

THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA

Fall 2016 Graduate Student Positions Department of Psychology

Teaching, Research, Service

The Department of Psychology houses Ph.D. programs in Clinical Psychology and Experimental Psychology. Both programs focus on developing skilled researchers and college-level teachers. The Clinical Psychology program also focuses on developing skilled practitioners. The basic philosophy of the Department of Psychology is to promote independent scholarship and to ensure competence in the fundamental areas of psychology and in the specializations offered. The Department trains psychologists who are scientists and scientist-practitioners and, in so doing, provides broad research training, substantive academic concentrations, and opportunities for teaching and applied experience.

The following newsletter includes a list of faculty members who are looking for potential graduate students to join their lab in the fall of 2016. The list is broken down by concentration and specialty area. We have included short descriptions of each faculty members research. We encourage interested candidates to use the provided links to find additional information about each faculty member, including contact information. Please note that some faculty members are involved in more than one research area.

Roll Tide.

Experimental Concentration

Developmental Faculty Members



Dr. Kristina L. McDonald

Website: <http://klmcdonald.people.ua.edu/>

My research expertise is in the social development and peer relationships of older children and adolescents, specifically the social cognitive processes underlying problematic peer interactions and how context may affect peer interactions.

Developmental Faculty Members



Dr. Ansley Tullos Gilpin

Website: <http://atullos.people.ua.edu/>

Our main area of interest is in children's cognitive development, specifically in the development of their executive functions and understanding of fantasy vs. reality. Our studies explore children's beliefs in fantastical entities, and investigate how children develop the ability to use scientific reasoning skills, testimony from other people, their existing world knowledge and social interactions to distinguish real from not real.



Dr. Fran Connors (Developmental & Cognitive)

Website: <http://fconnors.people.ua.edu/>

My main research interests are in language and cognition in individuals with intellectual disabilities. I look for areas of strength as well as areas of specific weakness, how they impact higher-level cognitive/language function, and what implications there are for intervention. My focus areas are in implicit processing, working memory, and reading.



Dr. Minjung Kim

Website: <http://mjkim.people.ua.edu/>

Dr. Kim's research interests are quantitative research methods including multilevel modeling (MLM) and structural equation modeling (SEM). Specifically, she is interested in examining the impact of different forms of model misspecifications in MLM and SEM.



Dr. Jeff Parker

Email: j.g.parker@ua.edu

Dr. Parker's research explores children's and adolescents' experiences and adjustments with friends and other peers. His most recent research focuses on the origins and consequences of children's jealousy and envy concerning friendships, as well as the roles that these feelings play in children's self-esteem, aggressive behavior, gossip, and efforts to exclude others.

Social Faculty Members



Dr. Philip Gable

Website: <http://pgable.people.ua.edu/>

My program of research investigates the interplay of emotion, motivation, personality, and cognition. I am profoundly interested in investigating the ways emotions modulate our thoughts, motivate our behaviors, and are expressed in the brain. In order to pursue these questions, I take a multi-method approach, examining both the neuropsychological and neurophysiological aspects associated with these processes.



Dr. Will Hart

Website: <http://wphart.people.ua.edu/>

In our lab, we study social stimuli that influence the way people think and behave. Specifically, we research topics such as (but not limited to) selective exposure bias, motivation and goal systems, and interpersonal persuasion. Ultimately, our hope is that a better theoretical understanding of these topics will enable leaders in public policy, education, business, and social entrepreneurship to encourage increased societal prosperity and prosocial behavior.



Dr. Alexa Tullett

Website: <http://atullett.people.ua.edu/>

Dr. Tullett's research focuses on how people make sense of the world. This general fascination has manifested itself in two main lines of research, one focusing on the belief systems that people use to organize the world, and the other focusing on how people come to understand the feelings and thoughts of others. To explore these issues the lab employs a social neuroscience approach, using neuroscientific, psychophysiological, self-report, and behavioral measures.

Cognitive Faculty Members



Dr. Beverly Roskos

Website: <http://broskos.people.ua.edu/>

Comprehension, representation, and use of visual and spatial information, including group and individual differences: wayfinding, sex differences in spatial ability, media comprehension, visual creativity, and perceptions of temporary spaces



Dr. Ian McDonough

Website: <http://immcdonough.people.ua.edu/>

Episodic Memory, Intelligence Aging, Structural and Functional Neuroimaging, Dynamic Fluctuations of Brain Activity, Biomarkers of Preclinical Alzheimer's Disease



Dr. Sheila Black (Cognitive and Geropsychology)

Email: sblack@psych.as.ua.edu

Psychology, cognitive aging, how memory and cognitive processes change with age, aging/elderly

Clinical Concentration

Child Faculty Members



Dr. Ted Tomeny

Website: <http://ttomeny.people.ua.edu/>

Dr. Tomeny's research and clinical interests are in intellectual and developmental disabilities, particularly autism spectrum disorder (ASD). His research explores the functioning of families of individuals with ASD. Specifically, recent projects include identifying risk- and protective-factors for typically-developing siblings and parents of those with ASD and exploring correlates of sibling relationship quality among adult siblings of those with a disability.



Dr. Randy Salekin

Website: <http://rsalekin.people.ua.edu/>

Psychopathy

Callous Unemotional Traits

Treatment of psychopathy

Treatment of interpersonal callousness



Dr. Matt Jarrett

Website: <http://majarrett.people.ua.edu/>

Dr. Jarrett's research and clinical interests are in the field of developmental psychopathology, particularly in the areas of attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) and anxiety disorders. His current research explores the interface of neuropsychological functioning and co-occurring symptomatology in children, adolescents, and emerging adults with ADHD.

Geropsychology Faculty Members



Dr. Martha Crowther (Geropsychology & Health)

Website: <http://mrcrowther.people.ua.edu/>

Mental Health & Aging
Health Disparities & Aging



Dr. Pat Parmelee

Website: <http://aria.ua.edu/patricia-parmelee/>

Dr. Parmelee's research interests span three general areas:

- (1) the interrelations of physical and mental health, with particular emphasis on associations among pain, disability and mental health among chronically ill older adults.
- (2) quality of long-term care, and particularly staffing issues in residential care settings;
- (3) interventions to support family caregivers.



Dr. Rebecca Allen

Website: <http://rsallen.people.ua.edu/>

Dr. Allen's research and clinical interests are: 1) interventions to reduce the stress of individuals, family, and professional caregivers within the context of advanced chronic or terminal illness; 2) the cultural dynamics (race/ethnicity; rural/urban) of healthcare decision making; and 3) clinical training, particularly Acceptance and Commitment Therapy/Training.



Dr. Forrest Scogin*

Website: <http://fscogin.people.ua.edu/>

Mental health and aging
Psychotherapy research
Depression

Dr. Scogin is interested in co-mentoring a student

Psychology and Law Faculty Members



Dr. Karen Salekin

Website: <http://ksalekin.people.ua.edu/>

Intellectual Disability and the Death Penalty

The Assessment of Intellectual Disability in *Atkins* cases

Forensic Assessment with Offenders with Intellectual Disability

Mitigation in Death Penalty Cases



Dr. Jenni Cox

Website: <http://jmcox.people.ua.edu/>

My research can be described as an investigation of the interplay between psychological assessment and the legal system. More specifically, my work can be regarded as addressing (1) the conceptualization and assessment of psychopathic personality (psychopathy), (2) the influence of psychological expert testimony on legal decision making, and (3) how legal decision makers understand and consider psychopathy evidence during the trial process.

Health Faculty Members



Dr. Jim Hamilton (Social & Clinical Health)

Website: <http://jchamilt.people.ua.edu/>

Interests center on motivational explanations for excessive medical illness behavior. Our team is also more broadly interested in the dynamics of the victim role, how victims are perceived, how observers evaluate the authenticity of victim role enactments, and how inauthentic victims persuade others to accept their claims to victimhood. We are beginning research of the social psychology of death attitudes and death acceptance.