

Psychology Department Faculty 2026-2027

Cay Anderson-Hanley

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[Cay Anderson-Hanley, Ph.D. Website](#)

My research interests lie primarily in the realm of clinical neuropsychology and health psychology. In particular, I am interested in the neuropsychological effects of exercise for older adults, especially as it might relate to the maintenance of cognitive and emotional functioning, and the prevention of dementia. Recent studies completed in my lab indicate the executive function benefits of both strengthening exercise as well as virtual reality- enhanced exercise (cybercycling or pedaling & playing the iPad-based iPACES, neuro-exergame) for older adults. Other recent research out of my lab has examined the effects of therapy groups for older adults, expressive writing for the emotional and physical well-being of dementia caregivers, and the benefits of exercise in schizophrenia and autism.

George Bizer

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As a social psychologist, I have broad research interests that include marketing and advertising, persuasion, perceptions of fairness and unfairness, attitude measurement, and social norms.

Jennifer Fredricks

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My research interests include student engagement, motivation, educational interventions, extracurricular participation, and gender-role socialization. I have examined these questions in large scale longitudinal studies of child and adolescent development, in-depth classroom observational studies, and interview studies.

Marlow Guerrant

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I am passionate about utilizing research as a tool to understand and address social problems, particularly those facing diverse LGBTQ+ populations such as immigrants, Latinx persons, and transgender and gender non-conforming individuals. More specifically, my research is focused on health equity and understanding factors which influence health-seeking behaviors and health outcomes. I am particularly interested in sexual health, diagnoses tied to sex assigned at birth (e.g. gynecological cancers, prostate cancer), inclusive sexual education and health promotion, and factors such as self-efficacy, sense of community, communication, and prior experiences in healthcare settings. As a community psychologist by training, I often utilize community-based and participatory methods in my work.

Jason Haberman

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I study how we see the world. Our brain is inundated with millions of bits of information in a given moment — too much information to consciously process. How do we make sense of the world given the sparse representations we are allotted? We use heuristics, cheat codes designed to overcome processing limitations. One such heuristic, ensemble perception, grants us access to summary statistical information (e.g., average, variance, distributions). Our lab studies the mechanisms supporting ensemble perception and the downstream consequences of an adaptation that necessarily blurs across individual differences.

Joshua Hart

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I have three overlapping areas of research interests: (1) The effects of psychological security and insecurity. Humans are fundamentally motivated to feel secure, which affects us in many ways. I and my students have studied the effects of security and insecurity on close relationships, self-esteem (e.g., academic, athletic, and appearance goals), attitudes (e.g., belief in evolution and intelligent design; support for military interventions and political candidates, belief in conspiracy theories), risk-taking, information-processing, and decision-making. (2) Attachment and close relationships. I am interested in how security-related individual differences (especially attachment style) influence close relationship and non-relationship phenomena. (3) Self-esteem and belief systems. I am also interested in the ways that people enhance and maintain their self-esteem and beliefs about the world. Therefore, research on self-esteem or worldviews (e.g., politics, religion, morality) is generally in my wheelhouse.

Jamie Norton

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My laboratory designs and develops non-invasive brain-computer interfaces (BCIs) for the assessment and diagnosis of disease and injury. Our goal is to use BCIs to enhance the utility of non-invasive imaging-based clinical diagnostics. As a model system, we are presently investigating BCI-based color vision (CV) assessment for the early detection of Parkinson's disease (PD). In addition, we apply our knowledge and methods to contribute to basic and applied research in neural engineering and other fields.

Mariah Purol

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I'm interested in understanding how people create, enhance, and maintain a good life—one that they find satisfying. In particular, I am focused on the role that social relationships play in this sense of satisfaction—especially romantic relationships. My work examines how both individuals' and their partners' characteristics influence their relationship satisfaction, life satisfaction, and well-being. To that end, I'm interested in how we create happy satisfying lives as individuals (studying traits like gratitude and optimism), and as relationship members (studying constructs like interpersonal perceptions and personality in romantic relationships and in friendships).

Chad Rogers

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Much of my prior work has been focused on speech comprehension in young and older adults. My work combines cognitive psychology, neuroscience, linguistics, and audiology. My specific research topics of late are: (1) The neural reorganization of speech processing. I am interested in how young and older adults may engage different routes to successful speech processing by recruiting different neural mechanisms revealed through EEG, structural and functional MRI. (2) Effortful listening and its impact on semantic processing. In difficult listening situations people report expending cognitive effort to achieve successful speech comprehension. I am interested in how people use meaning and semantics as a "shortcut" to reduce effort. (3). Linguistic and acoustic contributions to auditory memory. I am also interested in how variables like syntax and background noise make information not only difficult to understand, but also less likely to be remembered.

Stephen Romero

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Current research pursues three general goals: (1) Investigating neuronal plasticity associated with acquisition of new cognitive skills, recovery of function after brain injury, and associated with neurological and psychological disorders. These studies include the use of behavioral, neuroimaging and EEG methods with patients and unimpaired volunteers; (2) Investigating the role of optimism in cognitive skill learning through the use of behavioral, EEG, and Neuroimaging methods with patients and unimpaired volunteers; (3) Investigating neurological basis of musical processing through the use of behavioral, EEG, and Neuroimaging methods with patients and unimpaired volunteers.

Allie Spiekerman

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My research examines social support in adolescent peer relationships and implications for adolescent adjustment (e.g., depressive symptoms, relationship quality). I am particularly focused on interactions within close adolescent friendships and how the specific ways friends respond to each other when given the opportunity to provide support are associated with each friends' adjustment. My current research takes a multimethod approach, examining adolescent friends' interactions in-person (using an observational task) and their interactions over text messaging.

D. Catherine Walker

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My research focuses on body image, eating disorders, and disordered weight- and shape-control behaviors. Specifically, individuals with body dissatisfaction repeatedly engage in body checking or body image avoidance behaviors, to gain or avoid information about their shape, weight, and size. My research has examined how body checking and avoidance behaviors impact body image and weight- and shape-control behaviors. I also have a research interest in body image and disordered eating and exercise behaviors in men. Lastly, my research focuses on clinical applications of prevention and treatment for eating disorders and body image dissatisfaction.

Carol Weisse

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My research examines the dying process from both patient and caregiver perspectives. I am particularly interested in a model of care where patients with home insecurity and/or caregiver instability receive care by non-familial caregivers in community-run residential care homes. My research team has been studying the management of symptoms such as pain, anxiety, and restlessness and how caregivers dispense hospice-prescribed medications. I am also investigating creative ways of using narratives about dying (e.g. through theater, public art, film etc..) to improve death literacy.