

**Dissertation
Supervision
Booklet
2019-2020**

Dissertation Supervision: Dr Paul Hutchings

My research expertise is in areas of social and political psychology, particularly around issues of prejudice and discrimination and emotion perception. My preferred method of investigation is with experimental or quasi-experimental methods using either online or lab-based methodology with high levels of control and distinct research questions/hypotheses that are clearly defined and explored.

I will be putting together two groups of up to four students to carry out research into areas of investigation that I will have more input into (and these have been set out in previous emails):

1. Exploration of Symbolic and Realistic Prejudice, also known as Integrated Threat Theory (Stephan & Stephan, 2000).
 - a. I will be looking for one student to carry out online measures research of ITT relating to issues of nationalism.
 - b. Another student will examine the relationship between ITT and face/emotion perception using lab stimuli
 - c. A third student will examine links between ITT and the Brexit debate, most likely using other online measures alongside secondary data analysis
 - d. A fourth student will examine links between ITT and approach/avoidance measures for cultural artefacts and symbols using lab stimuli
2. Exploration of emotion and face perception. All four of these tasks are likely to be based in the lab due to the nature of the research.
 - a. The first study will examine in-group bias effects in face perception recognition paradigms
 - b. The second study will examine in-group bias effects in inversion tasks
 - c. The third study will examine identification with distractor tasks
 - d. The fourth study will involve the use of holistic and configural encoding in face/emotion perception tasks

The guidance I will provide in terms of supervision for these group tasks will, by its very nature, be both different and more in-depth. Whilst you will not have more hours of supervision you will have a greater level of expertise brought to bear on the research project than you would in individual, unrelated projects. A second benefit to being part of one of these group projects is that bringing related dissertation topics together produces stronger data and is more likely to lead to conference/journal publications from the resulting studies;

for any student hoping to go on into postgraduate routes this is therefore highly advantageous.

I am also prepared to supervise any research project that falls within my broad remit of political and/or social psychology **provided** it is clearly set out in a high quality research proposal (and I will be the sole judge of whether a proposal meets the standards I expect). The onus will be upon you as the student to convince me that your project is worthwhile for me to supervise.

Dissertation Supervision: Dr Kate Williams

Broad area of research: Cognitive Psychology

Two Specific Topic Areas:

1. Object Memory and Attention:

Happy to discuss any research involving the mechanisms/conditions relating to remembering and/or forgetting. Particularly if these have links to work involving the retrieval-induced forgetting (RIF) paradigm and/or work relating to the binding of shape and colour information in long-term episodic memory. Other areas within the object memory and attention research could include:

- Object contamination and memory: Are objects linked to a disease through touch better remembered than objects not linked to disease? (Fernandes et al., 2017)
- Visual Memory: Does drawing concrete and non-concrete concepts lead to better memory? (Many studies by Wammes and colleagues)
- Sleep and Memory consolidation: impact on foreign language colour word Stroop. (Geukes et al., 2015).
- Attentional bias and chronic pain: Do people with chronic pain have an attentional bias towards or away from pain related information? (Could also use eye-tracker).
- Inattentive blindness: Link to eyewitness memory (Hyman et al., 2018)
 - Or Inattentive deafness/numbness/anosmia (Lots by Murphy & Dalton)
- Effects of local and global processing, and emotion on expanding visual attention (Bendall & Thompson, 2015)

2. Driving simulator studies

Research in this area could focus on a range of aspects related to driving, including links to emotional and/or cognitive mechanisms (decision making/performance). A range of different equipment could also be used alongside the driving simulator, such as the eye-tracker or physiological measures. Specific areas using the driving simulator could focus on:

- Impact of auditory, visual, & tactile warnings on arousal whilst driving.
- Sensory perceived quality in automobile design (link to smell, touch, etc.).
- Environmental factors linked to automobile showroom design.
- The impact of biofeedback from vehicles whilst driving.
- Impact of semi-automated cars on attentional allocation whilst driving.
 - "Out-of-the-loop" in automated driving (Merat et al., 2018)

Dissertation Supervision: Stacey Coleman

Happy to supervise students wishing to use quantitative or qualitative methodologies, but there must be a strong and solid qualitative research question, and the qualitative methodology is used because it is the best methodology.

1. Addictive behaviours

- a. Gambling, work, exercise, gaming

Welcome research questions in the areas of: (not limited to)

- Repetitive behaviours
- Decision-making – exploring differences in decision-making processes in individuals displaying vulnerabilities for the development of addiction
- Skill / luck gambling
- Exploration of responsible gambling tools (e.g., setting limits on money or time spent gambling, freezing account, etc)
- Gambling behaviours in sports men/women
- Motives, coping and skill development in gambling
- Exploration of the perceptions of community in exercise
- Exploring effectiveness of campaigns to either increase or decrease likelihood of partaking in gambling behaviours (e.g., marketing campaigns, awareness campaigns)

2. Occupational Psychology

- a. Main elements associated with exploring aspects related to perceptions of or attitudes towards individuals in organisational settings (e.g., gender and leadership, attractiveness and leadership, etc).

Dissertation Supervision: Dr Lymarie Rodriguez-Morales

My research interests focus on mental health and wellbeing, and my projects involve qualitative methodologies and mix methods approaches.

Current projects:

Mental health and wellbeing in higher education: This project examines students and staff experience of mental health in the context of higher education. Examples of studies by UWTSD psychology students:

- An interpretative phenomenological analysis exploring the lived experience of peer and mentoring relationships in university students
- A qualitative analysis of mental health blogs of LGBT+ young people in the UK
- A qualitative study on millennial young men's body image and their masculine identity
- Examining undergraduate psychology students' views and understanding of a positive body image

Narratives of recovery: This project focuses on understanding mental health recovery in light of participants' storytelling and autobiographical accounts. Example of studies by UWTSD psychology students:

Transformative principles in stories of addiction recovery

Mental health and nature connection: The project examines our relationship to nature (biophilia hypothesis) and the restorative benefits of nature-based activities. Example of a potential study:

Nature as therapy: The experience of mental health and wellbeing benefits of natural environments

Dissertation Supervision: Dr Judith Marshall

My research interests lie in the relationships between identity, place/space and practices, and also different types of environment, environmental awareness and related behaviours. For the 2019-20 academic year, I would welcome potential dissertation students who are interested in the following:

1. Identity, place, space and practice

- a) Affective connection with natural spaces and environmental identity: engagement with 'nature'.
- b) Identification with product brands: engagement with, and sense of belonging in physical and virtual places
- c) Managing wellbeing through engagement with urban brown and green spaces
- d) How students' psychologically make 'spaces' into their own 'places' and how this influences their sense of student identity and 'belongingness'.

2. Environmental beliefs and behaviours

- a) Environmental attitudes and engagement with environmental 'activism'
- b) Beliefs regarding food production and the environment and preferences for specific pro-environmental behaviours
- c) Exploring associations between individual enduring beliefs toward animal welfare issues and intentions regarding food choices.
- d) Renewable energy technologies: public understandings and intentions

I will be open to both qualitative and quantitative research designs, if they are well thought-out and appropriate to the topic and research question/hypothesis.