

Department of Psychological Sciences

2nd Annual Faculty Research Showcase

April 8, 2016

Important Note:

- * If considering research experience, it is a wise idea to complete CITI Training for Research :

<http://www.kent.edu/research/compliance-training>

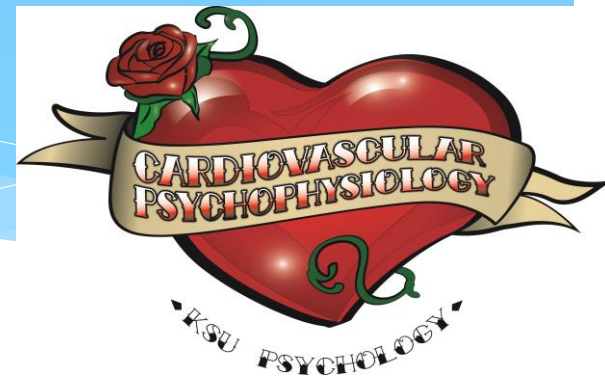
Cardiovascular Psychophysiology Laboratory

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



Folk Lab: Reading and Spelling Processes

Contact: Dr. Folk at jfolk@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)

Self, Health & Emotion Lab

Dr. John Updegraff



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

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I. Suggestibility of Eyewitness Memory

- ## II. Correcting Misinformation in the Media

- 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!

Culture, Parenting, & Child Development Lab

Josefina M. Grau, Ph.D.



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

Pediatric Anxiety Research Clinic (PARC)

- **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

A decorative header featuring a treble clef on the left, followed by a series of colorful musical notes (yellow, green, blue, purple) on a white staff, and another treble clef on the right.

Sister Circle

- ❖ Fictive kin networks
- ❖ Community
- ❖ Friendship
- ❖ Support & Empowerment

Cognitive Behavioral Strategies

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

BYOTS App[©]

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

Content (8 Sessions)

- ❖ Stress, Anxiety, Panic
- ❖ Media Images
- ❖ Positivity
- ❖ Identity (Mission & Vision statements)





SUN Rising Summer 2016...

Ask Me about It!
dellzey@kent.edu



The Rawson Lab

Who We Are:

- graduate students: Katie Wissman, Amanda Zmary
- current research assistants:

Jeanette Cobb

Ashley Cottrill

Emily Ferrell

Megan Kasperczyk

Charlie Loudin

Kristen Merrill

Cary Tresser

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 ... sfountain@kent.edu



The Serial Multiple Choice (SMC) Task
(developed in this lab)

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:

Muller, M. D., & Fountain, S. B. (2016). Concurrent cognitive processes in rat serial pattern learning: II. Discrimination learning, rule learning, chunk length, and multiple-item memories. *Journal of the Experimental Analysis of Behavior*, 105, 155-175.

Brain mechanisms and cognition:

Chenoweth, A. M., & Fountain, S. B. (2016). Strategy breakdown following muscarinic blockade in rats. *Neurobiology of Learning and Memory*, 131, 83-86.

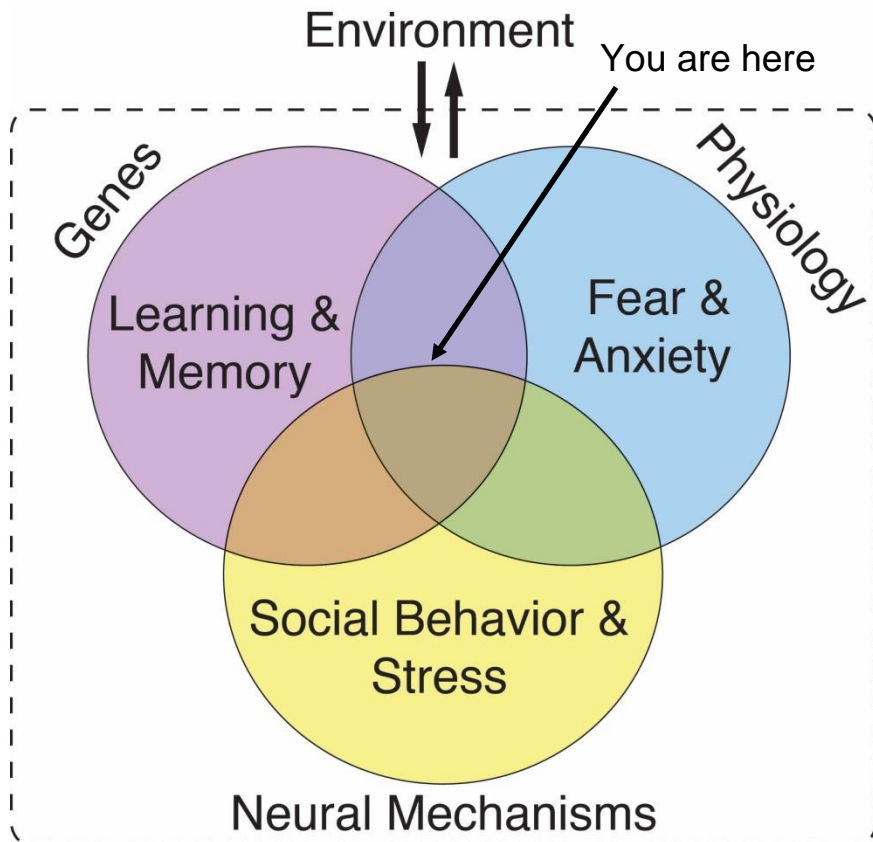
Effects of adolescent drug exposure on adult cognitive abilities:

Rowan, J. D., McCarty, M. K.*, Kundey, S. M. A., Osburn, C. D.*, Renaud, S. M., Kelley, B. M., Matoushek, A. W., & Fountain, S. B. (2015). Adolescent exposure to methylphenidate impairs serial pattern learning in the serial multiple choice (SMC) task in adult rats. *Neurotoxicology and Teratology*, 51, 21-26.

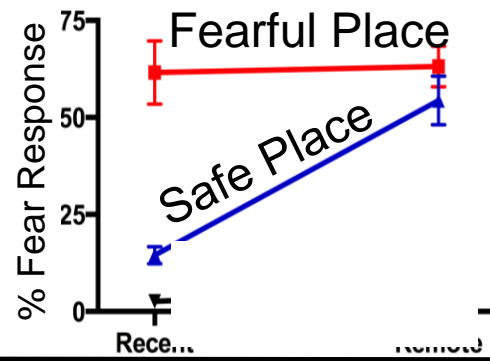
Jasnow Behavioral Neuroscience Laboratory

Lab Website: Jasnowlab.com

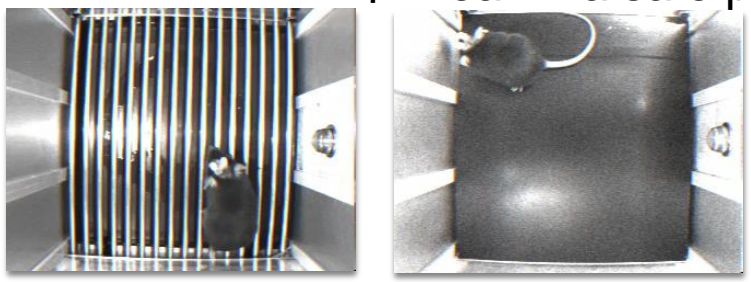
ajasnow@kent.edu



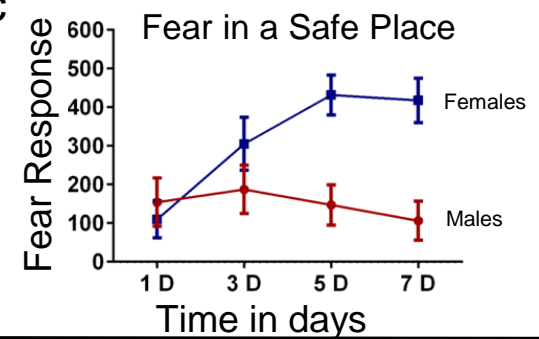
What neural circuits & molecules promote generalized fear?



Fear in a fearful place Fear in a safe place

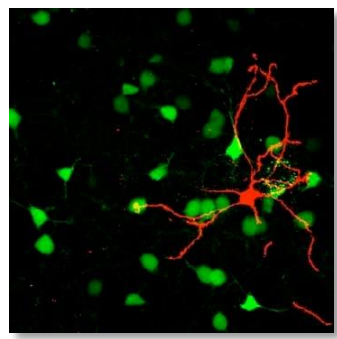


What mechanisms contribute to sex differences in anxiety disorders?



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

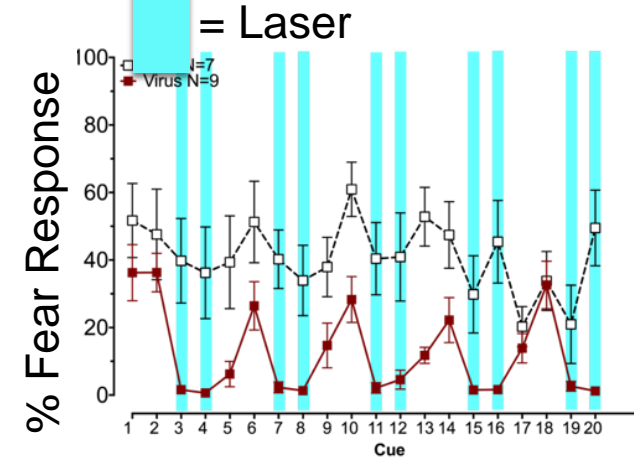
CRF Neurons in the Amygdala



Fear expression

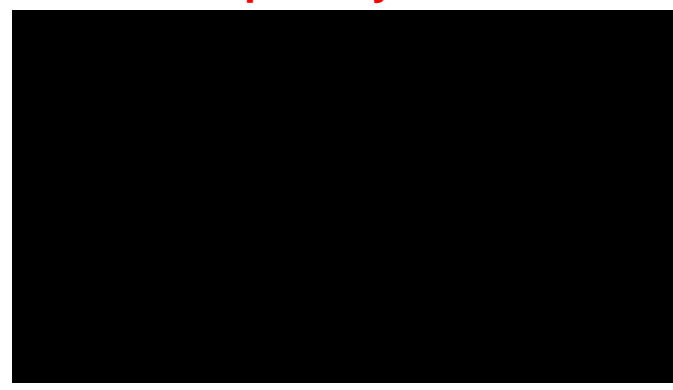


Fear eliminated by light



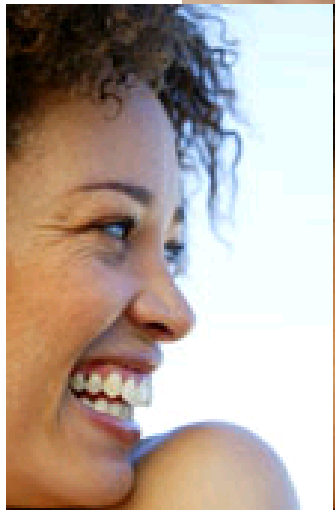
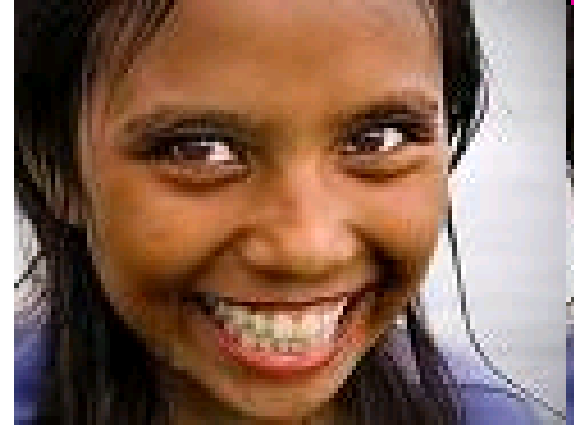
What genetic & neural mechanisms contribute to differences in susceptibility to stress?

Social Defeat Stress



Emotion Stress & Relationship Laboratory

Karin G. Coifman, PhD

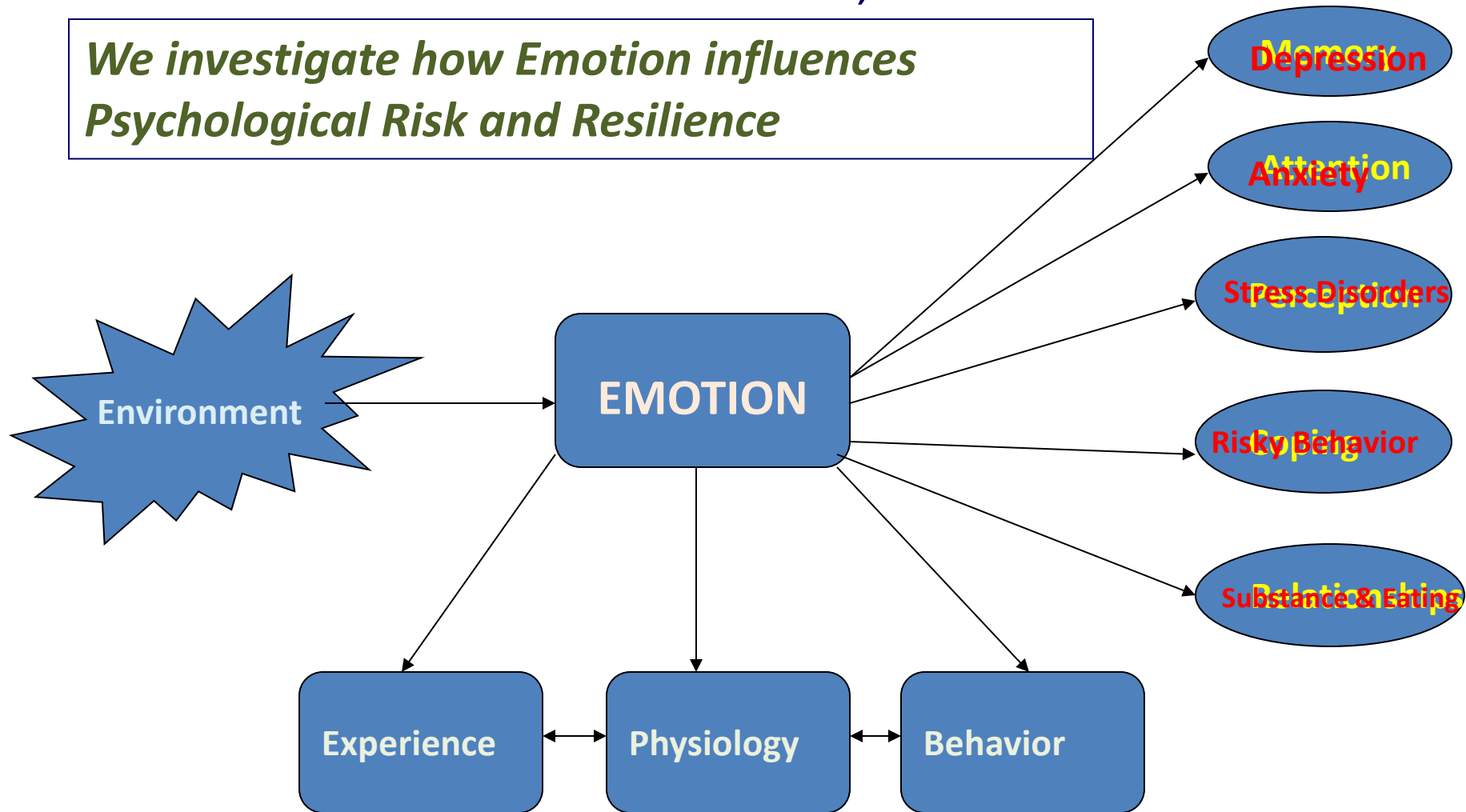


<http://dept.kent.edu/psychology/coifmanlab/>
Interested in joining us? Email: esrlab@gmail.com or call 330-672-2184

Emotion Stress & Relationship Laboratory

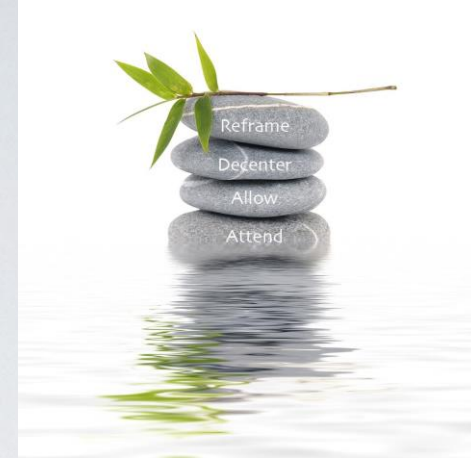
Karin G. Coifman, PhD

We investigate how Emotion influences Psychological Risk and Resilience



<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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226 Kent Hall Addition

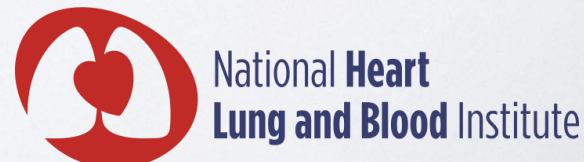
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fresco@kent.edu

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kenl.kent.edu



The Delahanty Stress and Health Lab

Director: Doug Delahanty

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/~d/delahan/projects.htm>

RA positions are available for
summer and fall.

If you are interested in applying
please email awise13@kent.edu

Clinical Neuropsychology

John Gunstad, PhD (jgunstad@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.

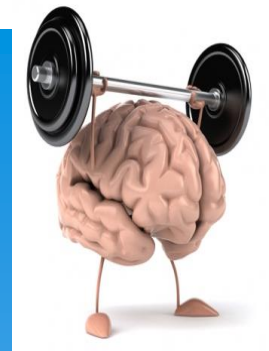
Healthy heart, healthy mind

- 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.



Clinical Neuropsychology

Mary Beth Spitznagel, PhD (mspitzna@kent.edu)



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

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KENT STATE UNIVERSITY
COGNITIVE DEVELOPMENT LAB

CLARISSA A. THOMPSON



How do children think, learn, reason, & remember?

What strategies do they use? ~0

What misconceptions do they have?

How can cognitive science research improve classroom instruction?

in termination if used.

Sincerely,
Frustrated Parent

www.clarissathompson.com



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

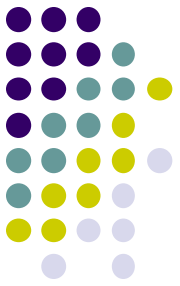


Dr. Judith Gere

- 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?



Minnesota Multiphasic
Personality Inventory-2
Restructured Form®

MMPI Research Group

Yossef Ben-Porath, Ph.D.
ybenpora@kent.edu

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 mediation
 - 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

jdunlosk@kent.edu