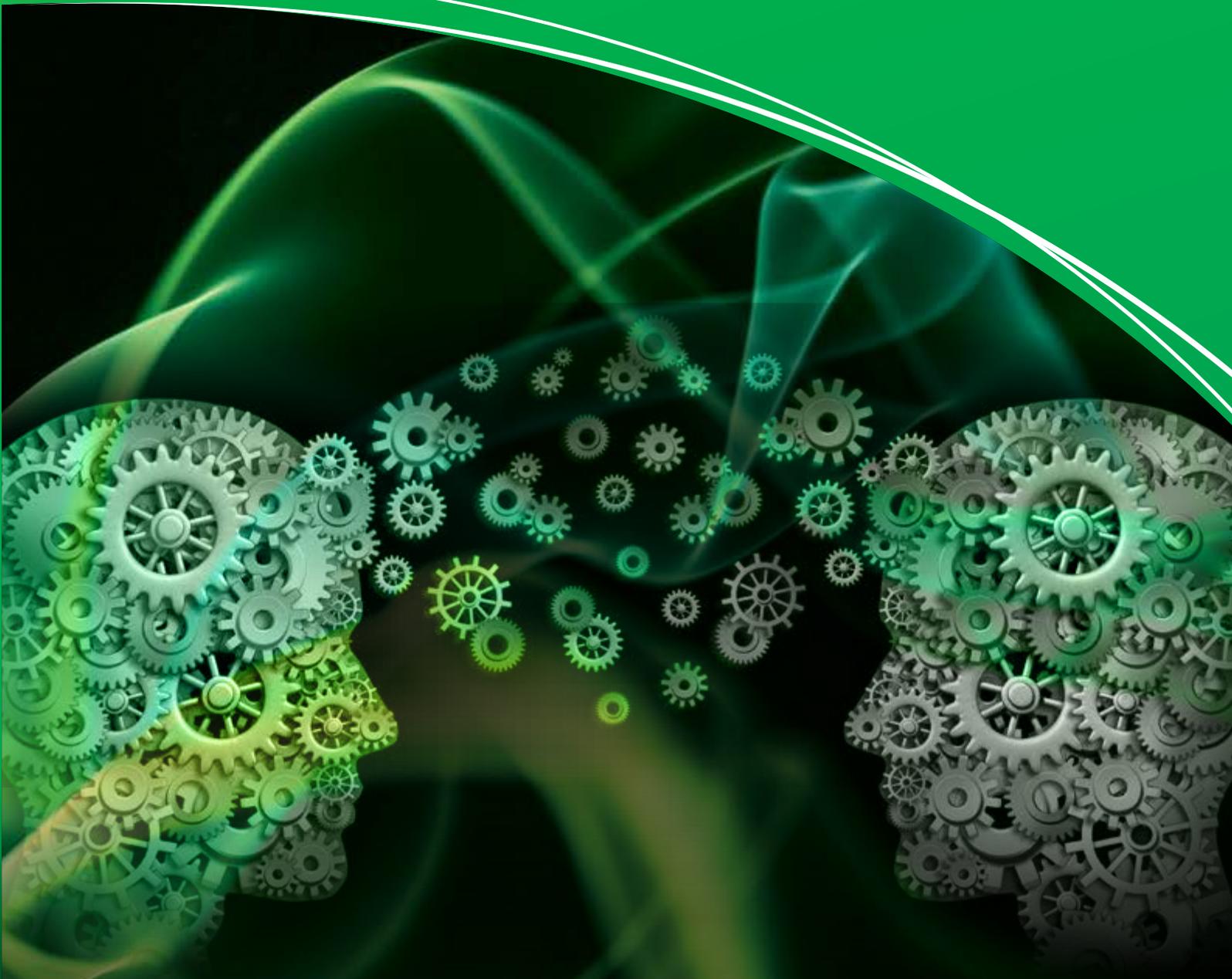


Psychology and Education at James Cook University in Singapore



Psychological Science and Clinical Psychology at James Cook University in Singapore

With predictions that half of our global population will live in the tropics by 2050, our forward-looking mission is to promote psychological health and wellbeing in tropical regions. A necessity for social, environmental and economic sustainability and for improvements of life in the tropics demands the attention of psychological science and clinical services to address such needs.

With our Singapore base in the Asian tropics, James Cook University in Singapore offers research expertise in health and well-being with emphasis on pertinent social issues such as stress and coping, and community relations.

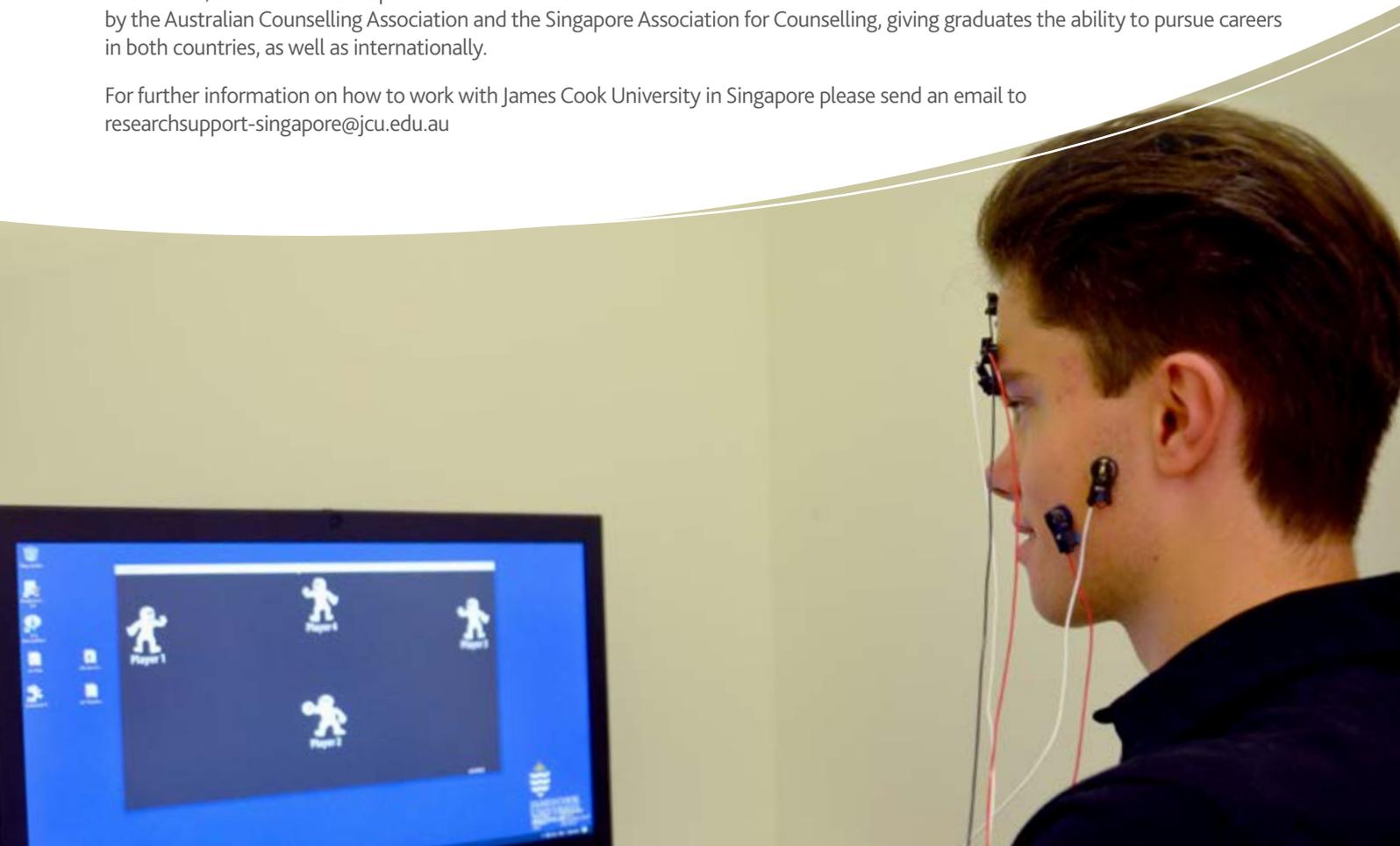
We also offer expertise in positive mental health, including mindfulness, nature connectedness, and e-health interventions. Our highly trained team of psychological scientists and clinicians have combined expertise in conceptualising psychological research and interventions drawing on a combination of biological, psychological and social factors.

Education (Early Childhood Education) and Guidance and Counselling at James Cook University in Singapore

UNICEF (https://www.unicef.org/earlychildhood/index_40748.html) report a global annual death rate of 7.6 million children under the age of 5, with many more children surviving but failing to thrive. Losses in adult productivity attest to the importance of attention to children in their early childhood years, during which forms intelligence, personality and social behaviour including self-awareness and self-care. Students in our Early Childhood Education course learn how to support the development, behaviour, and wellbeing of early learners from birth to 8 years in childcare centres and primary schools.

Our Master of Guidance and Counselling degree is designed for teachers who are interested in qualifying as school guidance counsellors, and others with experience in the human resource sector who wish to work in non-school areas. This course is accredited by the Australian Counselling Association and the Singapore Association for Counselling, giving graduates the ability to pursue careers in both countries, as well as internationally.

For further information on how to work with James Cook University in Singapore please send an email to researchsupport-singapore@jcu.edu.au





Dr Jonathan Ramsay

Head of Academic Group Psychology & Education
Senior Lecturer, Psychology
James Cook University (Singapore)

PhD (Psychology), Nanyang Technological University, Singapore
BA (Hons) (Psychology & Physiology), University of Oxford, UK

Background

Originally from the United Kingdom, Dr Ramsay came to Asia in 2009 and is now a Senior Lecturer of Psychology at James Cook University in Singapore. Prior to joining James Cook University in Singapore he was a Lecturer and then a Senior Lecturer at the Singapore University of Social Sciences (SUSS). Over the past 10 years he has led several international research projects with collaborators in China, Hong Kong SAR, Germany, and the United States, and has participated in research collaborations spanning three continents.

His research interests encompass areas of personality and social psychology, with a particular emphasis on the psychology of religion (including the consequences of religious belief and non-belief) and the relationships between personality, attitudes, and well-being. His current research projects examine the way religious individuals explain daily events, as well as individual differences in the relationship between subjective authenticity and well-being.

Jonathan has published in many international peer-reviewed journals, such as *Nature Human Behaviour*, the *Journal of Research in Personality*, *Political Psychology*, and *Motivation and Emotion*. He is an editorial board member for the *Asian Journal of Social Psychology* and regularly reviews for journals such as *Motivation and Emotion* and the *International Journal for the Psychology of Religion*. He is also the recipient of several internal and external research grants.

Areas of expertise

- Effects of Religious Priming
- Antecedents and Consequences of Religious Non-Belief
- Meaning, Teleological Explanations, and Well-Being
- Subjective Authenticity
- Implicit and Explicit Motives
- Personality Assessment
- Prejudice

Impact of research

- Identified previously undocumented methodological considerations for administering the picture story exercise, thus helping to improve the validity of the dominant measure of implicit motives

- Authored one of the top-three most downloaded articles from the *International Journal for the Psychology of Religion* in 2014
- Enhanced understanding of the causal mechanisms by which religious belief is translated into positive emotionality and enhanced well-being
- Co-authored a seminal early paper on personality assessment using social media content (over 150 citations to date)
- Participated in several international, multi-lab investigations into the psychology of religion, thus enhancing the cross-cultural validity of key findings in the field

Top five publications

- Gervais, W.M., Xygalatas, D., McKay, R.T., van Elk, M., Buchtel, E.K., Aveyard, M., Schiavone, S.R., Dar-Nimrod, I., Svedholm-Häkkinen, A.M., Riekkari, T., Klocová, E.K., Ramsay, J.E., & Bulbulia, J. (2017) Global evidence of extreme intuitive moral prejudice against atheists. *Nature Human Behaviour*, 1, 0151. doi:10.1038/s41562-017-0151
- Ramsay, J.E., Tong, E.M., Chowdhury, A., & Ho, M.R. (2018) Teleological explanation and positive emotion serially mediate the effect of religion on well-being. *Journal of Personality. Advance Online Publication*. doi:10.1111/jopy.12425
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- Qiu, L., Lin, H., Ramsay, J.E., & Yang, F. (2012). You are what you tweet: Personality expression and perception on Twitter. *Journal of Research in Personality*, 46(6), 710-718. doi: 10.1016/j.jrp.2012.08.008

Further
Information

JCU Research Profile





Professor Nigel V. Marsh

Professor of Clinical Psychology
James Cook University (Singapore)

PhD University of Otago, New Zealand
DipPsych(Clin) University of Waikato, New Zealand
MSocSc University of Waikato, New Zealand
BA Massey University, New Zealand

Background

Professor Marsh is a New Zealand-trained clinical psychologist. He has held academic appointments in Clinical Psychology in Australia, Lebanon, Malaysia, New Zealand and the United Kingdom. Most of his most recent clinical work has involved the neuropsychological assessment of individuals with traumatic brain injury, stroke, occupational exposure to neurotoxins, or suspected dementia.

His expertise within clinical psychology is in the areas of psychological assessment and research design. The majority of his research publications deal with the assessment of the psychosocial consequences of traumatic injuries or chronic illness for both the individual and their familial caregivers. He has conducted research across the life span with published studies on age groups ranging from infants to older adults. He has also published studies on non-clinical groups, primarily in the area of organisational psychology.

Professor Marsh has previously been awarded grants to conduct research on traumatic brain injury, quality of life in dialysis patients, dementia in older adults, resilience in very low-income families and internet use amongst young adults. He has served as a consultant in the areas of healthy ageing, occupational health, genetics and rehabilitation.

He is a Visiting Professor in Clinical Psychology at the Norwich Medical School of the University of East Anglia in the United Kingdom. In 2016, 2017 and 2018 he was a Visiting Professor at the University of Oviedo in Spain where he worked with the Health Sciences Research Group on School Learning, Difficulties and Academic Performance.

Areas of expertise

- Assessment of the psychosocial consequences of traumatic injuries or chronic illness, for both the individual and their familial caregivers
- Healthy ageing, particularly as related to environmental or design factors
- Attitudes to ageing
- Evaluation of training of caregivers for vulnerable groups (e.g., children in out-of-home care, people with dementia)
- Literacy (reading & writing)

Impact of research

- Quantified the behavioural changes associated with reports of 'personality change' following traumatic brain injury. This allows for rehabilitation programmes to focus specifically on those behaviours which impact on social reintegration following severe injuries.
- Determined which factors cause the greatest amount of stress for family members caring for relatives with brain injuries. This provides useful information for support services to help prevent burnout in family caregivers.
- Provided an understanding of the factors associated with depression following cerebrovascular accident (stroke) in older adults. These findings supported a psychosocial, rather than medication-based, approach to treating the depression.
- Provided a framework for examining the transition from community living to residential care in older adults. This allows care providers to reduce the stress associated with this major lifestyle change.
- Documented cognitive decline over the long term, following an initial period of improvement, for some people after traumatic brain injury. This challenged the standard rehabilitation models which are based on a pattern of initial improvement followed by stability in level of cognitive functioning.

Top five publications

- Bujnowska, A. M., Rodriguez, C., Garcia, T., Areces, D., & Marsh, N. V. (2019). Parenting and future anxiety: The impact of having a child with developmental disabilities. *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*, 16, 668.
- Marsh, N. V. (2018). Cognitive functioning following traumatic brain injury: The first five years. *NeuroRehabilitation*, 43, 377-386.
- Marsh, N. V. & Ng, S. H. (2017). Behavioural and emotional functioning of adolescents with mild intellectual disability: Perspectives from home and school. *Journal of Psychology and Education*, 12, 76-84.
- Loew, S. J., Marsh, N. V., & Watson, K. (2014). Symptoms of Meares-Irlen/visual stress syndrome in subjects diagnosed with chronic fatigue syndrome. *International Journal of Clinical and Health Psychology*, 14, 87-92.
- Hosking, S. G. & Marsh, N. V. (2013). Predictors of depression at one year post-stroke in older adults. *Brain Impairment*, 14, 381-391.

Further
Information
JCU Research Profile





Associate Professor Maria Hennessy

Associate Professor, Clinical Psychology
James Cook University (Singapore)

PhD, University of Queensland, Australia
MPsych (Clinical), University of Tasmania, Australia
BA (Hons), University of Tasmania, Australia

Background

A/Prof Hennessy is an experienced clinical neuropsychologist and clinical psychologist with a background in undergraduate and postgraduate psychology teaching, research and clinical practice. She is currently an Associate Professor in Clinical Psychology at James Cook University in Singapore. She held one of the inaugural Queensland Health Research Fellowships investigating mental health outcomes after traumatic brain injury. As a Director of Psychology in Queensland Health, and a Research Leader for Community Rehabilitation North Queensland, she has a range of experience in leadership, management and clinical roles in multidisciplinary and interprofessional teams. She was formerly Director of Professional Programs (Clinical Psychology) for James Cook University in Townsville, Australia.

Her research centres on the use of positive psychology frameworks to investigate the factors that influence health and wellbeing in the community, as well as after different types of neurological injury or mental illness. Maria is part of a global collaborative network investigating Mindfulness Based Strengths Practice (MBSP). She has a passion for the development of evidence-based theoretical frameworks to guide psychological assessment in clinical practice, with a particular focus on wellbeing.

A/Prof Hennessy's areas of expertise include the design and implementation of RCTs to investigate positive health outcomes after acquired brain injury and the development of measures to assess positive mental health. She is also adept in the integration of positive psychological assessment and intervention into clinical practice, and in theoretical assessment of executive functioning. A/Prof Hennessy's skills base extends further to the development and evaluation of Mindfulness-Based Strengths Practice and the development and implementation of outcomes measurement in health organisations.

Professional engagement

- Member, Australian Psychological Society (APS)
- Fellow, APS College of Clinical Psychologists
- Fellow, APS College of Clinical Neuropsychologists
- Registered as a Psychologist in Australia, with specialist practice endorsement in clinical psychology and clinical neuropsychology
- Member, International Positive Psychology Association

Impact of research

- Contributed to the development of efficacy, safety and efficiency guidelines for conscious sedation protocols in minor oral surgery, gastroenterological surgery and colonoscopy
- Provided an understanding of GABA-A receptor complex effects on memory processes
- Increased understanding of the effects of midazolam on memory and cognition including anterograde amnesia, working memory, declarative memory, procedural memory, information processing, word-frequency mirror effects, meta-memory and priming
- Provided an understanding of the complex nature of cognitive difficulties following post-traumatic amnesia, and support for the development of new assessment protocols that include retrograde amnesia, social communication and behavioural markers
- Increased understanding of post-traumatic amnesia, its pathophysiology, and predictive relationship with biological outcome variables including white matter microstructure changes, and plasma micro-RNA biomarkers
- Increased understanding of the role of gender and hemispheric bias in facial expression recognition

Top five publications

- Hennessy, M., Patrick, J.C. & Swinbourne, A.L. (2018). Improving the assessment of mental health using the MHI-21. *Australian Psychologist*, 53(4), 313-324.
- Marshman, L.A.G., Hennessy, M., Delle Baite, L. & Britton, G. (2018). Utility of retrograde amnesia assessment alone, compared with anterograde amnesia assessment in determining recovery after traumatic brain injury: Prospective cohort study. *World Neurosurgery*, e380-84.
- Hennessy, M. (2013). Understanding mental health outcomes following traumatic brain injury. In H. Muenchberger, E. Kendall & J. Wright (Eds.). *Health and Healing after Traumatic Brain Injury: Understanding the power of family, friends, community and other support systems*. Santa Barbara, CA: Prager.
- Marshman, L.A.G., Jakabek, D., Hennessy, M., Guazzo, E. & Quirk, F. (2013). Post-traumatic amnesia. *Journal of Clinical Neuroscience*, 20(11), 1475-81.
- Hennessy, M.J., Kirkby, K.C. & Montgomery, I.M. (1991). Comparison of the amnesic effects of midazolam and diazepam. *Psychopharmacology*, 103(4), 545-550.

Further
Information

JCU Research Profile





Associate Professor Louise Gwenneth Phillips

Associate Professor, Education
James Cook University (Singapore)

Senior Fellow Higher Education Academy
PhD Queensland University of Technology, Australia
BEd Queensland University of Technology, Australia
Dip T (Early Childhood), Macquarie University, Australia

Background

A/Prof Phillips has more than 30 years of experience working with children across various settings, as an early childhood educator, storyteller, consultant, researcher and tertiary educator. Her research interests include storytelling, children's rights and citizenship, arts and rights based pedagogies and methodologies, decolonizing methodologies, sensation and place. In the last five years, A/Prof Phillips has been a Chief Investigator on grants funded by the Queensland Department of Education and Training, the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada, and the Swedish Research Council, and she is one of 8 Australians to be a recipient of the highly prestigious Spencer Foundation New Civics Major Grants.

She has published more than 30 peer reviewed publications (most as lead author). Her co-authored book *Research through, with and as storying* (2018) with Wakka Wakka and Ngugi woman Professor Tracey Bunda is Routledge's second-best research seller in the Australia/ New Zealand region. Her newly released book, *Young Children's Community Building in Action: Embodied, Emplaced and Relational Citizenship*, is co-authored with A/Prof Jenny Ritchie, lead NZ CI on a Spencer Foundation grant, and with Indigenous educators from site communities.

A/Prof Phillips is on the board of the Gallery of Children's Art Limited (a charity providing arts-based educational programs for children), and was convenor of the Australian Association for Research in Education's Qualitative Research Methodologies Special Interest Group from 2014-2018 and Editor of *Practical Literacy: the Early and Primary Years* (one of three Australian Literacy Educators Association journals) from 2014-2017. She has supervised more than 15 higher degree research studies to completion.

Areas of expertise

- Research with young children (ethics and methodologies)
- Story-narrative based research
- Early childhood education
- Children's rights
- Storytelling
- Literacy education
- Arts education

Impact of research

- Invited by the Australian Children's Commissioner to provide a submission to contribute to the Australian Human Rights Commission report to the UN on Australia's progress on implementing the UN Conventions on the Rights of the Child
- Contracted Writer of Learning Guide and Reflection Tool for the Queensland Department of Education and Training to support Queensland primary schools in using the Australian Early Development Census (AEDC) data to plan for young children's transition to school
- Invited expert for Conversation article *Should Australia lower the voting age to 16? We asked five experts*
- Awarded 2015 Walk21 Walking Visionary Jury Prize for research collaboration of *The Walking Neighbourhood – An Interactive Tour with Children*

Top five publications

- Phillips, L.G., Ritchie, J., Dynevor, L., Lambert, J., & Moroney, K. (2019). *Young Children's Community Building in Action: Embodied, Emplaced and Relational Citizenship*. Contesting Early Childhood Series. Abingdon, OX: Routledge.
- Phillips, L.G., & Bunda, T. (2018). *Research through, with and as storying*. Abingdon, OX: Routledge.
- Phillips, L. (2013). *Storytelling as pedagogy*. *Literacy Learning: The Middle Years*, 21(2), ii-iv.
- Phillips, L. G. (2011). *Possibilities and quandaries for young children's active citizenship*. *Early Education and Development*, 22(5), 778-794.
- Phillips, L.G. (2010). *Social justice storytelling and young children's active citizenship*. *Discourse: Studies in the cultural politics of education*, 31(3), 363-376.

Further
Information

JCU Research Profile





Dr Denise Dillon

Associate Dean of Research and Research Education
Senior Lecturer, Psychology
James Cook University (Singapore)

PhD, James Cook University, Australia
GradCertEd (Tertiary Teaching), James Cook University, Australia
BPsych (Hons)/BSocSc-English Literature, James Cook University, Australia

Background

Dr Dillon is an experienced Academic Head with a demonstrated history of working in the education management industry. She is a strong higher education professional skilled in research design and data analysis, lecturing, editing and public speaking. Denise helps facilitate and promote the strategic direction of research within James Cook University in Singapore, improvements in the quality and impact of that research, and the growth of local, national and international research collaborations.

Denise was Managing Editor of the (now defunct) Journal of Tropical Psychology and served on its editorial board in addition to providing ad hoc peer reviews for a number of other journals. She has supervised upwards of 85 fourth-year research students and 14 graduate research students, and has examined upwards of 90 undergraduate theses.

Dr Dillon has strong skillsets in conceptualisation of research projects in the area of environmental psychology, particularly in nature connectedness and place attachment, and in editorial advising at both the macro and micro levels. These skillsets have resulted in successful outcomes for numerous research students. Denise also has a keen interest in the field of literature studies and ecocriticism and has published in those fields as well.

Areas of expertise

- Conceptualisation and implementation of psychology research projects
- Editorial guidance for professional academic writing
- Professional development of researcher capabilities
- Certified Nature and Forest Therapy Guide (ANFT certification # 1818009)

Impact of research

- Graduate outcomes for students under Denise's supervision include graduates employed in research-related roles at highly reputed institutions in Singapore. Employers include the Ageing Research Institute for Society and Education (ARISE at NTU), Department of Pharmacology at the Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine (NUS, MACC), the Home Team Behavioural Sciences Centre, the National Neuroscience Institute, the NTU Centre of Social Media Innovations for Communities (COSMIC), the Neurocognitive Research Centre (KKH), the Research Division of the Institute of Mental Health, the Singapore Institute for Clinical Sciences (BMSI, A*STAR), and the Singapore University of Technology and Design.

- Her literary criticism draws attention to the powerful impact of fictional works in highlighting potential outcomes for humanity. 'Footprint' explores Atwood's speculative visions of loss & extinction in cultural, linguistic, economic & ecological forms – and of altered forms of survival.
- Denise also highlights the importance of studying language processes because humans communicate with each other primarily via the written and spoken word. The influence of language on behaviour can be subtle, but should not be ignored because language use can reflect and influence the way people treat human and nonhuman animals.
- In exploring the author as biographer, Denise employed a psychoanalytic reading to interrogate and explain some of the deeper meanings to be found within the novel form.

Top five publications

- Dillon, D. (2018). "Footprint": The apocalyptic imprint of end as immanent in Atwood's *Oryx and Crake*. *eTropic*, 17(2).
- Chew, P., Dillon, D. & Swinbourne, A. (2018). An examination of the internal consistency and structure of the Statistical Anxiety Rating Scale (STARS). *PLoS ONE*, 13(3).
- Dillon, D., & Pang, J. (2017). Deer who are distant: Response congruency to relative pronouns across human and nonhuman entities. *Society & Animals*. doi: 10.1163/15685306-12341482
- Chew, P. K. H., Swinbourne, A., & Dillon, D. B. (2017). An absence of attentional bias: Statistics anxiety is unique among anxieties. *Journal of Articles in Support of the Null Hypothesis*, 13(2), 91-112.
- Dillon, D. (2016). The author as the novel self: Shirley Lim's *Sister Swing*. *Asian American Literature: Discourses & Pedagogies*, 7, 78-87.

Further
Information

JCU Research Profile





Dr Joanna Barlas

Senior Lecturer, Clinical Psychology
Chartered Clinical Psychologist
James Cook University (Singapore)

DClinPsy, University College London, UK
MSc, Glasgow Caledonian University, UK
BA (Hons), University of Oxford, UK

Background

Dr Barlas is a chartered clinical psychologist with the Health and Care Professionals Council UK. In her position at James Cook University in Singapore, she is responsible for clinical and research supervision of trainee clinical psychologists. Dr Barlas draws on five years of experience in the UK National Health Service, specialising in working with adults with severe and enduring mental health problems and offending behaviour in both inpatient secure hospitals and community settings. Her clinical knowledge covers a wide-range of presenting problems, and Dr Barlas has particular interest in trauma, psychosis and personality disorder and their links to offending behaviour. Her clinical approach and research interests lie in cognitive-behavioural approaches with a special focus on schema therapy. Dr Barlas primarily uses qualitative methodology, particularly interpretative phenomenological analysis and thematic analysis in her research, investigating topics such as the relationships between traumatic experiences, psychopathology and offending behaviour and perceptions of risk and resilience.

Areas of expertise

- Qualitative Methodology
- Forensic Psychology
- Schema Therapy

Impact of research

- Regis Residential Care Homes in Australia expanded the use of robotic seals in their lifestyle programs following the positive findings of the research
- The Ministry of Social and Family Development in Singapore used the research findings about maltreatment and resilience for service planning and resource allocation

Top five publications

- Lim, C. R., Barlas, J., & Ho, R. C. M. (2018). The effects of temperament on depression according to the schema model: A scoping review. *International journal of environmental research and public health*, 15(6), 1231.
- Go, M., Chi, M., Barlas, J. & Chng, G. (2017). The role of strengths in anger and conduct problems in maltreated adolescents. *Child Abuse and Neglect*, 67, 22-31.
- Birks, M., Bodak, M., Barlas, J., Harwood, J. & Pether, M. (2016). Robotic seals as therapeutic tools in an aged care facility: A qualitative study. *Journal of Aging*, 2016 1-7.
- Barlas, J. & Egan, V. (2006). Weapons carrying in British teenagers: The role of personality, delinquency, sensational interests, and mating effort. *Journal of Forensic Psychiatry & Psychology*, 17(1), 53-72.
- Barlas, J., Goh, A. & Ho, R. (2017). The impact of school bullying on mental health in young adulthood. Presented at the Qualitative Methods in Psychology Biennial Conference 2017. 5-7 July 2017, Aberystwyth, UK.

Further
Information

JCU Research Profile





Dr Kai Qin Chan

Senior Lecturer, Psychology
James Cook University (Singapore)

PhD, Radboud University, Nijmegen, The Netherlands
MSocSci, National University of Singapore, Singapore
BSocSci (Hons), National University of Singapore, Singapore

Background

Dr Chan is a social psychologist who is interested in the nature of emotions. His research is shaping how emotion scientists think about the functionality of emotions, particularly on our perceptual systems. Of all the emotions humans experience, Dr Chan is most fascinated by disgust. His future agenda investigates how disgust shapes different aspects of human food culture and its implications on our understanding of public health, especially in countries where hygiene standards are poor. He has supervised over 30 research students and some of them have been well-placed in competitive graduate programmes such as the University of Texas at Austin, the University of Washington at Seattle, the Free University of Amsterdam, Leiden University, and Tilburg University.

Dr Chan is also passionate about developing psychology as a scientific discipline in regional countries such as Indonesia and India. He believes that psychology has a lot to offer to society, beyond “traditional” applications such as in clinical or business settings. To that end, he set up a psychology department in India’s first liberal arts university, he has given experimental methods, academic writing, and programming workshops in Indonesia, and is currently the only non-American grant reviewer for the APS Teaching Grant.

Areas of expertise

- Functionality of emotions
- Olfactory and auditory assessments
- Programming (R, Python, Inquisit)

Impact of research

- Provided a crucial reconceptualization about the embodiment of metaphors
- Demonstrated that emotions can influence perceptual capabilities other than in vision

Top five publications

- Sparks, A., Fessler, D. M., Chan, K. Q., Holbrooks, C. C., & Ashokkumar, A. (in-press). Disgust as a mechanism for decision making under risk: Illuminating sex differences and individual risk-taking correlates of disgust propensity. *Emotion*.
- Wang, Z.-J., Kuang, Y., Chen, A., Tang, H., Yuan, B., & Chan, K. Q. (2017). Are decisions made by group representatives more risk averse? The effect of sense of responsibility. *Journal of Behavioral Decision Making*, 31, 311-323. doi:10.1002/bdm.2057
- Chan, K. Q., Holland, R. W., van Loon, R., Arts, R., & van Knippenberg, A. (2016). Disgust and fear lower olfactory threshold. *Emotion*, 16, 740-749. doi:10.1037/emo0000113
- Chan, K. Q., Tong, M. W. E., Tan, D. H., & Koh, A. H. Q. (2013). What do love and jealousy taste like? *Emotion*, 13, 1142-1149. doi:10.1037/a0033758
- Wang, Z.-J., Chan, K. Q., Chen, J.-J., Chen, A., & Wang, F. (2015). Differential impact of affective and cognitive attributes under deliberation and distraction. *Frontiers in Psychology*, 6, 1-7. doi:10.3389/fpsyg.2015.00549

Further
Information

JCU Research Profile





Dr Peter Chew

Senior Lecturer, Psychology
James Cook University (Singapore)

PhD, James Cook University, Australia
BPsych (Hons Class I), James Cook University, Australia

Background

Dr Chew completed his PhD exploration of statistics anxiety at James Cook University in 2016. He is a Primary Advisor on the James Cook University Register of Advisors and has considerable expertise in research methods and data analysis. Currently, he contributes his statistical expertise as a Secondary Advisor to four DPsych projects and one PhD project. Dr Chew is interested in (a) developing and evaluating interventions for statistics anxiety, (b) examining the prevalence and effects of racism and the Pinkerton syndrome in Singapore, and (c) evaluating the psychometric properties of psychological instruments amongst the Singaporean population. Since 2014, he has a total of 12 publications in peer-reviewed journals. He is an editorial board member for the Journal of Articles in Support of the Null Hypothesis and an ad-hoc reviewer for journals like Psychological Assessment and the Journal of Statistics Education. Dr Chew is currently a member of the Australian Psychological Society and a fellow of the Royal Statistical Society.

Areas of expertise

- Statistics anxiety
- Racism
- The Pinkerton syndrome (the tendency for Asians to discriminate in favour of Caucasians)
- Psychometrics

Impact of research

- Consolidated and evaluated the statistics anxiety literature to provide recommendations for a new research agenda
- Validated two instruments of statistics anxiety for use amongst the Singaporean population
- Highlighted the paucity of racism research in Singapore

Top five publications

- Chew, P. K. H., Dillon, D. B., & Swinbourne, A. L. (2018). An examination of the internal consistency and structure of the Statistical Anxiety Rating Scale (STARS). PLoS ONE, 13(3), e0194195. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0194195>
- Chew, P. K. H. (2018). Racism in Singapore: A review and recommendations for future research. Journal of Pacific Rim Psychology, 12, 1–9. <https://doi.org/10.1017/prp.2018.3>
- Chew, P. K. H., Swinbourne, A., & Dillon, D. B. (2017). An absence of attentional bias: Statistics anxiety is unique among anxieties. Journal of Articles in Support of the Null Hypothesis, 13(2), 91–112.
- Chew, P. K. H., & Dillon, D. B. (2014). Reliability and validity of the Statistical Anxiety Scale among students in Singapore and Australia. Journal of Tropical Psychology, 4(7), 1–7. <http://doi.org/10.1017/jtp.2014.7>
- Chew, P. K. H., & Dillon, D. B. (2014). Statistics anxiety update: Refining the construct and recommendations for a new research agenda. Perspectives on Psychological Science, 9(2), 196–208. <http://doi.org/10.1177/1745691613518077>

Further
Information

JCU Research Profile





Dr Patrick Lin

Senior Lecturer, Psychology
James Cook University (Singapore)

PhD, National University of Singapore, Singapore
MSocSci, National University of Singapore, Singapore

Background

Dr Lin joined James Cook University in Singapore in 2007 where he has served as the fourth-year psychology program coordinator and a human ethics advisor. Dr Lin has supervised almost 100 final-year undergraduate thesis projects. Several of these projects stemmed from his research expertise in the specialised areas of God Priming and interpersonal attraction. Dr Lin has strong skillsets in quantitative research methods/designs and mediation/moderation analyses. Particularly, he likes to employ interesting research techniques and measurements in addressing his research questions. These include using subliminal priming to manipulate the God concept, using the cold pressor task to measure prosociality, and using the voodoo doll task to examine revenge behaviors.

Areas of expertise

- Priming - in particular the impact of God concept priming on a) prosocial behaviour & b) the self
- Interpersonal attraction – a) mediators in the similarity attraction link & b) work-partner selection
- Research designs, techniques, and theories in social psychology
- Embodied cognition

Impact of research

- From research on priming (God concept): We found that people in general are prosocial in nature. Specifically, we found a range of prosociality from the simplest forms (i.e., donating money and volunteering time) to extreme acts (i.e., enduring self-pain for a good cause to non-related individuals). However, the most interesting fact is that, when God believers were primed with a God concept, their level of prosociality doubled in comparison to God believers who were not primed with a God concept and to non-believers.
- From research on interpersonal attraction: Together with Prof. Ramadhar Singh (the leading expert in the field of similarity attraction), we have discovered the reasons behind similarity attraction. While common believe is that affect (i.e., emotion/feeling) “controls” us to like another person who is similar to us, we found that the most important factor that facilitates the attraction link is the “trust” in you held by the other individual.

Top five publications

- Lin, P. K. F., Tong, M. W., Lee, L., Low, A. H. M., & Gomes, D. (2016). The prosocial impact of God concept priming on God believers. *Psychology of Consciousness: Theory, Research, and Practice*, 3, 93-103.
- Singh, R., Wegener, D. T., Sankaran, K., Singh, S., Lin, P. K. F., Seow, M. X., Teng, J. S. Q., & Shuli, S. (2015). On the importance of trust in interpersonal attraction from attitude similarity. *Journal of Social and Personal Relationships*, 32, 1-22.
- Singh, R., Ramasamy, M., Self, W. T., Simons, J. J. P., & Lin, P. K. F. (2013). Age-moderated effects of consequence and intent information on punishment: An intuitive prosecutorial interpretation. *Journal of Genetic Psychology*, 174, 1-24.
- Singh, R., Ng, R., Ong, E. L., & Lin, P. K. F. (2008). Different mediators for the age, sex, and attitude similarity effects in interpersonal attraction. *Basic and Applied Social Psychology*, 30, 1-17.
- Singh, R., Lin, P. K. F., Tan, L. H., & Ho, L. J. (2008). Evaluations, attitudes, and interpersonal attraction: Testing the hypothesis of weighting interference across responses. *Basic and Applied Social Psychology*, 30, 241-252.

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JCU Research Profile





Dr Bridget McConnell

Senior Lecturer, Psychology
James Cook University (Singapore)

PhD (Cognitive and Behavioral Sciences), Binghamton University, USA
MSc (Cognitive and Behavioral Sciences), Binghamton University, USA
BA (Psychology), Texas Lutheran University, USA

Background

Dr McConnell's research on experimental psychopathology lies at the intersection of cognition, learning and behavior, experimental psychology, and clinical psychology. Her research spans from investigating memory retrieval cues to produce more robust extinction learning (i.e., exposure therapy learning), to studying cognitive techniques to reduce pain perception, to using multiple contexts in a virtual reality environment to learn how to minimize the potential for relapse after exposure therapy. Dr McConnell's research is primarily experimental, but she is also leading a meta-analysis on the effectiveness of animal-assisted interventions, and she supervises and conducts research that incorporates statistical mediation and structural equation modeling analyses. Dr McConnell is experienced working with rodent (Sprague Dawley rat) and human subjects. She is passionate about doing research that is innovative and has real world applications. She also enjoys working with students to help them develop research skills.

Areas of expertise

- Associative learning (classical and instrumental conditioning)
- Experimental psychopathology
- Anxiety and stress
- Retrieval cues/Extinction cues
- Context effects
- Retrieval-induced forgetting

Impact of research

- Improved understanding of extinction processes and application to exposure therapy and relapse from exposure therapy.
- Knowledge gained through quantitative analysis of the actual effectiveness of animal-assisted interventions relative to other psychosocial behavioral interventions can help inform

practitioners and clients of whether the cost of implementing an animal-based treatment is worth the benefit relative to more standard and easier interventions. It also helps to inform which populations would most benefit from an animal-assisted intervention.

- Demonstrated that, for most people, distraction from pain can help reduce the amount of pain perceived. This knowledge can be applied to clinical or medical settings. However, the distraction effect is moderated by pain-related trait anxiety. This research suggests that, counterintuitively, people who are especially fearful of pain would benefit more from focusing on the pain instead of being distracted from it.
- Demonstrated that a short and convenient mindfulness technique can reduce daily stress. This 3-minute technique can be learned in half an hour and practiced by anyone at any time. It was shown to reduce self-reported daily stress relative to a control group.

Top five publications

- Miguez, G., McConnell, B. L., Polack, C. W., & Miller, R. R. (2018). Proactive interference by cues presented without outcomes: Differences in context specificity of latent inhibition and conditioned inhibition. *Learning & Behavior*, 1-16.
- McConnell, B. L., & Miller, R. R. (2014). Associative accounts of recovery-from-extinction effects. *Learning and Motivation*, 46, 1-15.
- McConnell, B. L., Miguez, G., & Miller, R. R. (2013). Extinction with multiple excitators. *Learning & Behavior*, 41, 119-137.
- Polack, C., McConnell, B. L., & Miller, R. R. (2013). Association foundation of causal learning in rats. *Learning & Behavior*, 41, 25-41.
- Laborda, M. L., McConnell, B. L., & Miller (2011). Behavioral techniques to reduce relapse after exposure therapy: Applications of studies of experimental extinction. In T. R. Schachtman & S. Reilly (Eds.), *Applications of conditioning theory* (pp. 79-103). Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press.

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JCU Research Profile





Dr Smita Singh

Senior Lecturer, Psychology
James Cook University (Singapore)

PhD (Psychology), National University of Singapore, Singapore
MPhil, Indian Institute of Technology Bombay, India

Background

Dr Singh's current research focuses on decision making in relation to prosocial behaviour. When are people likely to help? What prosocial decisions do people make while they are in different social environments? What are the cognitive processes underlying prosocial decision-making? These are some of the core questions that drive her current research, and therefore through her research, Dr Singh aims to address numerous conundrums in her field. Most of her projects explore the determinants of helping behaviour (like personality, task difficulty or resources) and focuses on finding how prosocial behaviour could be encouraged (priming).

Dr Singh is also passionately involved in research linked to attitude similarity, interpersonal relationships, and social judgment. In collaboration with colleagues at the National University of Singapore and the Indian Institute of Management, and through data collected at James Cook University in Singapore, Dr Singh explored mediational links between similar attitudes and interpersonal attraction.

Dr Singh received her PhD in Psychology from the National University of Singapore in 2010. In her doctoral research, she studied the effects of psychological distance on construal and judgment of organizational leaders. She joined James Cook University in Singapore in August 2009 and, since then, has been actively involved in teaching, supervision and doing collaborative and independent research. She received the best research paper award at the Asian Congress of Applied Psychology 2015 in Singapore.

Areas of expertise

- Judgment and decision-making model of prosocial behaviour
- Applying social cognitive principles to understand leadership
- Understanding the Indian model of leadership
- Student motivation, engagement, and evaluation of different teaching styles
- Interpersonal relationship and universal dimensions of judgments

Impact of research

- Developed follower centric approaches to understand the perception of leaders and its determinants. Her doctoral and

post-doctoral research successfully applied the socio-cognitive principle (Construal Level Theory) in understanding leader behaviour in an organizational setting.

- Examined the role of interpersonal trust in relationship formation among the peoples of the tropic. Developed a statistically tested mediational model of attitude similarity and interpersonal attraction and primarily established the centrality of trust in relationship formation. Research in the field of interpersonal trust has gained considerable attention in both organisational and social psychology.
- Establishing a measure of prosocial behaviour and finding ways to enhance prosocial behaviour. Research in this field has numerous positive societal implications. Current research therefore contributes to the understanding of moral character and in improving prosocialness.

Top five publications

- Singh, S. Understanding the Indian worker: Role of Indian thought and Indian Psychology. Forthcoming. In W. W. Li, D. Hodgetts, & K. H. Foo (eds), *Asia-Pacific Perspectives on Intercultural Psychology*, Routledge.
- Singh, R., Wegener, D. T., Sankaran, K., Singh, S., Lin, P. K-F., Seow, M. X., Teng, J. S. Q., & Shuli, S. (2015). On the importance of trust in interpersonal attraction from attitude similarity. *Journal of Social and Personal Relationships*, 32 (6), 829-850.
- Singh, S., & Teoh, V.Y. (2014) Enhancing prosocial behavior among college students: Exploring the role of abstract mindset. *International Journal of Law and Social Sciences*, 3, 28-32.
- Singh, S. (2013) Perception and metaperception of leaders: Trust and respect as mediators. In: J. Zhang, Y. Yang, L. Liu, & M. Zhou (eds.) *Towards Social Harmony: A New Mission in Asian Social Psychology*. Progress in Asian Social Psychology Series, 9. Education Science Publishing House, 5-23.
- Singh, R., Simons, J. J. P., Young, D. P. C. Y., Sim, B. S. X., Chai, X. T., Singh, S., & Chiou, S. Y. (2009). Trust and respect as mediators of the other- and self-profitable trait effects on interpersonal attraction. *European Journal of Social Psychology*, 39, 1021-1038.

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JCU Research Profile





Dr Lidia Suárez

Senior Lecturer, Psychology
James Cook University (Singapore)

PhD National University of Singapore, Singapore
MSocSci National University of Singapore, Singapore
MBA Polytechnic University of Catalonia, Spain
BPsych Autonomous University of Barcelona, Spain

Background

Dr Suárez has conducted research in the areas of word recognition, lexical stress, bilingualism, and working memory for the past 15 years. In recent years, she has expanded her research interests to areas such as quality of life and mindfulness, and has conducted validation studies of several psychometric tools in Singapore. Dr Suárez has supervised to completion more than 40 thesis projects at undergraduate and postgraduate levels. She is an ad-hoc reviewer for journals such as PLOS ONE, Behavioral Research Methods, Psychology of Music, Language Awareness, and the Spanish Journal of Psychology.

Areas of expertise

- Word recognition
- Lexical stress
- Bilingualism
- Working memory and executive function
- Validation of psychometric tools
- Software (E-Prime, SPSS, AMOS)

Impact of research

- Showed that alphabetic languages are predominantly represented in phonological form in memory, while logographic languages are represented in both phonemic and visual codes
- Showed that the effects of word frequency during word recognition are critical when there is relatively little competition between similar-sounding words
- Demonstrated that second-language proficiency is associated with conceptual restructuring
- Showed that foreign-language lexical-stress patterns are encoded in memory and used during foreign word recognition
- Provided evidence of the positive association of music training with visual-motor coordination and visuospatial memory skills
- Validated the World Health Organization WHOQOL-BREF Quality of Life Assessment and the Interpersonal Needs Questionnaire in Singapore. These can be used to measure intervention outcomes and plan services aimed to increase quality of life and decrease the risk of suicidal behaviour, respectively.

Top five publications

- Suárez, L., Tay, B., & Abdullah, F. (2018). Psychometric properties of the World Health Organization WHOQOL-BREF Quality of Life Assessment in Singapore. *Quality of Life Research*, 27(11), 2945-2952. doi:10.1007/s11136-018-1947-8
- Teo, D. C. H., Suárez, L., & Oei, T. P. S. (2018). Validation of the interpersonal needs questionnaire of young male adults in Singapore. *PLOS ONE*, 1-9, doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0198839
- Goh, W. D., Suárez, L., & Yeo, K. (2014). Uncovering bilingual memory representations. In H. Winkler & P. Padakanya (Eds.). *South and Southeast Asian psycholinguistics* (pp. 305-314). Cambridge, England: Cambridge University Press
- Suárez, L., & Goh, W. D. (2013). Recognition memory for foreign language lexical stress. *Memory & Cognition*, 41(6), 872-885. doi: 10.3758/s13421-013-0305-x
- Suárez, L., Tan, S. H., Yap, M. J., & Goh, W. D. (2011). Observing neighborhood effects without neighbors. *Psychonomic Bulletin & Review*, 18(3), 605-611. doi: 10.3758/s13423-011-0078-9

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JCU Research Profile





Dr Ai Ni Teoh

Senior Lecturer, Psychology
James Cook University (Singapore)

PhD (Health and Social Psychology), North Dakota State University, USA
MSocSci (by Research), National University of Singapore, Singapore
BSc (Psychology), National Taiwan University, Taiwan, ROC

Background

Dr Teoh completed her PhD in 2015. During her PhD studies, she received a Graduate Assistantship and Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship. After being awarded her PhD, Dr Teoh joined Heriot-Watt University (Malaysia Campus) as an Assistant Professor before joining James Cook University in Singapore as a Senior Lecturer in 2018.

Dr Teoh is a researcher in health and social psychology. Her research focuses mainly on psychological and cardiovascular responses to stress, and hence she develops two specific lines of research. In one line of research, she examines the social comforting and social encouragement effects of social support in response to stress. In a related line of research, she focuses on the benefits of online social support. Her Master's and PhD dissertations both focused on social support effects on cardiovascular responses to stress. At Heriot-Watt University Malaysia, she received a research grant from the Ministry of Higher Education, Malaysia, to conduct a project that investigated the stress responses and well-being of women leaders. In addition to her main research focus, Dr Teoh has developed research interest in energy behavior and attitudes toward renewable energy. She has been collaborating with engineers on several research grants related to techno-psychosocial implications of renewable energy.

Areas of expertise

- Cardiovascular and psychological responses to stress
- Social encouragement and social comforting effects of social support
- Online social support
- Energy behaviors
- Attitudes toward renewable energy

Impact of research

- Broadened the way we define social support and its psychophysiological links, improved social support laboratory research, and provided an alternative way to explain the ways social support affects cardiac health
- Provided a model which explains how social support could have varied effects on cardiovascular reactivity. This model can be broadly applied in real world situations. Depending on task engagement level, social support may comfort its recipients to reduce (or disengage from) an unhealthy behaviour, such as smoking, and encourage its recipients to increase (or engage in) a healthy behaviour and follow treatment regimens.

- Provided understanding of the conditionality of the benefits of online social support. This helps in customizing online social support provision or programs to meet support recipients' social needs.
- Highlighted the importance of improving the public's energy behaviors in conjunction with the global commitment of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 2050
- Demonstrated the public's attitudes toward individual installation and large-scale implementations of renewable energy

Top five publications

- Teoh, A. N., & Hilmert, C. J. (2018). Social support as a comfort and an encouragement: A systematic review on the contrasting effects of social support on cardiovascular reactivity. *British Journal of Health Psychology*. doi: 10.1111/bjhp.12337
- Hilmert, C. J., Kvasnicka-Gates, L., Teoh, A. N., Bresin, K., & Fiebigler, S. (2016). Major flood related strains and pregnancy outcomes. *Health Psychology*, 35, 1189-1196. doi: 10.1037/hea0000386
- Teoh, A. N., Chong, L. X., Yip, C. C. E., Lee, P. S. H., & Wong, J. W. K. (2015). Gender as moderator of the effects of online social support from friends and strangers: A study of Singaporean college students. *International Perspectives in Psychology: Research, Practice, Consultation*, 4, 254-266. doi: 10.1037/ipp000004
- Hilmert, C. J., Teoh, A. N., & Roy, M. M. (2014). Effort moderates the association between negative affect and cardiovascular responses to stress. *Psychology and Health*, 29(1), 64-80. doi:10.1080/08870446.2013.825917
- Teoh, A. N., Chia, M. S. C., & Virasamy, M. (2009). The comparison between active and passive types of social support: The emotional responses. *Journal of Applied Biobehavioral Research*, 14, 90-102. doi: 10.1111/j.1751-9861.2009.00042.x

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JCU Research Profile





Dr Divjyot Kaur

Lecturer, Psychology
James Cook University (Singapore)

PhD, National University of Singapore, Singapore
MSocSc (Applied Psychology), National University of Singapore, Singapore
MEd, Punjab University, India
MSc (Child Development), Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda, India

Background

Dr Divjyot Kaur served as an Ethics Advisor for more than 3 years, and is currently a Member of James Cook University's Human Ethics and Research Committee. Dr Kaur has been in the field of education for the past 20 years, teaching at various educational levels. She specialised in Child Development in India, and has previously worked closely with children with developmental disorders in Special Education school settings and through her clinical work at a local hospital.

Dr Kaur's doctorate research focused on ethnic differences in cardiovascular reactivity (CVR) to stress. She examined differences in CVR across Chinese, Malay, and Indian participants in Singapore and found that Indians showed highest CVR.

Her current research interests involve various stress-related topics such as differentiated responses to stress and emotion across cultures, acculturation and its relation to physical health conditions, job stress and its implications in globally diverse organisations, and psychosocial interventions for stress and anger management. Caregiver stress is an often overlooked area as the focus of research tends to be on individuals with mental illness. Dr Kaur is examining caregiver stress among parents of children with developmental disorders as well as aspects that lead to the breakdown of the caregiving process as individuals with developmental disorders transition to adulthood. Dr Kaur draws on the definition of mental well-being itself as an additional driver of her research. This construct has been elaborated upon extensively in literature, but there are often overlaps in these definitions and the measures used for examining mental well-being.

Areas of expertise

- Stress and cardiovascular reactivity across ethnicity
- Stress and executive function
- Acculturative stress among international students
- Developmental disorders and parental stress
- Workplace stress and burnout
- Stress and mental well-being

Impact of research

- Demonstrated the importance of vocational identity development in undergraduate students' learning, and suggested a need for more identity interventions or career counselling services in college and pre-university contexts.

- Revealed differences in CVR among ethnic groups in Singapore as well as between Indians living in India and those living in Singapore. These differences may reflect cultural differences and need to be explored further with respect to their relationship to different rates of coronary heart disease among these groups.
- The successful intervention for CABG patients has direct implications for focused interventions that lead to reduced incidence of cardiac events during post-operative recovery and overall positive outcomes for heart disease patients.

Top publications

- Wong, Z. & Kaur, D. (2018). The role of vocational identity development and motivational beliefs in undergraduates' student engagement. *Counselling Psychology Quarterly*, 31(3), 294-316. doi.org/10.1080/09515070.2017.1314249
- Kaur, D. & Bishop, G. (2013). Cardiovascular responses to stress in Singapore and India. *International Journal of Psychophysiology*, 87(2), 130-140. doi.org/10.1016/j.ijpsycho.2012.11.011
- Bishop, G. D., Kaur, D., Tan, V. L. M., Chua, Y. L. Liew, S. M. & Mak K. H. (2005). Effects of a psychosocial skills training workshop on psychophysiological and psychosocial risk in patients undergoing coronary artery bypass grafting. *American Heart Journal*, 150(3), 602-609. doi:10.1016/j.ahj.2004.10.015

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JCU Research Profile





Dr Adam Wang

Lecturer, Psychology
James Cook University (Singapore)

PhD, Curtin University, Australia
BSc (Hons) University of Western Australia, Australia

Background

Dr Adam Wang joined James Cook University in Singapore in 2018. Dr Wang is an early career researcher coming from a social cognition background. His current research entails classic experimental social cognition topics such as embodied cognition, revenge, and social exclusion. In addition, Dr Wang has published a meta-analysis on ironic effects of thought suppression, and is hoping to initiate a multi-lab pre-registered replication of this fundamental social cognition phenomenon.

Areas of expertise

- Ironic effects of mental control
- Embodied cognition
- Social exclusion
- Meta-analysis

Impact of research

- Correcting misleading conclusions from existing meta-analytical research in the domain of thought suppression by showing the manifestation of ironic effects under cognitive load
- Delineating boundary conditions for effective thought suppression under conditions of cognitive load
- Establishing memories that reflect psychological need fulfilment as more satisfying and immersive to think about than 'ordinary' pleasant memories

Top five publications

- Wang, D., Hagger, M. S., & Chatzisarantis, N. L. D. (in press). Ironic effects of thought suppression – A meta-analysis. *Perspectives on Psychological Science*.
- Wang, D., Chatzisarantis, N. L. D., & Hagger, M. S. (2018). Why distractors with need-supportive content can mitigate ironic effects of thought suppression. *Motivation and Emotion*, 42, 214-224. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11031-017-9653-3>
- Chatzisarantis, N. L. D., Ada, E., Ahmadi, M., Caltabiano, N., Wang, D., Thøgersen-Ntoumani, C., & Hagger, M. S. (2019). Differential effects of perceptions of equal, favourable and unfavourable autonomy support on educational and well-being outcomes. *Contemporary Educational Psychology*, 58, 33-43. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cedpsych.2019.02.002>
- Wang, D., Chatzisarantis, N. L. D., & Hagger, M. S. (2017). Mechanisms underlying effective thought suppression using focused-distraction strategies: a self-determination theory approach. *Psychology of Consciousness: Theory, Research, and Practice*, 4, 367-380. <https://doi.org/10.1037/cns0000138>
- Chatzisarantis, N. L. D., Yli-Piipari, S., Schriefer, L., Wang, D., Barkoukis, V., & Hagger, M. S. (2019). Is the relationship between physical activity intentions and behaviour convex? A test across 13 studies. *Psychology of Sport and Exercise*, 43, 114-122. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.psychsport.2019.01.013>

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