<table>
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<tr>
<th>Faculty Name</th>
<th>Thesis Areas</th>
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<td>Courtney E. Ahrens</td>
<td>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.</td>
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<td>James H. Amirkhan</td>
<td>Health psychology, stress and coping, attribution theory. I am particularly interested in individual differences in the above domains -- e.g., the personality factors that lead one person to confront a stressor and another to avoid it.</td>
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<td>Dan Chiappe</td>
<td>Areas of interest: Higher cognition, especially metaphor comprehension. My metaphor research examines the processes of comparison and categorization used to understand figurative language. I am currently looking into working memory functions that are involved in metaphor comprehension. I am also interested in evolutionary approaches to higher cognition, particularly in the issue of modularity.</td>
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<td>Young-Hee Cho</td>
<td>1) Time orientation/perspective among elders; 2) The interplay of cognition and affect.</td>
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<td>Chi-Ah Chun</td>
<td>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.</td>
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<td>(willing to accept one student who wants to get involved in the Korean immigrant stress study)</td>
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Two areas -- First, parenting issues with emphasis on fathers/fathering. The second area pertains to sports and athletic activities, particularly dealing with performance enhancement.

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

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.

Recent work has focused on the conditioned place preference paradigm in rats as a model of the learning processes that may be involved in the development of cravings, particularly in drug addicts, but also seen in people who have trouble giving up cigarettes, sweets and so on. My emphasis has been on drugs that block an established craving.

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).

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)

I am broadly interested in workplace diversity and/or discrimination and cross-cultural I/O psychology issues. My recent research interests include prejudice against nappers in the workplace, stereotype threat effects on cognitive ability test performance, international discriminatory practices, and multiple-choice test test-taking strategies. My current research projects include discriminatory hiring decisions in a personnel selection context and Asian, Asian-American and/or immigrant entrepreneurship.

William C. 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: (http://www.csulb.edu/~wpederse).

Sara W. Smith

Cognition and Psycholinguistics: Shared knowledge and its effects on the production and comprehension of language; the psychology of conversations.

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

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.

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.
The domains of research I am currently 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 affects things such as agreement indices, and is 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 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.

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.