new words that they read in text for the first time
Kerns Lab

Research Theme:
How are children shaped by their experiences in close relationships?

Primary Focus:
- Parent–child relationships (10 – 14 year-olds)
- Relationships and emotional competence (emotion regulation, anxiety)

Lab Members: Dr. Kathy Kerns, Amanda Koehn, Kaela Stuart–Parrigon, Mahsa M. Abtahi, Logan Kochendorfer
For more information, contact: Logan (lkochend@kent.edu; 330/672–2139)
Health behavior:
• Why do some people succeed at sticking to healthy behaviors, but other people fail?
• Can we design simple interventions to help people behave in more healthy ways?

Health communication:
• How can we communicate health information in ways that are clear, persuasive, and effective?

How self-concept, motivations, and social relationships influence people's interpretations and reactions to everyday experiences.

Get Involved! updegrafflab.org
Research Question:
Is it possible to remember events differently than they actually were?

I. Suggestibility of Eyewitness Memory
   - Role of suggestive forensic interviews

II. Correcting Misinformation in the Media
   - Factors that Influence the Development of False Memories and False Beliefs

For more information, contact Maria Zaragoza
mzaragoz@kent.edu
Pediatric Health and Stress Lab

Directed by Amy F. Sato Ph.D.

We focus on pediatric obesity and weight management:

• How is stress related to obesity risk in adolescents (e.g., stress-induced eating)?
• What contributes to health disparities among low-income adolescents?
• What predicts health (e.g. weight, blood pressure) outcomes in a pediatric multidisciplinary weight management program at Akron Children’s Hospital?

Interested in gaining experience for graduate school?
• We have research assistant openings for Summer 2016.
• 3.5 GPA, 6+ hrs/week, 2 semesters or more
• Contact Libby Ruzicka (ebollin1@kent.edu) for more information, or see Libby after the faculty presentations!
Current Graduate Students:
Stephanie Silberman, Lauren Wood, Marissa Gastelle, & Aimee Hammer

General Goal:
Understand family and parenting processes linked to more optimal socio-emotional development in young children.
Emphasis on: Role of culture in these processes

Current Project:
Latina Adolescent Mothers: Parenting and Toddler Development

For information on research assistantships contact:
Aimee Hammer – ahammer7@kent.edu
• **Who We Study:**
  – Kids from 7 to 17 years old
  – Anxiety and related problems:
    • Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder (OCD)
    • Generalized Anxiety Disorder (GAD)
    • Trichotillomania (Hair pulling disorder)
    • Tic Disorders (i.e., Tourette’s Syndrome)
    • Other anxiety disorders (i.e., social, separation anxiety)

• **What We Study:**
  1. *Risk Factors for the Development of Anxiety and Related Problems in Kids*
     a) Why do some kids develop anxiety and others do not?
     b) What are the unique and overlapping risk factors for different forms of anxiety in kids?
  2. *How can we use this information to improve treatments for these kids and their families?*
What is SUN

Sister Circle
- Fictive kin networks
- Community
- Friendship
- Support & Empowerment

BYOTS App©
- Personalized theme song
- Positive words
- Culturally relevant music
- Musical Cognitive Restructuring

Cognitive Behavioral Strategies
- Thought Cycles (Positive, Negative, & Replacing Thoughts Cycles)
- Thought identification
- Cognitive Restructuring

Content (8 Sessions)
- Stress, Anxiety, Panic
- Media Images
- Positivity
- Identity (Mission & Vision statements)
Ask Me about It!
dellzey@kent.edu
The Rawson Lab

Who We Are:

• graduate students: Katie Wissman, Amanda Zamary
• current research assistants:
  Jeanette Cobb        Charlie Loudin
  Ashley Cottrill      Kristen Merrill
  Emily Ferrell        Cary Tresser
  Megan Kasperczyk

What We Do: Enhance Student Learning
False Memory for Source in Rats: Implications of Forgetting of Contextual Differences

David C. Riccio
Department of Psychology
Kent State University
Kent, Ohio
USA
MEMORY PROCESSES (GENERALLY)

RODENT MODELS

1. RETROGRADE AMNESIA
   STORAGE LOSS?
   RETRIEVAL ISSUES?
   CRITICAL CUES?
   WHERE HAVE ALL THE MEMORIES GONE?

2. PRECISION OF MEMORY FOR CUES
   SPECIFICITY DECREASES OVER TIME
   ACCURACY IMPAIRED
   NOVEL CUES TREATED LIKE TRAINING CUES
   DIFFERENT CONTEXTS (SITUATIONS) BECOME FUNCTIONALLY SIMILAR
   IMPLICATIONS (FEARS “EXPAND”, ETC)
FountainLab
Dr. Steve Fountain ... sfountai@kent.edu

What we study...

1. Animal models of complex cognitive abilities.

2. Brain mechanisms involved in animal cognitive abilities.

3. Applications: Developmental neurotoxicology of drugs such as nicotine, Ritalin, and Prozac.

Animal cognition:

Brain mechanisms and cognition:

Effects of adolescent drug exposure on adult cognitive abilities:
What genetic & neural mechanisms contribute to differences in susceptibility to stress?

Social Defeat Stress

How do specific neural populations and neural circuits control emotional behavior?

CRF Neurons in the Amygdala

Fear expression

Fear eliminated by light

What neural circuits & molecules promote generalized fear?

Fearful Place

Safe Place

% Fear Response

Time in days

Fear Response

Males

Females

Fear in a fearful place

Fear in a safe place

What mechanisms contribute to sex differences in anxiety disorders?

Fear in a Safe Place

Fear eliminated by light

% Fear Response

Cue

Virus Cre

Laser

Fear expression

Fear eliminated by light
Emotion Stress & Relationship Laboratory
Karin G. Coifman, PhD

http://dept.kent.edu/psychology/coifmanlab/

Interested in joining us? Email: esrlab@gmail.com or call 330-672-2184
Emotion Stress & Relationship Laboratory
Karin G. Coifman, PhD

We investigate how Emotion influences Psychological Risk and Resilience

Experience
Physiology
Behavior

Depression
Anxiety
Stress Disorders
Risky Behavior
Substance & Eating

Environment

http://dept.kent.edu/psychology/coifmanlab/
Interested in joining us? Email: esrlab@gmail.com or call 330-672-2184
David M. Fresco, Ph.D.

Director, Psychopathology and Emotion Regulation Laboratory (PERL)

Co-Director, Kent Electrophysiological Neuroscience Laboratory (KENL)

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CURRENT STUDIES INCLUDE:

ADAPTIVE & MALADAPTIVE BEREAVEMENT STUDY
AKRON CHILDREN’S EMS STUDY
ASSESSMENT OF STRESS AND HEALTH STUDY AT SUMMA HEALTH SYSTEM
BUILDING RESILIENCE AFTER CHILDHOOD EMERGENCIES
CONQUER CHIARI STUDY
GENETICS OF PTSD/SUD COMORBIDITY
AND MORE TO COME…

Read more about our lab and research here: http://www.personal.kent.edu/~ddelahan/projects.htm

RA positions are available for summer and fall. If you are interested in applying please email awise13@kent.edu
Obesity weighs down your brain
• Too much dessert is bad for your waistline, but did you know that excess pounds are also bad for your brain? 
• Our lab examines why this happens and whether weight loss can reverse these brain changes.

Healthy heart, healthy mind
• The human brain accounts for only about 2% of our body weight, but it consumes about 20% of the body’s oxygen. 
• Given this pattern, it is not surprising that people with heart disease often have problems with memory and other cognitive abilities. 
• A series of projects in our lab investigates how this happens, including whether better heart health can improve memory function in people with heart disease.
**Can you exercise the brain?**

- Like our bodies, our brains show signs of wear with aging and in many diseases.
- The brain is not a muscle that you can work out, but some populations show improvement in thinking after exercise.
- This line of research investigates if thinking skills can be improved with exercise in diseases including dementia, MS, and PD.

**Does what you drink change how you think?**

- Does drinking a sugary beverage help or hurt your attention, memory, and other thinking skills?
- We test cognitive skills and behavior in young adults and kids who drink different beverages to learn if the saying “you are what you eat” applies to the brain.
Was Lab

Members:

Graduate Student:
Mike Baranski

Current Research Assistants:
Samantha Kirk
Carly Nelson
Allison Riley
Jessica Kotik

We study:
Implicit Cognitive Processes
Working Memory
Malleable factors and Individual Differences in Cognition

Chris Was, Ph.D.
cwas@kent.edu
How do children think, learn, reason, & remember?

What strategies do they use?

What misconceptions do they have?

How can cognitive science research improve classroom instruction?

Sincerely,
Frustrated Parent
GRADUATE STUDENTS

Would you like to earn your Ph.D. in Cognitive or Developmental Psychology at Kent State University?

Dr. Clarissa A. Thompson is accepting new graduate students for Fall 2017.

Please fill out an application on the Department of Psychological Sciences’ website.

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS

Are you planning to attend graduate school in Psychology? Do you want to gain valuable lab experience as an undergraduate?

Undergraduates interested in joining the KSU Cognitive Development Lab can earn course credits.

Interested undergraduates collect data with children and adults, code and analyze data, and participate in lab meetings and reading groups. Please fill out this application if you’d like to gain research experience in the Cognitive Development Lab.
Dr. Judith Gere

- Research:
  - Goal Pursuit
  - Romantic partners
  - Goal conflict
Dr. Judith Gere

• Research assistants welcome!
  • 6-8 hours per week
  • At least 2 semester commitment
  • GPA of 3.2+, interest in going to grad school

• Send:
  • Resume, cover letter, and copy of transcript to:
    jgere@kent.edu
Dr. Jennifer M. Taber
Social & Health Psychology

Research topics

- Broadly, understanding and promoting **health behaviors** and behaviors relevant to cancer prevention
- Specific areas of interest include: genetic risk information and genetic testing, risk perceptions, skin cancer, eating behavior and affective motives for behavior

Examples of research questions

- When and why do risk perceptions predict behavior?
- How do people think about genetic risk information compared to other types of disease risk information? When and why does information about disease risk lead to behavior change?
- Do people spend more time in the sun if they think it improves their mood?
- Does promoting positive attitudes about healthy food lead to healthier food choices?

Contact:
jtaber1@kent.edu
Beth Wildman
Pediatric Psychology

- **Patient Adherence to Medical Regimens**
  - Does the way a physician talks to a patient and parent affect their memory for instructions and their adherence to their treatment regimen?
  - Does parent burden and stress affect whether parents monitor child adherence to medical regimens and school work?

- **Identification and Management of Psychosocial Problems**
  - How do parents perceive physician communication about child behavior and emotions?
  - What are the barriers to physician attending to parent concerns about child’s behavior and emotions?
We are interested in **applied personality assessment** of a variety of people, including **criminals**, **police officers**, **medical patients**, and **psychotherapy patients**.
DEPRESSION AND RUMINATION LAB
JEFF CIESLA – JCIESLA@KENT.EDU

• Interests:
  • Sleep and depression
    • Late-night ruminative thought on sleep
    • Mindful meditation
  • Affective and sexual problems
    • What effects do depression and anxiety have on sexual functioning?
    • Currently also attempting to (in?)validate the diagnosis of Premenstrual Dysphoric Disorder (PMDD)
  • Cognitive influences on depression
    • Rumination
    • Perfectionism
  • Quantitative methods and philosophy of science in research on psychopathology
Dr. John Dunlosky

Cognition and Education

j dunlosk@kent.edu