

CSULB 2009/2010

Faculty Thesis Areas

Courtney E. Ahrens

I am broadly interested in community psychology and the psychology of women. My research focuses on violence against women (e.g., sexual assault, domestic violence) with an emphasis on the impact social reactions have on survivors' physical and psychological health, the role of activism and community involvement on recovery, and the development and evaluation of prevention and intervention programs by community-based crisis centers.

James H. Amirkhan

Stress and coping, health psychology, attribution theory. As a Personality psychologist, I am particularly interested in individual differences in the above domains - e.g., the person-related that lead one person to confront a stressor and another to avoid it. My current research on Korean immigrants examines acculturative, attributional and behavioral sources of their stress and pathology.

Young-Hee Cho

1) Time orientation/perspective among elders; 2) The interplay of cognition and affect.

Chi-Ah Chun
(willing to accept one student who wants to get involved in the Korean immigrant stress study)

My broad area of research interest is in minority mental health. Currently, I have two active research programs. The first one examines the role of cultural values and attribution in the stress and coping process in Korean immigrants. The second study investigates how cultural beliefs influence coping with symptoms of PTSD in Cambodian refugees.

Martin S. Fiebert

1) Interracial dating and interracial relationships; 2) Men as victims of domestic violence; 3) Transpersonal psychology and meditation

Dennis G. Fisher

Areas of interest include the following: Drug Abuse, Substance Abuse and Infectious Disease, Reliability and Validity Studies, Cluster Analysis, Survival Analysis, Logistic Regression, and Clinical Trials. My publications have mostly been in the area of drug abuse, hepatitis and needle exchange, with a secondary interest in psychometrics. Dr. Fisher's divisional affiliations within the American Psychological Association are: Division 5, Evaluation, Measurement & Statistics; Division 38, Health Psychology; and Division 50, Addiction.

- William Kelemen I have interests in several areas of memory and cognition. Much of my research has focused on people's ability to monitor and control their own cognitive processes (a process known as "metacognition," which is sometimes described as "what you know about what you know"). Metacognition is important in many areas of psychology and I have worked on diverse projects recently, including (a) the effects of caffeine on cognition and metacognition, (b) drug expectancy effects (especially regarding caffeine and nicotine) and individuals' beliefs about their memory, and (c) prospective memory (memory for future intentions).
- Diane Lee Primary areas of interest: Psychology of Learning, Biological Psychology, and Cognitive Ethology. Specifically, my research efforts address the role that the birth of new neurons (neurogenesis) plays in learning and memory using birds as the primary animal model. By integrating techniques, research can range from field and laboratory investigations of learning to the neurobiology mediating learning and memory formation. The research is currently directed along three basic lines of inquiry. First, when and where in the avian brain does adult neurogenesis occur? Second, what types of learning experiences and/or fluctuations in hormone levels influence the rate at which neurogenesis occurs and the direction new neurons take? And third, how does neurogenesis influence subsequent learning and memory?
- Kevin B. MacDonald I am interested in developmental research with children in virtually any area of social and personality development. I am also interested in personality research on adults as well as any area of research related to evolutionary perspectives on psychology.
- Lisa M. Maxfield My formal training is as a cognitive neuropsychologist with emphasis in human memory as well as language processing capacities as they are instantiated across the two cerebral hemispheres of the human brain. My primary interest in human memory has evolved to include how humans learn as well. I am now pursuing these interests in applied settings, rather than as basic research. As CSULB's General Education Coordinator, my research is looking at issues of student achievement in college, including how faculty can facilitate learning and engagement in college classrooms. The research has significance for understanding issues of teaching and learning, specifically educational effectiveness of teaching practices and what types of learning experiences best serve college students.
- Hannah-Hanh Nguyen (IO only) Dr. Nguyen's active research programs include projects on hiring discrimination during a resume-screening process and how to reduce raters' prejudice, and projects on job seekers' proactive use of online social networking sites. Her other research interests include the effect of stereotype threat on minorities' test performance, test takers' use of helpful test-taking strategies, and Asian entrepreneurship. She also collaborates with international scholars to conduct workplace-related studies.

- William C. Pedersen My research is primarily focused on factors that impact aggressive behavior and violence. I am interested in a variety of personality factors including trait rumination, narcissism, impulsivity, attachment style, and religiosity. I have also investigated a variety of situational factors that impact aggression including rumination, social support, power restoration, alcohol priming, and drug use. A related line of research investigates the impact of trait displaced aggression on romantic relationships, life satisfaction, and both mental and physical health. Finally, I have smaller research programs in the areas of both intergroup relations and evolutionary psychology (specifically gender differences in mating strategies).
- Sherry A. Span My research to date has focused on the relation among the following:
1. Risk factors associated with alcohol/substance abuse
2. Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD)
3. Clinical Neuropsychology
- Thomas Z. Strybel Auditory/Visual Space Perception
Auditory/Visual Displays
- Robert E. Thayer Interests: Mood, including psychological and physiological connections. Particular interests include relationships between mood and exercise, food, health, stress, biological cycles, and self-perception. Also of interest is self-regulation of mood, and especially associations with drugs, food, and exercise. Negative mood states such as moderate depression and positive mood states such as calm-energy are of interest as well. Note particularly Thayer's three books: *The Biopsychology of Mood and Arousal* (Oxford Univ Press, 1989), *The Origin of Everyday Moods* (Oxford Univ Press, 1996), and *Calm Energy: How People Regulate Mood with Food and Exercise* (Oxford Univ Press, 2003). More information on web site: www.csulb.edu/~thayer
- Dustin Thoman My research focuses on how individuals develop and maintain motivation (particularly for long-term pursuits), and how this motivation is influenced by the individual's social context. More specifically, I aim to understand the social nature of intrinsic motivation, the development of interests and integration of interests into identity, and how stereotypes and discrimination influence interest, motivation, and choices. This program of research relates to several topics, including: intrinsic motivation, development of interest, stereotypes and social stigmas, self-regulation, development of self and identity, attributions, and evaluation. Although much of my research occurs in the lab, I am passionate about the applied aspect of this research, as well as how these processes function across cultures. My training is grounded in social psychology, but my research interests also strongly overlap with developmental and educational psychology.

Guido Urizar

My research in the area of Clinical & Health Psychology has focused on examining psychosocial, behavioral, and physiological factors associated with mental and physical health outcomes. The primary objective of this research is to identify groups that are at-risk for chronic health problems and to develop and test community-based interventions that are designed to promote chronic disease prevention and management in low-income, ethnic minority, and other medically underserved populations. Specific areas of my research include examining the impact of stress and its biomarkers (e.g., cortisol) on health, identifying risk factors for adverse maternal and infant health outcomes, and evaluating the efficacy of health behavior programs (e.g., exercise, nutrition, stress management) on preventing stress-related disorders. For more information about my PRO-Health research group, please refer to the following web site: <http://www.csulb.edu/~gurizar>

Kim-Phuong Vu

Cognition, Human Performance, Human Factors, and Human-Computer Interaction: One area of my research focuses on the topic of action selection. Action selection refers to how a speeded decision is made regarding which action to take in response to perceptual events. One of the major factors affecting efficiency of action selection is stimulus-response compatibility (SRC), or the mapping of stimulus (or display) elements to responses (or controls). Studies of SRC effects have been a valuable tool to study automatic and intentional processes associated with the response selection that intervene between perception and action. In addition, research in the area of action selection has implications for how displays and controls should be organized and mapped in order to achieve efficient performance, with minimal errors. The other area of my research focuses on more directly on human factors (designing products for human use) and human-computer interaction. My work in this area includes use of metacognitive judgments to predict computer expertise and human factors issues in Web design, computer security, and Web privacy.

Christopher Warren

The domains of research I am current investigating can be roughly grouped into three categories: affect, performance, and psychometrics. My work on affect, or affectivity, investigates the various predispositions that shape the way we view our environment and interpret our work settings, along with more momentary job related affective reactions to workplace environments. Another area of interest for me includes individual performance, especially regarding both internal and external determinants of self regulation, and how those translate into worker safety behaviors. Finally, my work in psychometrics, or the study of psychological measurement, focuses on reliability, or test consistency, and how this effects things such as agreement indices, and be effected by test length and mood.

David J. Whitney

1. Personnel selection and Employment testing
 - Effectiveness of interview coaching
 - Applicant perceptions of selection systems
 - Test-taking response strategies
2. Program Evaluation
 - Formative and summative evaluation using quantitative and qualitative approaches

Bianca Wilson

My general areas of research are sexual behavior, sexual health and health promotion research. I study the role of culture, oppression and identity in health behaviors and health care access. My current project is a qualitative study of Black lesbian sexual culture and sexual health care access.

Art Zavala

Areas of interests include animal models of drug addiction and developmental neuropsychopharmacology. Specifically, my research investigates the short- and long-term neurochemical and behavioral effects of exposure to psychostimulant drugs across development (neonatal, adolescence, and adulthood), as well as determine the impact that early exposure to drugs may have on the susceptibility to abuse drugs later in life.