

Introducing the Incoming Graduate Student Class of Fall 2016 Department of Psychology



Devika Basu (Clinical)

I am originally from Rochester, MN but have spent the last 6 years in Chicago where I completed my BA in psychology and history at Northwestern University. Since graduation in 2014, I have worked as a study coordinator for Drs. Edith Chen and Greg Miller, and have primarily focused on socioeconomic status and health disparities, specifically in the realm of pediatric asthma. I am so excited to be joining Dr. Linda Craighead's lab, where I hope to further develop my interest in studying risk and resilience factors related to obesity in children and adolescents. Outside of work, I enjoy watching soccer (I'm a huge Manchester United fan), baking, traveling, and spending time with friends and family.



Martha Bawn (NAB)

I was born and raised in Boulder, Colorado and graduated from UC Berkeley with a double major in cognitive science and mathematics. While I was there, I helped with research on learning strategies using eye-tracking techniques with Dr. Silvia Bunge as well as some work on economical decision-making in fox squirrels with Dr. Lucia Jacobs. I also served as a field research assistant with Field Projects International, which conducts field studies in the Peruvian Amazon on saddleback and emperor tamarins. I assisted them in collecting and analyzing data on tamarin communication and sensory perception. My studies on cognitive science and my interest in animals' role in society has led me to pursue a career studying how humans and animals interact. I'm excited to get started by studying empathy and theory of mind in dogs' interactions with their owners in Dr. Berns' lab. In my free time, I enjoy drawing, watching movies, playing with my cat and traveling.

April Brown (Clinical)



I moved to Atlanta, GA in 2009 to pursue my undergraduate studies in Psychology and Public Health Science at Spelman College. During my tenure as a Spelman student, I studied psychosocial stress among college women, stress and risky sex behaviors among incarcerated girls, and the social determinants of health. I have worked as a Guest Researcher and Program Analyst at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in the Division of Congenital and Developmental Disorders since 2012, and I earned my Master's in Public Health from Emory University in May 2016. Most recently, I have been studying the intergenerational effects of adverse childhood experiences on parenting practices, child antisocial behavior, and criminal offending. This fall, I will be joining Dr. Patricia Brennan's BUILD Lab, where I hope to continue studying childhood adversity, biological stress, and developmental psychopathology. I enjoy cooking, 90's music, pursuing "work-life balance," and spending time in the sun.

Cyrus Chi (Clinical)



Cyrus Chi received a BA in Biology in 2001 and an MA in Biomedical Engineering from Rutgers University. After school, he worked as a medical device engineer in various start-ups for 10 years. Concurrently, he also volunteered in Dr. Allison Harvey's Sleep lab and Dr. Aaron Fisher's Ideographic Dynamics lab as well as at the local suicide and crisis hotline. He is currently interested in research exploring how the Evolutionary Theory of Behavioral Dynamics may be potentially codified in neurological activity, intrapersonal disease state etiology, quantification and detection of behavioral feedback loops, and technologically aided prevention and treatment models.



Tom Costello (Clinical)

Born in New York City, I graduated from Binghamton University (SUNY) this past May with a B.A. in Psychology and Philosophy. During my time there, I worked with Dr. Steven Jay Lynn in the Laboratory of Consciousness and Cognition while conducting research on the relation of free will beliefs to the symptomatology of depressive disorders (emphasizing maladaptive cognitions and emotional dysregulation). At Emory, I will be joining Dr. Scott Lilienfeld's lab, where I am particularly excited to begin studying processes underlying the affective-interpersonal features of psychopathic personality. In spare moments I might be found reading, hiking, writing poetry, or watching Game of Thrones. I'm very much looking forward to working with all of you!



Kristina Dahlgren (C&D)

Originally from Colorado, I completed my Associate's Degree in Electronics and Computer Technology at Arapahoe Community College in 2011. Soon after I landed a contract with HP providing IT support to Pearl Harbor Naval Base in Hawaii where I lived for two years. I returned to Colorado in 2013 and completed my BS in Psychology with a concentration in Mind, Brain and Behavior and a minor in Biomedical Sciences at Colorado State University in 2016. My Senior Honors Thesis conducted under the mentorship of Dr. Lucy Troup investigated whether cannabis use had a modulatory effect on emotional face processing in PTSD using an ERP/EEG paradigm. I am excited to be joining Dr. Stephan Hamann's lab and utilizing structural and functional neuroimaging methods to investigate the brain systems and structures underlying memory, emotional processing, and stress. My favorite activities include riding my motorcycle, kickboxing, hiking, and cuddling my puppies.



Roberto Espana (Clinical)

I am from Brockton, Massachusetts, a city about 30 minutes south of Boston. I graduated from Northeastern University in 2015 with a BS in Psychology and minor in Behavioral Neuroscience. For the last year, I have been working as a Behavior Therapist with the May Institute, helping children and families on the Autism Spectrum. My interests lie in exploring the neurodevelopmental factors behind brain disorders, particularly in schizophrenia. I also have an interest in investigating the relationship between schizophrenia and marijuana use during adolescence. In my free time, I enjoy spending it with my family and friends, traveling, cooking, reading, and participating in team sports. And of course, no leisure time would be complete without a healthy dose of Netflix!



Cynthia Guo (C&D)

I am originally from Beijing, China. I graduated from the University of California, Los Angeles in 2016 with highest honors in Psychology and a minor in Applied Developmental Psychology. At UCLA, I worked at Dr. Barbara Knowlton's Cognitive Neuroscience Lab and explored whether interleaved sequence training transfer more efficiently in motor sequence learning. I also worked as an intern at the Infant Development Program with children from 0-3. I am excited to work with Dr. Philippe Rochat and to research on social rejection in early childhood from a cross-cultural perspective. In my free time, I enjoy musicals, films, soccer games, and learning something new about a different culture.

Shabnam Hossein (Clinical)



I was born and raised in Tehran, Iran. After receiving my BS in physics, I moved to the United States to continue my graduate studies in Physics. As I got more involved in advanced research in Physics, I realized that a career in Physics is not satisfying for me, and my old passion in understanding and modeling human behavior guided my path to psychology. I graduated from University of Houston with a Ph.D. in Physics in 2015, after which I spent one year working as a volunteer research assistant at the Center for the Treatment and Study of Anxiety at the University of Pennsylvania. My primary research interests lie in understanding the underlying cognitive mechanisms that maintain psychopathological symptoms especially present in anxiety and mood disorders. I am also interested in applying methods of network science, which has been shown to be successful in many other disciplines, to study psychopathology. I will be joining Dr. Treadway's lab, where I am excited to study possible subtypes of depression using network science framework. I enjoy traveling, reading, and spending time with my friends.

Paul Moon (NAB)



I graduated from The University of Georgia (UGA) in 2010 with a BS in Psychology and from Wake Forest University (WFU) in 2013 with an MA in Experimental Psychology, focusing in visual perception and physiology. I spent the past three years in North Carolina working in the field of clinical research, both at an IRB and at a Clinical Research Organization. Initially my research interests were along the lines of self-control and self-regulation as I worked in Dr. Michelle vanDellen's self-regulation lab as an undergraduate. As I continued my course work at UGA I became more interested in the visual system and physiology. I followed this interest at WFU where I worked with Dr. Jim Schirillo to investigate whether a specific type self-repeating pattern, a fractal, is observed in very fine changes in the pupil size overtime. I am extremely excited to be joining Dr. Hillary Rodman's lab to investigate the possible relation between atypical circadian rhythms, light exposure and alterations in mood via deficient visual processing of emotionally salient stimuli..."In my free time I enjoy staying active (running, walking, playing sports), playing with my enormous dog (Seymour), watching movies, listening to live music, trying new restaurants, and spending time with friends and family.



Elise Ozbardakci (Clinical)

After graduating Cornell University with a BA in Psychology, I headed to NYC to study Human Nutrition at Columbia University. While working on my thesis, my research focused on how macronutrients affect subsequent energy intake over time. With an M.S. in hand, I decided to expand my experience by working in a more applied research setting at Columbia University's Medical Center. While there, I devoted my efforts to a cooperative implementation initiative that aims to improve substance abuse and mental health service access for youth in the justice system. I'll be joining Dr. Linda Craighead's team, where I plan to focus my research on childhood and adolescent obesity prevention and treatment. As somebody who's interested in nutrition and obesity prevention, I unsurprisingly enjoy baking in my free time. I'm also a fan of watching critically-panned horror films.

Steven Riley (Clinical)



I'm originally from San Diego and have been a Californian my whole life. I majored in mathematics and symbolic systems at Stanford University, where I spent a year as the drum major of the marching band. I've worked as a computer programmer, high school teacher, tutor, researcher and therapist. I received my M.S. in clinical psychology from Notre Dame de Namur University in 2015. I hold two patents for work in on-the-fly language translation in video games. I'm an avid crossword puzzle constructor and have had three puzzles published in the New York Times. I'm interested in two main areas of research: quantitative analysis and modeling of behavior, and extending the reach and efficacy of clinical treatments via tools developed for consumer technology (e.g., smartphones and VR devices). I'm very excited to be working with Dr. McDowell's lab when I arrive at Emory. When I'm not nerding out in the lab I enjoy nerding out in other ways, like trivia nights, video games and sci-fi novels. I play bass guitar and will probably try to find my way into a local band once I arrive. My wife Erica has been very gracious about moving to Atlanta with me and it will be her turn next to pick where we live.