A Message from our Department Chair

What an exciting time this is for Psychology at McGill! Artificial intelligence, fake news, pain, empathy, aging: discussion of these topics and others in the news seems to repeatedly turn to the science of psychology for understanding. Our department and discipline are well positioned to inform discussion and debate in the public square. As faculty and students push the envelope in our understanding of human thought and behavior through their cutting edge research, each year we also teach about 11,000 students the state of the science. Many of these students go on to careers outside of psychology but our hope is that learning about the scientific process in the context of human behavior has left them wiser citizens, better equipped to evaluate evidence provided in support of the many competing claims they encounter on social media.

In the past year, we hired 3 new assistant professors, giving us a total of 15 assistant professors – reflecting a truly remarkable period of academic renewal in our department. We were also fortunate this past year to have funds to support graduate student travel to conferences, thanks to the generosity of recently retired Professor Morton Mendelson. We hope in the future to find other sources to support graduate student travel. This year, we said “so long for now” to our long time graduate program coordinator Giovanna LoCascio, retiring after 46 years at McGill. The faculty and students remain deeply grateful for Gio and the other members of the support staff who work tirelessly to lighten our administrative loads so that we can focus our attention on the academic mission of the department.

In This Issue

- Meet the new Faculty Members who will be joining our Department this year!
- We spotlight some great work from the Hehman and Baldwin labs.
- Read about the exciting work our Alumni are doing since they left McGill.
It’s been a Great Year!

Faculty Grants totalling $5,417,252
Graduate Fellowships totalling $948,000

Where are our graduate alumni?
- 29% Clinical Practice
- 38% Academic Positions
- 10% Postdoctoral Researchers
- 12% Industry Positions
- 9% Business / HR
- 1% Editorial Positions
- .8% Law Programs
- .2% Stand-up Comedian

By the Numbers
- 35 Faculty Members
- 19 Postdoctoral Researchers
- 93 Graduate Students
- 3,786 Undergraduate Students Enrolled
- 64 Undergraduate Courses Offered
- 8,385 Hours of Undergraduate Courses Taught

Latest News
- 116 Faculty Grants
- 38 Graduate Fellowships
- 113 Peer-Reviewed Publications
- 164 National & International Presentations

Information sourced from McGill Psychology Department Annual Report
Meet our New Faculty

Dr. Jordan Axt

Dr. Axt’s research explores how people form and express intergroup bias in attitudes and behavior. He investigates how such bias is presented both explicitly, when mental processes are more controlled, and implicitly, when mental processes are more automatic and uncontrolled, across many social domains, such as race, politics, religion, age, sexual orientation, and physical attractiveness. Dr. Axt was a Postdoctoral Researcher at Duke University prior to joining us at McGill in the Fall.

Dr. Brendan Johns

Dr. Johns’ research focuses on big data and machine learning methodologies in psychology. His theoretical work focuses on developing cognitively-plausible language processing models, while his applied research focuses on using the resulting models as analysis tools to quantify language-based data, enabling new insights from data not previously available to psychologists. Dr. Johns was an Assistant Professor at the University at Buffalo and will be joining us at McGill in the Winter.

Dr. Milica Miočević

Dr. Miočević’s research focuses on mediation analysis and optimal ways of using Bayesian methods in the social sciences. Her ongoing projects focus on ways to use historical data in Bayesian mediation analysis in the presence of important between-study differences, and methods for mediation analysis in Single Case Experimental Designs. Dr. Miočević was an Assistant Professor at Utrecht University prior to joining us at McGill in the Fall.
A new study of evolving attitudes toward gay marriage across the U.S. suggests that state legislation has had a significant impact in reducing anti-gay bias in many parts of the country.

The findings, published in *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, provide evidence that public policy can shape social norms and alter individuals’ attitudes, says senior author McGill Psychology’s Dr. Eric Hehman.

In 2004, Massachusetts became the first U.S. state to legalize same-sex marriage. In the following years, 34 other states and Washington, D.C., would follow suit before the Supreme Court ultimately ruled, in June 2015, that same-sex couples could marry nationwide. Since then, polls have suggested that support for same-sex marriage has steadily increased.

Dr. Hehman, who specializes in how individuals perceive one another and how stereotypes and biases influence behaviour, set out to measure whether and how state legislation had an impact on anti-gay bias. “The idea that norms shape attitudes has been around in social psychology for many years,” says Hehman. “We wanted to measure if laws and policies can also act as norms and potentially change deeply rooted biases.”

Since same-sex marriage was legalized in different states over the course of 11 years, Hehman’s team was able to map trends in anti-gay bias during this period.

By geolocating responses at *Project Implicit* – a website launched in 2002 that measures biases of respondents – McGill Psychology
graduate student Eugene Ofosu examined changing regional anti-gay biases of about 1 million respondents during a 12-year period. The researchers compared these trends before and after state-level legalization of gay marriage in each state.

WHEN LEGISLATION PASSED LOCALLY, BIAS DECLINED

Though implicit and explicit bias against the gay community was decreasing or stable prior to same-sex marriage legalization, the researchers found that legislation supportive of this marginalized population caused anti-gay bias to decline at roughly double the previous rate.

In the 15 states that did not pass same-sex marriage legalization locally by contrast, Dr. Hehman found a “backlash effect.” In those states, anti-gay bias increased in the immediate aftermath of the Supreme Court ruling making gay marriage legal nation-wide.

One possibility, Dr. Hehman says, is that even though attitudes were shifting toward more acceptance of same-sex marriage, a tipping point of support had not yet been reached in those states for the majority to accept the federal ruling.

The study also suggests that attitudes and legislation may be mutually reinforcing: evolving attitudes toward same-sex marriage may have served as impetus for both state and federal legalization.

“In other words, representative governments can contribute to and/or intensify change in the attitude of citizens by passing legislation,” Dr. Hehman says. “We have some evidence that the laws caused this change in bias, but it is possible the effect goes in both directions.”

Written by Justin Dupuis and reprinted with the permission of the Media Relations Office, Institutional Communications, of McGill Newsroom.

For more on this research:

- When laws change minds – Psychology Today
- U.S. legalization of same-sex marriage linked to growing acceptance – Reuters
- Legalizing gay marriage reduced homophobia – Pacific Standard
Research in the News

Concept or context? Seems like the brain knows
McGill Psychology’s Ph.D. graduate Lauri Gurguryan and Dr. Signy Sheldon published their latest work in *NeuroImage* showing that the details we use to retrieve autobiographical memories can alter our neural activity.

Sacrifice – but at what price?
Congratulations to McGill Psychology’s Ph.D. candidate Anne Holding for her *Motivation & Emotion* paper with Dr. Richard Koestner showing that young adults who sacrifice basic psychological needs for career goals do so at a large personal cost.

Orgasm equality is a long time coming
Dr. Mayte Parada, McGill Psychology’s postdoctoral researcher, spoke to *McGill Tribune* about her work with Dr. Irving Binik on why heterosexual men are the most likely to experience orgasm, followed by gay men, lesbians, and heterosexual women.

Emotional eating and weight regulation
McGill Psychology’s Ph.D. student Mallory Frayn recently published her research with Dr. Bärbel Knäuper in *Journal of Eating Disorders*, examining how individuals of normal weight who engage in emotional eating regulate their weight.

Men and women remember pain differently
McGill Psychology’s Dr. Jeffrey Mogil talked to *McGill Reporter* about his recent groundbreaking work showing that sex variations exist in the way that pain is remembered in both mice and humans.
Do the eyes have it?

McGill Psychology’s Ph.D. candidate Effie Pereira was recently featured on *Science Trends* for her work with supervisor Dr. Jelena Ristic demonstrating that spontaneous attention to faces is much more complicated than we realized.

Pregnancy-specific anxiety may impact breastfeeding

Congratulations to McGill Psychology’s Ph.D. candidate Kristin Horsely for her paper in *Journal of Human Lactation* with Dr. Blaine Ditto showing that pregnancy-specific anxiety is associated with how long women exclusively breastfeed their children.

Ears, heads, and eyes: when singers synchronize

McGill Psychology’s Dr. Caroline Palmer recently discovered strong auditory-motor synchronization during ensemble music-making in her publication in the *Quarterly Journal of Experimental Psychology*.

Peer victimization history affects neural reward systems

McGill Psychology’s Ph.D. students Paige Ethridge and Aislinn Sandre co-authored a paper with Dr. Melanie Dirks and Dr. Anna Weinberg in *Social Cognitive & Affective Neuroscience* showing that social stress is associated with neural responses of anhedonia.

When a city’s mood brightens, the risks arise

*The Wall Street Journal* featured work by McGill Psychology’s Dr. Ross Otto showing that unexpected happy occurrences in everyday life may lift the collective mood of a city, but it can also increase the likelihood that people will engage in risky behaviors.

Evolution of the primate brain

McGill Psychology’s Dr. Michael Petrides co-authored a paper in *Nature Communications* looking at the organization of the brain in the medial frontal cortex in order to provide insights into primate evolution.
Dyslexia, bilingualism, and learning a second language

*Psychology Today* interviewed McGill Psychology Professor Emeritus Dr. Fred Genesee about dyslexia and bilingualism, and he addressed the pervasive myth that bilingualism leads to dyslexia.

Differential patterns of brain aging in men and women

Congratulations to McGill Psychology’s Ph.D. candidate Sivaniya Subramaniapillai and Dr. Natasha Rajah for their paper in *Journal of Cognitive Neuroscience* examining sex differences in the neural correlates of spatial context memory decline in healthy aging.

Why we have to forget to remember

McGill Psychology’s Dr. Oliver Hardt talked to *CBC Radio’s The Sunday Edition* about our ability to forget, and how losing this ability might also mean we lose the ability to remember.

The psychology of fear

*McGill Tribune* talked to McGill Psychology’s postdoctoral researcher Dr. Josué Haubrich about his work with Dr. Karim Nader on why many of us intentionally subject ourselves to fearful situations.

Helping to navigate the world of infertility

McGill Psychology’s Ph.D. candidate Paul Grunberg and Dr. Phyllis Zelkowitz recently published their work in *Reproductive Biomedicine & Society Online* demonstrating a preference for online infertility peer support amongst Canadian fertility patients.

From personality to binge eating

Congratulations to McGill Psychology’s Ph.D. candidate Sarah Schell for her publication with Dr. Sarah Racine in *Appetite* examining how high-risk personality traits are indirectly associated with binge eating via learned expectancies about eating outcomes.
Relating sex differences in aggression and empathy

Congratulations to McGill Psychology’s graduate student Nicole Dryburgh and Dr. David Vachon for their publication in *Personality and Individual Differences* demonstrating that sex differences in aggression were largely related to sex differences in empathy.

PHARAOH-GEE: a novel pathway-level association test

McGill Psychology’s Ph.D. candidate Sunmee Kim and Dr. Heungsun Hwang introduced a novel statistical approach in *BMC Medical Genomics* by combining hierarchical structured components analysis and penalized generalized estimating equations.

Curtailing the use of “preregistration”

McGill Psychology’s Ph.D. candidate Danielle Rice recently published a brief commentary in *Perspectives on Psychological Science* recommending the use of consistent terminology when prospectively registering research plans.

An interactionist perspective on the “hormone of love”

Congratulations to McGill Psychology’s Ph.D. candidates Jonas Nitschke and Sonia Krol for co-authoring a chapter in the *International Handbook of Social Neuroendocrinology* with Dr. Jennifer Bartz.

Resolving a centuries-old philosophical puzzle

McGill Psychology’s postdoctoral researcher Ardavan Nobandegani and graduate student Kevin da Silva Castanheira were awarded with *Best Computational Modeling Paper on Higher-level Cognition* for their work with Dr. Thomas Shultz and Dr. Ross Otto.

Advancing psychology through a collaborative network

Congratulations to McGill Psychology’s Dr. Jessica Flake, Assistant Director and Chair of the Methodology & Analysis Committee for the Psychology Science Accelerator, for their first Accelerator article in *Advances in Methods & Practices in Psychological Science*. 
Events & Colloquia

We kicked off the 2018 / 2019 academic year with our annual Orientation BBQ and Graduate Student Colloquium in September, which featured some great talks from our Ph.D. students and postdoctoral fellows!

We had great turnouts for our regular weekly clinical, social, and cognitive Brown Bag Talk Series this year. A big thank you to our organizing committees and all of our wonderful faculty, postdoctoral, and graduate speakers!

Thank you to our invited speakers for their distinguished talks during our annual Hebb, Bindra, and Macnamara Lecture Series. Pictured left to right: Dr. Laura Stapleton (University of Maryland), Dr. Caroline Palmer (McGill University), Dr. Scott Waddell (University of Oxford), Dr. Mark Sabbagh (Queen's University), Dr. Nim Tottenham (Columbia University), Dr. Marlene Behrmann (Carnegie Mellon University).
Throughout the year, our graduate students Shelby Levine and Kevin Da Silva Castanheira coordinated the *McGill All-About-Learning Psychology Series*, featuring weekly workshops on various psychological methods, statistics, and softwares.

Last September, McGill Psychology’s Dr. Jessica Flake facilitated a panel discussion featuring female psychological scientists at various career stages sharing the lessons they learned navigating an academic career as a member of an underrepresented group.

McGill Psychology’s Dr. Rosemary Bagot gave a TED talk this past November on her work studying the role of stress in depression as part of an event for the *Ludmer Centre for Neuroinformatics and Mental Health*.

The *NSERC-CREATE Symposium in Nonlinear Dynamics of Brain & Behaviour* was held in August this year, where researchers across Quebec and Ontario presented their work on dynamical systems of small-scale cellular relationships and large-scale population relationships.

We had a great time celebrating the amazing work of our undergraduate thesis students at our annual end-of-year *Undergraduate Poster Day* in April! A big hand to everyone involved for a very successful and well-attended event!
Fat-shaming is socially acceptable and it’s so common we don’t know how pervasive it is. No one even bats an eyelash at it or thinks about how terrible it is for that person, but the consequences affect more than just the target of fat-shaming.

Celebrities, particularly female celebrities, are routinely criticized about their appearance – indeed, celebrity “fat-shaming” is a fairly regular pop-cultural phenomenon. Although we might assume that these comments are trivial and inconsequential, the effects of these messages can extend well beyond the celebrity target and ripple through the population at large.

Comparing 20 instances of celebrity fat-shaming with women’s implicit attitudes about weight before and after the event, researchers from the McGill Psychology Department found that instances of celebrity fat-shaming were associated with an increase in women’s implicit negative weight-related attitudes. They also found that from 2004 to 2015, implicit weight bias was on the rise more generally.

Explicit attitudes are those that people consciously endorse and, based on other research, are often influenced by concerns about social desirability and presenting oneself in the most positive light. By contrast, implicit attitudes – which were the focus of this investigation – reflect people’s split-second gut-level reactions that something is inherently good or bad.

“These cultural messages appeared to augment women’s gut-level feeling that ‘thin’ is good and ‘fat’ is bad,” says Dr. Jennifer Bartz, one of the authors of the study. “These media messages can leave a private trace in peoples’ minds.”

The research is published in *Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin*, a journal of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology.
Dr. Bartz and her colleagues obtained data from Project Implicit of participants who completed the online Weight Implicit Association Test from 2004 to 2015. The team selected 20 celebrity fat-shaming events that were noted in the popular media, including Tyra Banks being shamed for her body in 2007 while wearing a bathing suit on vacation and Kourtney Kardashian being fat-shamed by her husband for not losing her post-pregnancy baby weight quickly enough in 2014. They analyzed women’s implicit anti-fat attitudes 2 weeks before and 2 weeks after each celebrity fat-shaming event.

Examining the results, the fat-shaming events led to a spike in women’s (N = 93,239) implicit anti-fat attitudes, with more “notorious” events producing greater spikes.

While the researchers cannot definitively link an increase in implicit weight bias to specific negative incidents in the real world with their data, other research has shown culture’s emphasis on the thin ideal can contribute to eating disorders, which are particularly prevalent among young women.

“Weight bias is recognized as one of the last socially acceptable forms of discrimination; these instances of fat-shaming are fairly wide-spread not only in celebrity magazines but also on blogs and other forms of social media,” says McGill Psychology’s Amanda Ravary, Ph.D. student and lead author of the study.

The researchers’ next steps include lab research, where they can manipulate exposure to fat-shaming messages (vs. neutral messages) and assess the effect of these messages on women’s implicit anti-fat attitudes. This future research could provide more direct evidence for the causal role of these cultural messages on people’s implicit attitudes.

*Written by Katherine Gombay and reprinted with the permission of the Media Relations Office, Institutional Communications, of McGill Newsroom.*

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**For more on this research:**

- Celebrity ‘fat-shaming’ affects all women – *WebMD*
- Fat-shaming celebrities makes women more critical of their own bodies – *Global News*
- Celebrity fat shaming drives up anti-fat attitudes in women – *Huffington Post*

Congratulations to our Ph.D. candidates for successfully defending their dissertations this past year. Pictured left to right: Dr. Nida Ali, Dr. Claire Han, Dr. Brenda Harvey, Dr. Molly Moroz, Dr. Ananda Sidarta, Dr. Esther Yakobov. Not pictured: Dr. Saharnaz Balegh.

“Convocation is the most wonderful snapshot of the present. It is the culmination of years of hard work and dedication of students; the support and encouragement of friends and family; and the commitment and professionalism of faculty and staff”

Join us in giving a hearty congratulations to our 2018 / 2019 Ph.D. recipients, Dr. Nida Ali, Dr. Saharnaz Balegh, Dr. Claire Han!
Congratulations to McGill Psychology Ph.D. candidate Mehrgol Tiv who won the AAAS Science & Human Rights Coalition essay competition for her intersectional work on AI for Social Good: How Psychological Researchers Can Contribute to the Socially Responsible Development of Artificial Intelligence!

A hearty congratulations to McGill Psychology Ph.D. candidate Paige Ethridge for receiving the Presidents’ Pick Psychophysiology Paper Award from the Society for Psychophysiological Research, which recognizes trainees who publish excellent first-author papers in the society’s Psychophysiology journal!

McGill Psychology graduate students Effie Pereira, Todd Vogel, Jennifer Heyman, and Chris Lafferty (not pictured: Naomi Vingron, Aislinn Sandre) were awarded Michael Quek Teaching Assistantship Awards this past year!

Congratulations to McGill Psychology’s Ph.D. candidate Anne Holding for winning the Guy Bégin Prize at La Société Québécoise pour la Recherche en Psychologie Congrès Annuel!

Our graduates had a great time at Mont Royal during our annual GASP Picnic In The Park!
Our graduate students have been blogging up a storm this past year! Mallory Frayn wrote an article for *EatNorth* on doing away with diets, and Miriam Kirmayer has continued her regular contribution on *Psychology Today* through her blog *Casual to Close*, as well as appearing in *The Guardian* and *The Today Show*.

McGill Psychology graduate students have been doing some great outreach efforts throughout the community this year! Mehrgol Tiv and Naomi Vingron worked with *500 Women Scientists*, an organization that aims to build an inclusive community where female, female-identifying, and gender queer scientists from the Montreal region can meet regularly and develop a support network in an inclusive, safe, and bilingual space. Allison MacNeill did a tremendous job as Outreach Coordinator and Host for McGill’s inaugural *Mental Health & Law Conference* held this past year in March. And Rebecca Scheurich volunteered with the Centre for Research on Brain, Language, and Music’s *24 Hours of Science* event to teach kids about the brain, language, and music!
The McGill Psychology Department was well-represented at many national and international conferences this past year – American Psychosomatic Society in Vancouver, BC; Association for Contextual Behavioral Science Conference in Dublin, Ireland; Association for Psychological Science in Washington, DC; Association for Research in Personality Conference in Grand Rapids, MI; Canadian Fertility & Andrology Society in Montreal, QC; Canadian Pain Society Conference in Toronto, ON; Canadian Psychological Association in Halifax, NS; Canadian Society for Brain, Behaviour, & Cognitive Science in Waterloo, ON; Conference of the Cognitive Science Society in Montreal, QC; Healthy Brains for Healthy Lives Research Day in Montreal, QC; International Academy of Sex Research Meeting in Mexico City, Mexico; International Meeting of the Psychometric Society in Santiago, Chile; Mental Health & Law Conference in Montreal, QC; National Scleroderma Conference in Calgary, AB; Organisation for Human Brain Mapping Conference in Rome, Italy; PREVNet Conference in Toronto, ON; Psychonomic Society Conference in New Orleans, LA; Self Determination Theory Conference in Egmond aan Zee, Netherlands; Society for Interpersonal Theory and Research Conference in Grand Rapids, MI; Society for Personality & Social Psychology Conference in Portland, OR; Society for Research in Psychopathology Conference in Indianapolis, IN; Society for Psychophysiological Research Conference in Quebec City, QC; Society for the Science of Clinical Psychology in Washington, DC. Congratulations to all of our graduates for their successful presentations!
Congratulations to McGill Psychology Students’ Association (MPSA) for all of their well-attended events throughout the year! From fostering collaboration through meet-and-greets and mentoring sessions, and providing guidance through career planning and graduate student panels, the MPSA has been a driving force in bringing our undergraduates together, and we are proud to celebrate their great work!

While working with Dr. Rhonda Amsel, McGill Psychology undergraduate student Sheree Marshall received an Arts Internship Award last year and wrote about her experiences with the Kamili Organisation, a mental health NGO based in Nairobi, Kenya.

The McGill Tribune had a great feature story on McGill Psychology undergraduate students Melody Gao and Olivia Frank, mental health commissioners of Mental Health at the Arts Undergraduate Society, a committee working to address the under utilization of mental health support resources on campus through community outreach.

We have some undergraduate authors in the house! Congratulations to McGill Psychology undergraduate students Jessica Haight and Jamie Laurie, who both released debut fictional novels prior to joining us at McGill. Jessica published her first children’s novel, Big Adventures Come in Small Packages, which follows the story of a determined young guinea pig, and Jamie published The Big Summer, about a young adult dealing with issues experienced by LGBTQ+ teenagers.
McGill Psychology undergraduate students had a great time at their annual end-of-year semiformal, The Cocktail Party Effect, and said goodbye to a wonderful and successful 2018 / 2019 semester!

Over 350 undergraduate students earned their Bachelor’s degree in Psychology with Honours or Major concentration this past June and we couldn’t be prouder of their accomplishments! Best of luck to all of our graduates as they embark on their careers and future studies!

McGill Psychology undergraduate students published the PSI Journal Issue Vol. IX, their annual student-written and student-reviewed publication highlighting the insightful research that our undergraduate students completed independently or through a supervised project.

Photographs by Taylor Burnett, and reprinted with the permission of the MPSA.
Alumni in the News

**Political ideology shapes the achievements we promote**

McGill Psychology undergraduate alumnus and Northwestern University’s Dr. Nour Kteily examined how political ideology shapes the amplification of accomplishments from disadvantaged vs. advantaged group members.

**Supporting the best in the European Research Area**

Congratulations to McGill Psychology Ph.D. alumnus and Central European University postdoctoral researcher Dr. Anna Zamm for receiving the prestigious *Marie Skłodowska-Curie Individual Fellowship* for her work on the correlates of joint action learning!

**Continuing her research excellence through the CRC**

A big congratulations to McGill Psychology Ph.D. alumnus and University of New Brunswick’s Dr. Veronica Whitford who was awarded a *Tier 2 Canada Research Chair in Cognitive Neuroscience of Bilingual Reading Across the Lifespan*!

**Global challenges in vaccine acceptance**

Congratulations to McGill Psychology Ph.D. alumnus and Princess Margaret Cancer Centre postdoctoral researcher Dr. Gilla Shapiro for her talk on measuring vaccine hesitancy in a national sample of Canadian parents at *Les Pensières Center for Global Health*.

**Suicide portrayal in the Canadian media**

McGill Psychology undergraduate alumnus Victoria Carmichael examined Canadian newspaper coverage of the Netflix series *13 Reasons Why* and showed that media coverage adhered to core best practice recommendations on how to sensitively report on suicide.
Honouring outstanding new investigators

A big congratulations to McGill Psychology Ph.D. alumnus and University of Alberta’s Dr. Dana Hayward for receiving the *2019 New Investigator Award* from the American Psychological Association!

The neurobiological bases of the self and depression

Congratulations to McGill Psychology Ph.D. alumnus and University of Calgary’s Dr. Daniel Kopala-Sibley for his article examining psychodynamic, social, humanistic, and ethological models of the self and depression.

Differential neural activation to expressions of emotion

McGill Psychology alumnus and Nationwide Children’s Hospital & The Ohio State postdoctoral researcher Dr. Michele Morningstar examined links between teenagers’ social re-orientation towards peers and their neural response to other teens’ emotional faces.

Identity conflict impedes success for ethnic minorities

A big congratulations to McGill Psychology Ph.D. alumnus and Northwestern University postdoctoral researcher Dr. Régine Debrosse for publishing her work on identity conflicts in minority students in *Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin*.

The science of Baby Shark – doo-doo-doo-doo-doo-doo

Dr. Valorie Salimpoor, McGill Psychology Ph.D. alumnus and Cignition neuroscience consultant, talks about how baby shark is the right mix of predictable and unexpected, which activates the feelings of pleasure, satisfaction, and reward.

The impact of maternal stress on early neurodevelopment

McGill Psychology Ph.D. alumnus and Boston Children’s Hospital postdoctoral researcher Dr. Lara Pierce demonstrated that caregiver stress and maternal educational level were detectable on infant neurodevelopment as early as 2 months.
Vent over tea – real talk with strangers

Congratulations to McGill Psychology alumni Sarah Fennessey, Chloe Chow, and Nimra Khan, who co-founded Vent Over Tea, a social enterprise that offers free active listening services in Montreal and Calgary to anybody who wants to talk through their struggles.

Pain, pain, go away

McGill Psychology undergraduate alumnus and psychologist Dr. Melanie Badali recently collaborated with a team of scientists, policy makers, and health providers from across Canada on new tools to improve students’ experience of school-based vaccines.

The impact of emotional mood & cues on memory recall

Congratulations to McGill Psychology undergraduate alumnus and University of Toronto graduate student Stephanie Simpson for her work demonstrating that emotional cue words reliably impact autobiographical memory recall compared to emotional moods.

Seeking fundamental knowledge about the brain

Congratulations to McGill Psychology Ph.D. alumnus Dr. Alexander Tuttle who was recently hired as a Health Program Specialist with the Systems & Cognitive Neuroscience cluster at the National Institute of Neurological Disorders & Stroke.

Music psychology for record makers

McGill Psychology alumnus and Berklee College of Music’s Dr. Susan Rogers discussed her pioneering work as a music engineer & producer, her research in the field of music cognition and psychoacoustics, Prince, and hitting it big with Barenaked Ladies.

Self-reported appetitive motivation towards food

Congratulations to McGill Psychology undergraduate alumnus Léah Suissa-Rocheleau for her first author publication in the International Journal of Psychophysiology for her work on self-reported and physiological reactions to emotional and food cues.
There is no way to avoid the first bite

Congratulations to McGill Psychology undergraduate alumnus and University of Calgary Ph.D. student Emilie Lacroix, who recently published a qualitative investigation of addictive-like eating in treatment-seeking Brazilian women and men.

Examining distress tolerance & anxiety sensitivity

McGill University undergraduate alumnus and psychologist Dr. Jun Qi recently published work examining differential associations of distress tolerance and anxiety sensitivity within adolescent internalizing psychopathology.

The chains on all my people are the chains on me

McGill Psychology Ph.D. alumnus and University of North Carolina postdoctoral researcher Dr. Frank Kachanoff found that restrictions to a group’s collective autonomy has detrimental effects on the autonomy and psychological well-being of group members.

Applying AI for social good

McGill Psychology Ph.D. alumnus and Université de Montréal’s Dr. Patricia Conrod gave a well-attended public lecture in June on how Artificial Intelligence can contribute to the prevention of substance use disorders.

Developmental twin study of emotion recognition

McGill Psychology Ph.D. alumnus and Virginia Commonwealth University’s Dr. Lance Rappaport recently mapped the genetic and environmental contributions to face-emotion recognition and its association with irritability, neuroticism, and depression.

Redesign your workspace to be your most productive self

Dr. Anja Jamrozik, McGill Psychology alumnus and behavioral scientist & consultant for flexible workspace provider Breather, talks to Fast Company about ways to maximize workspaces to positively impact productivity, performance, satisfaction, and mood.
Here’s to McGill Psychology Department’s Graduate Program Coordinator Giovanna LoCascio who retired this year after 46 wonderful years here with us at McGill! For all of her hard work, dedication, and generosity throughout the years, we wish her a nothing but the best in her retirement! Thank you for everything Gio!

With Gio stepping down from her role, we want to congratulate Chantale Bousquet and Nina Pinzarrone for their promotions this year! Chantale transitioned to Graduate Program Coordinator after 25 years as Clinical Program Coordinator, and Nina transitioned to Administrative Coordinator after 9 years working in the Department and will be working directly with our Department Chair!

A big congratulations to McGill Psychology’s Dr. Jeffrey Mogil for being awarded the 2019 Elizabeth Narcessian Award for Outstanding Educational Achievements in the Field of Pain to recognize his outstanding contributions, dedication, and innovation in education in the field of pain!

We are beyond proud of McGill Psychology’s Dr. Melanie Dirks, who won the Leo Yaffe Award for Excellence in Teaching! This well-deserved award recognizes outstanding and superior teaching contributions in the education and training of undergraduate students in the Faculty of Science, and we couldn’t be happier for her!

Congratulations to McGill Psychology’s Dr. Signy Sheldon for being awarded the 2019 Vincent Di Lollo Early Career Award for the exceptional quality and importance of her contributions to knowledge in brain, behaviour, and cognitive science in Canada!
A hearty congratulations to McGill Psychology’s Dr. Rosemary Bagot on being awarded with the Government of Canada’s New Frontiers in Research Fund aimed at providing funding to early career researchers to support their high-risk, high-reward, interdisciplinary and international research!

McGill Psychology’s Dr. Debra Titone received the 2019 Richard Tees Distinguished Leadership Award to recognize her extraordinary leadership and service to the Canadian Society of Brain, Behaviour, and Cognitive Science through her innovative research, her extensive involvement in Canadian organizations, and her sustained efforts to advance the knowledge and skills of trainees in the field!

A hearty congratulations to McGill Psychology’s Dr. Caroline Palmer, Dr. Signy Sheldon, and Ph.D. candidate Rebecca Scheurich for being awarded a Grammy Foundation Grant to test the differences in brain activity between musically trained and untrained individuals!

Congratulations to McGill Psychology’s associate faculty member Dr. Lesley Fellows for her appointment to Vice-Dean of Academic Affairs within the Faculty of Medicine. In this position, Dr. Fellows provides strategic guidance and advice on matters related to the faculty lifecycle, and oversees academic hiring, appointments, promotions, tenure, and mentoring within the Faculty.

Congratulations to McGill Psychology’s Dr. Natasha Rajah for being the 2019 Recipient of the Women in Cognitive Science Canada Mentorship Award for her sustained and effective mentorship of female students!

McGill Psychology’s Dr. Anna Weinberg was appointed Program Chair for the 2018 Meeting of the Society for Psychophysiological Research, which was held in Quebec City this past October. The international meeting is aimed at fostering research on the interrelationships between the physiological and psychological aspects of behaviour.
For more than 90 years, we have been graced by a highly diverse and talented array of students. We are proud of our former undergraduates, graduate students, postdoctoral fellows, and non-majors, many of whom have gone on to distinguished careers in psychology, related fields, or other professional endeavors. We are also proud of our long-standing record of excellence in training the next generation of psychologists, neuroscientists, clinicians, and students who use their knowledge of psychological science to enrich other fields.

Gifts from our alumni and friends provide valuable support for scholarships and student aid, equipment and infrastructure, and research projects and program development. However you choose to support our department, your generosity is both essential and truly appreciated.

Hearing from our former students and alumni is important to us, so please keep in touch through our alumni mailing list, and our Facebook and Twitter pages.

The McGill Psychology newsletter was created by the 2018-2019 Development Committee, chaired by Dr. Mathieu Roy, and designed and edited by McGill Psychology graduate students Effie Pereira and Anne Holding. Questions or comments regarding content or submissions for future editions are welcome at mcgillpsychmedia@gmail.com.

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