

Department of Psychological Sciences' Faculty

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Dr. Yossef Ben-Porath

Email: ybenpora@kent.edu
Area: Clinical Assessment
Research Interests:

- Clinical Assessment
- Assessment of psychopathology and personality
- Developing uses for MMPI instruments



Dr. Jocelyn Folk

Email: jfolk@kent.edu (Pre-med advisor for Psychology)
Area: Cognitive Psychology
Research Interests:

- Understanding the cognitive processes involved in reading and spelling
- Reading & spelling abilities in skilled & less-skilled populations
- Understanding how hearing impairment influences how people read



Dr. Robin Joynes

Email: rjoynes@kent.edu
Courses Commonly Taught:

- General Psychology
- Research Methods
- Drugs and Behavior



Dr. Mary Beth Spitznagel

Email: mspitzna@kent.edu
Area: Health Psychology; Clinical Assessment; Neuropsychology
Research Interests:

- Clinical neuropsychology
- Cognitive impact of obesity, diet, and exercise
- Caregiver burden



Dr. Jeffrey Ciesla

Email: jciesla@kent.edu
Area: Adult Psychology; Child Clinical
Research Interests:

- Evaluating risk for depression and models of life stress
- Influence of rumination and maladaptive beliefs
- Application of SEM and HLM statistical techniques in psychopathology research models



Dr. Stephen Fountain

Email: sfountai@kent.edu
Area: Behavioral Neuroscience
Research Interests:

- Psychological processes involved in the organization of behavior through time
- Effects of adolescent nicotine exposure on adult cognitive processes
- Brain structures and neurotransmitter systems involved in cognition



Dr. William Lechner

Email: wlechner@kent.edu
Area: Adult Substance Use Disorders and Adult Psychopathology
Research Interests:

- Effects of neurocognitive deficits in addiction
- Bi-directional relationship between psychopathology and addiction; specifically, alcohol and nicotine use



Dr. Jennifer Taber

Email: jtaber1@kent.edu
Area: Social Psychology; Health Psychology
Research Interests:

- Understanding and promoting health behaviors, such as reducing sun exposure or eating a healthy diet
- Understanding how people think about genetic risk information for disease
- Understanding when and why risk perceptions predict behavior



Dr. Shannon Ciesla

Email: sciesla@kent.edu
Courses Commonly Taught:

- Adolescent Psychology
- Abnormal Psychology
- Introduction to Clinical Psychology
- Advanced Research Methods



Dr. David Fresco

Email: dfresco@kent.edu
Area: Adult Psychopathology
Research Interests:

- Generalized Anxiety Disorder (GAD) and Major Depressive Disorder (MDD)
- Conducts surveys, experimental and treatment research to examine MDD and GAD
- Development of treatments that blend mindfulness meditation and other Buddhist practices into psychosocial treatments



Dr. William Merriman

Email: wmerrima@kent.edu
Area: Developmental Psychology
Research Interests:

- Children's language memory, and thought
- Emphasis on word learning and metacognition in early childhood
- Awareness of gaps in linguistic knowledge
- Overconfidence in memory



Dr. Clarissa Thompson

Email: cthomp77@kent.edu
Area: Developmental Psychology; Cognitive Psychology
Research Interests:

- How children learn, develop strategies and remember information
- Shifts in children's numerical representations with increasing age and experience
- How children draw analogies between numerical contexts to help them solve problems



Dr. Karin Coifman

Email: kcoifman@kent.edu
Area: Adult Psychopathology
Research Interests:

- Basic emotion processing
- Emotion regulation in relation to adjustment during acute and chronic stress
- Use of clinical interviews, experience sampling diaries and experimental/cognitive tasks



Dr. Judith Gere

Email: jgere@kent.edu
Area: Social Psychology
Research Interests:

- Subjective well-being, goal pursuit and romantic relationships
- How romantic partners pursue their goals (both joint & individual)
- Quantitative measurement and methodology



Dr. Angela Neal-Barnett

Email: aneal@kent.edu
Area: Child and Adolescent Psychology
Research Interests:

- Race, stress, and infant mortality
- Racial identity and "acting white" accusation
- Stress and anxiety management for middle school Black and Biracial girls



Dr. John Updegraff

Email: jupdegr1@kent.edu
Area: Social Psychology; Health Psychology
Research Interests:

- Understanding health
- Health communication
- The role of message framing and message tailoring in promoting health behavior change



Dr. Janis Crowther

Email: jcrowthe@kent.edu
Area: Clinical – Adult Psychopathology and Clinical Health
Research Interests:

- Topography and function of binge eating in bulimia nervosa and binge eating disorder
- Nature of body image disturbance in women and men
- Impact of appearance-focused social comparisons on body image disturbance
- impact of chronic dieting on the well-being of women



Dr. Josefina Grau

Email: jgrau@kent.edu
Area: Child and Adolescent Psychology
Research Interests:

- How parenting and family processes influence development in young children
- The role culture on parenting and child development in Latino families
- Factors that facilitate adolescent mothers' parenting and their toddler's development



Dr. Katherine Rawson

Email: krawson1@kent.edu
Area: Cognitive Psychology
Research Interests:

- Optimizing learning in educationally relevant domains
- Strategies that promote the durability and efficiency of student learning
- How students monitor and control their own learning



Dr. Manfred van Dulmen

Email: mvandul@kent.edu
Area: Developmental Psychology; Social Psychology
Research Interests:

- Adolescent and young adult romantic relationships
- Developmental psychopathology
- Measurement and methodology



Dr. Douglas Delahanty

Email: ddelahan@kent.edu
Area: Health Psychology; Behavioral Neuroscience
Research Interests:

- Early biological predictors of psychopathology (PTSD) following traumatic events
- The impact of trauma history and PTSD on various disease samples (HIV+, surgical patients)
- Inform and conduct early intervention research to prevent/reduce the development of post-traumatic distress following trauma



Dr. John Gunstad

Email: jgunstad@kent.edu
Area: Clinical Assessment; Health Psychology
Research Interests:

- Effects of aging and disease on neurocognitive function
- Cardiovascular disease and obesity
- Non-pharmacological approaches to improving brain function



Dr. David Riccio

Email: driccio@kent.edu
Area: Behavioral Neuroscience
Research Interests:

- Aversively motivated learning
- Memory processes using animals as models
- Forgetting of stimulus attributes
- Mechanisms involved in retrograde amnesia



Dr. Christopher Was

Email: cwas@kent.edu
Area: Cognitive Psychology
Research Interests:

- Testing different models and aspects of working memory to determine how processing limits in working memory affect complex cognitive processes such as comprehension
- Student self-regulated learning



Dr. John Dunlosky

Email: jdunlosk@kent.edu
Area: Cognitive Psychology
Research Interests:

- Metacognition
- Self-regulated learning
- Goal of research is to improve student learning and achievement



Dr. Joel Hughes

Email: jhughes1@kent.edu
Area: Health Psychology
Research Interests:

- Clinical Health
- Cardiovascular behavioral medicine
- Role of psychosocial factors in patient self-management



Dr. Amy Sato

Email: asato2@kent.edu
Area: Child Psychology; Health Psychology
Research Interests:

- Obesity and weight management in children & adolescents
- The influence of stress & the role of family influences on healthy weight management
- This lab collaborates with the pediatric weight management program at Akron Children's Hospital to conduct research



Dr. Beth Wildman

Email: bwildman@kent.edu
Area: Child and Adolescent Psychology
Research Interests:

- Adherence by pediatricians to best practices
- Adherence by parents and children to prescribed medical regimens
- Identification and intervention for children with behavioral problems by primary care pediatricians



Dr. Christopher Flessner

Email: cflessne@kent.edu
Area: Child Clinical
Research Interests:

- Developing a better understanding of the biological and psychosocial risk factors linked to the development of anxiety in kids
- Development and course of obsessive-compulsive behaviors



Dr. Aaron Jasnow

Email: ajasnaw@kent.edu
Area: Behavioral Neuroscience
Research Interests:

- Molecular, cellular, and systems mechanisms of fear learning and memory
- Overlapping neural circuits controlling fear and addictive behaviors
- Neural mechanisms of sex differences in stress and fear behaviors



Dr. Sharon Sciartelli

Email: ssciarte@kent.edu
Courses Commonly Taught:

- General Psychology
- Social Psychology
- Abnormal Psychology
- Psychological Assessment



Dr. Maria Zaragoza

Email: mzaragoz@kent.edu
Area: Cognitive Psychology
Research Interests:

- Eyewitness Memory and Suggestibility
- False Memories and False Beliefs
- Correcting Misinformation in News Reports