



UNIVERSITY
OF MANITOBA

Psychobabble

Department
of
Psychology

News for our university community, alumni, and profession at large.

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• Welcome from the new Head

Hello everyone and welcome to *Psychobabble* for October 2009! My name is Todd Mondor and I am the new Head of the Department, hav-

22 invited talks; (f) presented 123 conference papers/posters; (g) sat on 21 Editorial Boards (or were Associate Editors); (h) held 72 grants

ment at the annual Arts Celebrating Arts event on September 11, 2009 including:

- **Joanne Keselman** - Celebrated Alumna
- **Judith Chipperfield** - 2009 Faculty of Arts Professor of the Year
- **Suzanne Beaudet, Amy Dario, Gloria Derksen, Phil Gerson, Linda Inglis, Jarod Innis, Mary Kuzmeniuk, Debra Lall, Trudy Lyttle, Judy Mitchell, Larry Mitchell, and Sherry Peters** - Arts Faculty Support Staff Team Award
- **Lee Baugh** - Faculty of Arts Teaching Excellence Award (Graduate Student)
- **Stephen Hladkyj** - Faculty of Arts Teaching Excellence Award (Sessional Instructor)
- **Richard Kruk** - co-authored the book *A Child's World* and *Instructor's Manual to Accompany A Child's World* (both McGraw-Hill Ryerson).
- **Corey Mackenzie** - received the Psychology Teaching Award



From Left to Right: Dan Bailis, Associate Head (Graduate); Todd Mondor, Head; Jason Leboe, Associate Head (Undergraduate).

ing taken over from Harvey Keselman. Harvey provided strong leadership for the department, and the awards and funding received and productivity of our faculty and students attests to the excellence that he helped foster. Thus, during the 2008-2009 year, members of our department (a) received 16 awards; (b) published 5 books; (c) published 23 book chapters; (d) published 137 articles and abstracts; (e) gave

totaling \$12,894,135; and (i) our students received \$1,512,200 in scholarships, awards, and bursaries.

Harvey was particularly successful in promoting the department and his support has often been reflected in the awards received by our outstanding faculty, staff and students. Most recently, for example, well-deserved accolades were garnered by many members of our depart-

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One University. Many Futures.

- **Garry Martin** - named Distinguished Professor Emeritus
- **Raymond Perry** - named Distinguished Professor at U of M and Fellow of the American Educational Research Association
- **Katharine Starzyk** - received the UMSU-UTS Students' Teacher Recognition Award

September marks the beginning of our academic year, and this year promises to be different from all those that have preceded it (and hopefully from all those that follow). As you may know, an electrical fire in Biological Sciences has caused our displacement from our offices and labs. Although the fire was confined to the west side of Duff Roblin (the non-Psychology side), smoke and water damage affected the entire building. All computers in the building were replaced, and everything in the building (yes, everything – books, papers, printers, pens, desks, chairs, etc.!) were removed for cleaning or replacement in order to facilitate reconstruction efforts. This has meant that most faculty and graduate students have been without their research and teaching materials for several months.

As you can well imagine, emptying and cleaning or replacing every item in a building as large as Duff Roblin represents a tremendous physical and administrative challenge. This has been, and continues to be, a very time-consuming process not only for those hired by the university to handle the physical work, but also for our support staff who have

had charge of all of the administrative minutiae required to get the department back into working condition including tracking the items removed, and ordering and preparing replacements. Although all of our staff have been working hard under adverse conditions, Mary Kuzmeniuk and Phil Gerson, in particular, deserve a great deal of credit – and our heartfelt gratitude – for their selfless efforts on our behalf.

The disruption caused by the fire, and the resulting displacement and turmoil has been quite stressful for all faculty, staff and students. Thankfully, at this point we have secured offices for all of our faculty and staff that they will be able to keep until spring 2010 which (with any luck) is likely when we'll be able to return to Duff Roblin. Space and computing facilities for our graduate students has also been arranged in a variety of locations. These arrangements have been achieved through the generosity of departments and faculties across campus who have donated space for our use, and we are deeply grateful for their help. Most of the department's research activities in the coming year will be concentrated in a 'trailer village' that has been established in a parking lot near University College. The trailer village encompasses 33 research rooms, a meeting room, a lounge, and even a kitchen for a total of approximately 10,000 square feet.

As improbable as it may seem, the fire may be to the depart-

ment's benefit in two different ways. First, our dispersion across campus has already resulted in new interactions with other departments and it is my hope that this will lead to new collaborations that will not only expand the research activities of individual faculty and students, but also act as a catalyst to the development of new interdisciplinary programs. Second, the empty state of the building makes it easier to complete some much-needed renovations and we are currently planning, among other changes, a new computer lab dedicated to graduate student use, as well as an expanded lounge that we hope will encourage more informal interactions among students and between students and faculty.

Academic life, of course, goes on in spite of the challenges presented by the fire, and I am delighted to let you know that we have 19 outstanding new graduate students joining us this fall with at least one new student in six of our seven admissions areas. We are very pleased to welcome two new faculty members as well. Dr. Steve Hladkyj joins us as a full-time instructor of our undergraduate research methods and statistics courses, and Dr. Launa Leboe joins our Brain and Cognitive Sciences group on a term appointment. Steve and Launa bring new skills and enthusiasm to our department and I anticipate that both will quickly find success in their new roles. Speaking of new roles, I am thrilled to let you know that Drs. Dan Bailis and Jason Leboe have graciously

agreed to help administer the department as the associate heads responsible for the graduate and undergraduate programs, respectively. Both Dan and Jason are strongly committed to serving their student populations and I know that our students and our department will benefit greatly from their efforts.

Obviously, the year ahead will pose some unique challenges

for everyone in our department. However, I am confident that by working together we will succeed in maintaining an impressive level of research activity, and continue to provide our students with an excellent educational experience. We must also strive to improve our programs and in the next issue of Psychobabble I hope to be able to report on developments in student funding, new awards, and new programs that will help move our department

into an even brighter future.

Best wishes for a great year ahead!

• New Faculty

Dr. Launa Leboe

Brain and Cognitive Sciences



Cognitive illusions have provided an essential basis for understanding cognitive processes across a range of contexts. The sources of error in cognitive performance have been fundamental

in instructing researchers about mechanisms underlying low-level perceptual experience, remembering, and judgment and decision-making. Essential for illuminating inefficiencies in human cognitive abilities, such research has also provided clues about basic cognitive mechanisms. Specifically, one important outcome of adopting a research focus that emphasizes cognitive illusions is that human cognitive processing does not directly make contact with either the sensory environment or representations of prior experience. Instead, at least in part, all aspects of cognitive processing reflect an imperfect construction of reality. My research investigates sources of error in perception of the spatial location, temporal duration, and intensity of auditory events. I propose it as useful to consider these diverse variants of cognitive illusions as

possessing a common origin. In each case, these illusions involve the biasing influence of dimensions of processing that are distinctly different from the attribute that is central to the task that must be performed. I assume that developing an understanding of the indirect sources of information that people rely on to perform cognitive tasks is essential to understanding human cognitive processing.

•Faculty of Arts Professor of the Year •••••



Dr. Judith Chipperfield

Developmental

Dr. Judy Chipperfield was selected as the 2009 Professor of the Year, an award given annually “to a professor in the Faculty of Arts who has best exemplified outstanding teaching, outstanding research,... and who has an exemplary record of service.” Dr. Chipperfield’s past year mirrors her sustained excellence in research, teaching, and service.

An internationally recognized authority on psychological aspects of health and illness in later life, Dr. Chipperfield’s research examines the psychological belief systems that promote motivation and adaptation to challenge. Her work has been widely recognized by the scientific community as advancing an understanding of how psychosocial, emotional, and behavioral factors are linked to performance, health and the processes of successful aging. Her research has also had an impact at the community level in the past years, having been highlighted in the media, government reports, and in the House of Commons discussions.

In keeping with Dr. Chipperfield’s history of obtaining pres-

tigious career awards from the Manitoba Health Research Council and the Canadian Institutes of Health Research, her research this past year has been supported by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research grant, and she was a co-investigator on major grants from the Community-University Research Alliance and Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada. During this past year she has published (or has in press) 11 peer-reviewed scholarly papers as either principal or co-author in journals in aging, health, and psychology, and at the time of her nomination had an additional 8 manuscripts either under review or in preparation. These publications appear in some of the premier scientific journals, such as *The Gerontologist*, the *Journals of Gerontology*, and *Health Psychology*. Many of her publications include her University of Manitoba colleagues; her international collaborators in Germany and the US (Universities of Munich, Maryland, North Dakota, California at Irvine, UCLA); and her students.

Through an integrated model of research and teaching, Dr. Chipperfield has trained undergraduate and graduate students, post-doctoral fellows, and new scholars, some of whom have gone on to win prestigious awards and to secure academic positions at Canadian and US universities. Her training model has provided students with opportunities within an international network that includes leading theoreticians and researchers in Germany and the US.

Dr. Chipperfield is described as an inspiring leader and a generous team player, a scholar who bridges the too prevalent divides between disciplines, and an unfailing mentor of colleagues and students alike. As one nominator wrote, “Judy was a turning point in my life...” and influenced not only her students’ career development, but also the manner in which they, in turn, promote positive, professional development of their own students. She is a versatile teaching professor and has excelled in large enrollment undergraduate psychology teaching and in small seminars.

Dr. Chipperfield has been extremely active in service to Psychology, the Faculty of Arts, and the University. Over the past year, she has also served her profession by sitting on the editorial board and acting as ad hoc reviewer for prominent scholarly journals in psychology and aging; she has taken a lead role as a Scientific Officer for the Canadian Institutes of Health Research; and she has worked on the local organizing committee and the scientific committee for the annual meeting of the Canadian Association on Gerontology that meets in Winnipeg this fall. Her commitment to service—to her Department, Faculty, University, community, and profession—stands as exemplary on its own, but as extraordinary in the context of her outstanding contributions to scholarship and to her students this year.

(Excerpts from Arts Celebrating Arts Brochure, Sept 11, 2009)

• Spotlight on Research •••••



Dr. Harvey Keselman

Methodology

Applied researchers use statistical tests to assess whether or not the effect of an experimental manipulation is significant. Unfortunately, the results of many of these investigations are suspect as they often involve the use of statistical procedures with questionable validity. In these cases, the reported effects may be misleading or, in many cases, wrong. Clearly, such erroneous decisions can have serious negative consequences for both the advancement of knowledge in a given field as well as the effective translation of research results into practice.

The objective of my research program has been to develop statistical tests that are more appropriate for research data that typify those found in applied settings, including the behavioural science and health disciplines. Specifically, the intent of my research has been and continues to be the development of new methodologies

for evaluating applied research data. The ultimate goal of my research program is to derive test procedures that can be used with confidence to appropriately draw conclusions from experimental data in the behavioural science, health and applied disciplines that, in turn, can be effectively transferred into practice.

The findings from my research investigations have resulted in the development of new test statistics that can be used to analyze treatment effects with applied data that rarely satisfies their derivational assumptions. Researchers wishing to test hypotheses regarding treatment effects now have available to them new statistical tests that are far superior to the usual methods of analysis. These new statistical procedures will very much impact the way researchers analyze their data.

To illustrate the nature of my research I refer the reader to my paper with Algina, Lix, Wilcox, and Deering (2008), A Generally Robust Approach for Testing Hypotheses And Setting Confidence Intervals for Effect Sizes (See accompanying selected bibliography). In this paper we note that standard least squares analysis of variance methods suffer from poor power under arbitrarily small departures from normality and fail to control the probability of a Type I error when standard assumptions are violated. This paper describes a framework for robust estimation and testing that uses trimmed means with an approximate degrees of freedom heteroscedastic statistic for independent and correlated groups

designs in order to achieve robustness to the biasing effects of nonnormality and variance heterogeneity. We describe a non-parametric bootstrap methodology that can provide improved Type I error control. In addition, we indicate how researchers can set robust confidence intervals around a robust effect size parameter estimate. In an online supplement we use several examples to illustrate the application of a SAS program to implement these statistical methods.

In addition, I have recently explored the issue of robustness with respect to the analysis of repeated measurements, estimating the magnitude of treatment effects, tests for spread, and for multiple comparison procedures.

Selected Bibliography:

Keselman, H. J., Wilcox, R. R., Algina, J., Othman, A. R., & Fradette, K. (2008). A comparative study of robust tests for spread: Asymmetric trimming strategies. *British Journal of Mathematical and Statistical Psychology*, *61*, 235-253.

Keselman, H. J., Algina, J., Lix, L. M., Wilcox, R. R., & Deering, K. (2008). A generally robust approach for testing hypotheses and setting confidence intervals for effect sizes. *Psychological Methods*, *13*, 110-129.

An Invitation to our Alumni

A lot of new things are happening in the Department and we would like to keep you abreast of these events. With our newsletter, we are attempting to reach all of our alumni, firstly, to bring you up-to-date information on what's new in the Department, and secondly, to ask if you can support one or more of the scholarship, lecture, and colloquium funds that we have established. We would also like to hear about what you have been doing since graduating with a degree in psychology from the University of Manitoba. Let us know what position you currently hold, tell us about your family, etc. We would like to share this information with staff and students and other former alumni, through features such as those in this issue. In short, let's hear from you!

I would like to make a contribution to one or more of the following:

Graduate Alumni Psychology Graduate Fellowship Fund

To provide support to incoming graduate students.

Bernice D. Lough Psychology Graduate Award

To support graduate students.

John P. Zubek Memorial Lecture

The Department of Psychology maintains an endowment fund to support the annual Dr. John P. Zubek Memorial Lecture. A distinguished psychological researcher is invited to deliver this lecture each year. In addition to honouring the memory of Dr. Zubek, this lecture enriches the education of students and provides an opportunity for faculty members to meet and discuss common research interests with a distinguished scholar.

John G. Adair International Distinguished Lectureship

Established on the retirement of John Adair, Professor Emeritus of the department, with the specific purpose of bringing a distinguished psychologist from outside North America to the department every second year.

Psychology Alumni Faculty Scholarship

Awarded to a student newly admitted to the graduate program, awarded to the student with the highest GPA as calculated for admission purposes.

Alumni Clinical Psychology Student Research Award

Awarded each year to a graduate student in the Clinical Psychology Program on the basis of scholarly and scientific achievements.

Shannon L. Hamm Memorial Scholarship

Awarded to first year graduate students in psychology to study the experimental analysis of behaviour modification at The University of Manitoba.

Colloquium Speakers Series

Department lecture series featuring scholars from within the Department, University, and around the world.

The Vineberg Prize for Excellence in Graduate Student Research

The W. N. Ten Have Award for Best Honours Thesis

Donations to these Department of Psychology funds, or general inquiries about supporting research at the University of Manitoba, can be sent to:

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