

Spring 2009 MAPR Faculty Mentor List

The following CSULB Psychology Department faculty have agreed to consider serving as faculty mentors and taking MA-Psychological Research (MAPR) students into their research labs, as space availability allows for Spring 2009. This list should be used to complete Part D of the special Spring 2009 MAPR application (see page 2 below for research interest areas).

A list of faculty for the Fall 2009 application period will be published at a later date. Please check the department web site for updates.

Young-Hee Cho
Chi-Ah Chun
David Dowell
Martin Fiebert
Dennis Fisher
Diane Lee
Kevin MacDonald
William Pedersen
Sherry Span
Robert Thayer
Dustin Thoman
Guido Urizar
Bianca Wilson

Spring 09 Faculty Research Interest Areas for MAPR Faculty Mentor List

Young-Hee Cho: Judgment and decision-making; The interplay of cognition and affect; Time orientation/perspective.

Chi-Ah Chun: 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.

David Dowell: program evaluation, psychology and social issues, applied social, social policy, organizational, social identity theory and community psych. www.csulb.edu/~ddowell/ or www.csulb.edu/divisions/aa/planning_enrollment/

Martin Fiebert: Interracial dating; meditation; men as victims of domestic violence.

Dennis 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.

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 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.

William Pedersen: I have 2 general interest areas: (1) the factors that impact aggressive behavior (specifically displaced aggression), and (2) an evolutionary perspective on gender differences in mating preferences and strategies. More detailed information on each of these topics is available on my website: www.csulb.edu/~wpederse

Sherry 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

Robert 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: I have always been curious about how and why people come to develop interest and motivation for specific academic domains, careers, and other lifelong pursuits. Through research I aim to understand how individuals develop and maintain motivation, including how motivation is influenced by proximal (e.g., relationships, interpersonal interactions) and distal (e.g., culture, stereotypes) factors in one's social context. I am interested in understanding 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.

My current research focuses on how subtle forms of modern discrimination affect the development of activity and career interest for stigmatized individuals. This research is a natural outgrowth of two lines of work: one of which focuses on the effects of unfair and gender-biased feedback on students' interest and motivation, and the other focuses on the role of social interactions (e.g. conversations) in interest development. Each of my specific lines of research contribute to understanding, from different angles, the more general question of how individuals develop and maintain motivation, particularly for long-term pursuits, and how this motivation is influenced by the individual's social context. This program of research directly encompasses several literatures 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. Thus, my training is grounded in social psychology, but my research interests also strongly overlap with developmental and educational psychology.

Guido Urizar: Dr. Urizar's research in the area of Health Psychology has focused on examining psychosocial, behavioral, and physiological factors associated with mental and physical health outcomes. A number of grants from NIH, and other Federal and State agencies have supported this work. Specific areas of his research include cardiovascular disease prevention and recovery, examining the efficacy of behavioral medicine in hospital- and community-based settings, impact of stress on health outcomes and health behaviors, predictors of maternal and infant health development, and psychoneuroendocrinology. The primary objective of his research has been to identify at-risk groups 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.

Bianca Wilson: My general areas of research are sexual health and health promotion research. I study the role of culture, oppression and identity in health behaviors and health care access. I primarily work within ethnic and sexual minority communities, and am particularly interested in the strategies we use to incorporate knowledge about a community's culture into the development of health programs.