
JOHN JAY

PSYCHOLOGY DEPARTMENT NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2019

Greetings from the Department of Psychology!

Greetings from the Psychology Department! There is a lot of exciting work happening in our department—read on for highlights!

- We have approximately 2000 Forensic Psychology (FP) undergraduate majors.
- Each semester, we schedule advising with upper sophomores (45-59 credits) and new transfer students. *Don't miss your turn!*
- We have an email list for FP majors on which we share job and research opportunities and other interesting information. *Keep your eyes peeled for those messages!*
- If you need advisement, please contact your advisor, Ms. Tanzania Browne tbrowne@jjay.cuny.edu. For advising on

Psychology as a career, email Dr. Daryl Wout at psychologyadvising@jjay.cuny.edu.

- We have 2 master's degree (MA) programs in the department — Forensic Psychology and Forensic Mental Health Counseling, and a BA/MA Program. Two doctoral programs are housed at John Jay as well (Clinical Psychology @ John Jay and Psychology & Law).

If you are interested in our graduate programs, please contact Ms. Kelisha Layne, Assistant Director, at klayne@jjay.cuny.edu.

We have a WORLD CLASS faculty supporting all of these programs (see below). Read more about our newest faculty members on pp. 3-4.

Enjoy our latest news!



Change begins with you! Meet our student coordinators & researchers!



Did you know?

- Psychology professors are *very* active scholars! In 2017, **they published 10 books—and 155 journal articles!** For a good read, look for books by Drs. Cynthia Calkins, Elizabeth Jeglic, Saul Kassin, Margaret Kovera, Pamela Livecchi, Silvia Mazzula, Kevin Nadal, Louis Schlesinger, and Philip Yanos—at a bookstore near you!
- **Dr. Cathy Spatz Widom**, Distinguished Professor of Psychology, won ***The Stockholm Prize in Criminology*** in 2016, the most prestigious award in criminology!
- **Dr. Kevin Nadal** won the American Psychological Association ***Early Career Award for Distinguished Contributions to Psychology in the Public Interest*** in 2017.
- **Dr. Saul Kassin** won the American Psychological Association ***Award for Distinguished Contributions to Research in Public Policy*** in 2017.

Welcome to our Newest Faculty Members!

Dr. Veronica Johnson

Dr. Johnson joined John Jay as an Assistant Professor of Psychology in Fall 2017. Dr. Johnson earned her PhD from Teachers College, Columbia University (Counseling Psychology) and her BA from the University of Florida (Psychology).



Dr. Johnson's research examines issues of race and culture, typically as they relate to mental and physical health outcomes. Also, Dr. Johnson works to create strengths-

based approaches to counseling with racially and ethnically diverse clients. She is collaborating with colleagues to document adverse psychological effects of race-based traumatic stress and to validate and revise the Race-Based Traumatic Stress Scale, a tool to measure traumatic stress reactions to race-based incidents. Dr. Johnson is working on an academic text, outlining culturally appropriate, evidence-based guidelines to clinical practice with Black American adults. Dr. Johnson enjoys working out and taking in plays with family and friends.

Dr. Kelly McWilliams

Dr. McWilliams joined John Jay as an Assistant Professor of Psychology in Fall 2017. Dr. McWilliams earned her PhD from the University of California, Davis (Developmental Psychology) and her BA from Emory University (Psychology). She came to the College following a postdoctoral fellowship at the Gould School of Law, University of Southern California.

Dr. McWilliams studies children's experiences in the legal system. Specifically, her work largely focuses on children's cognitive and social development with a specialty in children's reports of stressful



and traumatic events. She conducts research in the areas of: 1) Identification of developmental mechanisms that influence the efficacy of current investigative practices; 2) Evaluating the influence of familial pressures on the reliability of children eyewitness reports; and 3) Creating developmentally sensitive interview techniques that maximize the productivity of child witnesses, while minimizing the risk of suggestion and false allegations.

Dr. Emily Haney-Caron

Dr. Haney-Caron joined John Jay as an Assistant Professor of Psychology in Fall 2018. Dr. Haney-Caron earned her JD and PhD (Clinical Psychology) from Drexel University and BAs from Columbia University and the Jewish Theological Seminary.



Dr. Haney-Caron's research focuses on the alignment between adolescents' capacities to make legal decisions and the expectations placed upon them by the juvenile justice system (including juvenile pleas, *Miranda* waivers, and confessions). Most of Dr. Haney-Caron's free time is devoted to listening to podcasts, singing in a feminist choir, and resisting adopting another cat.

Dr. Jessica Karanian

Dr. Karanian joined John Jay as an Assistant Professor of Psychology in Fall 2018. Dr. Karanian earned her PhD from Boston College (Cognitive Neuroscience) and BA from Fairfield University (Psychology). Prior to John Jay, she was Visiting Assistant Professor at Wesleyan University and Postdoctoral Research Scholar at Tufts University.

Dr. Karanian studies human perception and memory. She investigates the manner in which true and false memories are constructed using a variety of methods, behavioral and physiological measures, as well as neuroimaging techniques.



Dr. Casey LaDuke

Dr. LaDuke joined John Jay as an Assistant Professor of Psychology in Fall 2018. Dr. LaDuke earned his PhD from Drexel University (Clinical Psychology, forensic and neuropsychology specializations) and BA from



the University of Rochester (Psychology). He came to John Jay following his blended training as an intern at NYU Langone Medical Center and, most recently, as a neuropsychology fellow at the University of Virginia Health System.

Dr. LaDuke hopes to continue his research, teaching, and service at the intersection of law, brain, and behavior. When not working, Casey is probably in his kitchen trying to master the art of pasta making, or with his wife Cristina exploring their new hometown of Montclair, New Jersey.

Have you heard of Psi Chi?

Psi Chi is an **honor society** in psychology!

To be eligible, you need an overall GPA of 3.0, and 3.5 in your Psychology classes.

Check it out:

https://www.jjay.cuny.edu/sites/default/files/graduation/PsiChi_Application.pdf

APLS Conference in Portland: The Place to Be!

The annual American Psychology-Law Society conference will be held March 14-16 in Portland, Oregon, and John Jay students and faculty members will again participate in force!

The AP-LS conference attracts hundreds of Forensic Psychology scholars from across the world. Attendees present their research to peers, receiving valuable feedback, generating new ideas, and sometimes sparking debate and even controversy! Numerous PhD, MA and undergraduate students participate as well. This provides an opportunity for our students to network and meet well-known figures in the field—and they participate in the dissemination of science among colleagues. It is an important step in the process of scientific inquiry.

John Jay is well represented every year at the conference. This includes our annual social held the final Saturday evening of the conference. This year's event will be:

Saturday, March 16th, 7:30-11pm

Punch Bowl Social

340 SW Morrison Street #4305, Portland

The Psychology Department faculty includes two past presidents of the American Psychology Law Society (Kovera and Kassin) and many of our faculty members are active in the organization as committee members. Student memberships are available for \$15 (see <https://www.apadivisions.org/division-41/membership>). See you in Portland!

Graduate School?

Getting a Good Reference Letter in Psychology

By Dr. Elizabeth Jeglic

One question I get a lot is – how do I get a letter of recommendation from a professor?

If you are thinking of applying to graduate school, law school or medical school after you complete your degree, an integral part of your application will be academic letters of reference. These are letters of reference from professors who can speak to your academic accomplishments and potential for future study. You may also need academic references for jobs and clinical internships.

Many programs require at least 3 references and they often prefer that these are academic references. This can seem overwhelming especially if you are a part time student or a student who takes most of their classes online where you don't have a lot of time to speak with your professors before and after class. To complicate matters, a letter stating that you were a student in my class and received a grade of B+ does not go far to set you apart from other students.

So how do you get a good letter of recommendation? Here are some suggestions:

- 1) Be an active participant in your classes
- 2) Talk to your professors after class
- 3) Set up a meeting with your faculty advisor to talk about applications.
- 4) Go to office hours and discuss your future plans with your professors
- 5) If you are not on campus a lot – write e-mails or arrange a time to speak on the phone

- 6) Try to take more than 1 class with the same professor so they can know you better
- 7) Volunteer to help the professor with their research
- 8) Join a research lab on campus
- 9) Sign up to do an independent study or supervised research experience with a professor

The more the professor gets to know you above and beyond a student in X class, the stronger your letter of reference will be.

Good luck and feel free to reach out to your faculty advisor for more information about applying to graduate school or how to get a good letter of recommendation.

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Dr. Elizabeth L. Jeglic is a Professor of Psychology. She received her doctorate in clinical psychology from Binghamton University. Dr. Jeglic completed a postdoctoral fellowship at the University of Pennsylvania under the mentorship of Dr. Aaron T. Beck where she specialized in the assessment and treatment of suicidal behavior and gained expertise in Cognitive Therapy. Dr. Jeglic's research interests focus on issues broadly related to sex offender assessment, treatment and public policy. Dr. Jeglic is a Mentor in the Ronald E. McNair Program and she actively mentors students at all levels and is eager to involve them in her research. Dr. Jeglic has been awarded mentoring awards from the American Psychological Association and John Jay College.

Do you have questions about your major or want some advising about careers in psychology?

Email: psychologyadvising@jjay.cuny.edu

Advising Corner: Tips from Deputy Chair Wout

Did you know that careers in Psychology often require a graduate degree?

If you think you want to help others through Counseling or providing therapy, chances are you will need a graduate degree after you earn a BA in Forensic Psychology. How do you do that?

First, it is important to consider what kind of work you would like to do. Do you want to work with children? Adults? Do you want to assist the incarcerated? Substance abusers? Answers to such questions can and should guide your thinking about what kind of graduate degree to pursue.

For example, if you think you would like to work with families—a Master’s of Social Work (MSW) degree is a great choice. If you think you want to help substance abusers—a Certificate in Alcohol and Substance Abuse Counseling (CASAC) could be a great choice. And you can begin to earn it while an undergraduate! Do you want to study the impact of race on policing or eyewitness decision-making, perhaps a PhD is for you.

Whatever you think you might want to do in your career—ask questions! Do your homework. Figure out what you need to do to reach your career goals—and plan ahead now!

Do you know about the BA/MA Program?

By Dr. Jennifer Dysart

The Baccalaureate/Master’s (BA/MA) Degree Program in Forensic Psychology provides academically advanced students the opportunity to simultaneously earn both their bachelor’s and master’s degrees in five years instead of six!

The one year “savings” is achieved by reducing the number of undergraduate credits required for the BA degree from 120 to 92. Students in the program complete all 42 credits of the MA degree, bringing the total number of credits to 134. In addition, BA/MA students pay undergraduate tuition up to 120 credits and PELL/TAP grants can be applied towards the degree.

When and how do you apply?

Students should have 70 completed credits (or will have 70 credits at the end of the application semester) and fewer than 85

completed credits at the time they submit their application. In addition, successful applicants must have an overall GPA of 3.5 or better to be admitted to the program and the 3.5 GPA must be maintained throughout the program in order to be able to graduate. To apply, students will submit a 750-1000 word personal statement indicating why the applicant is seeking admission, two letters of recommendation from faculty members, a writing sample that is representative of the applicant’s research/writing skills, and an unofficial copy of all university academic transcripts.

For more information, please visit the BA/MA webpage at <http://www.jjay.cuny.edu/bama>. Students are encouraged to contact the BA/MA Program Director, Dr. Jennifer Dysart, at bamadirector@jjay.cuny.edu with any questions or for individualized advising prior to being eligible for the program. The application deadline for Fall 2019 admission is June 15, 2019.

Tips? How to Succeed in Psychology Classes

By Angela Crossman

The Forensic Psychology major is challenging for a number of reasons. A few tips for you to think about.

First, the psychology major involves lots of reading, often from textbooks in PSY 101 and in the 200-level PSY classes. Reading and studying from textbooks is a skill that takes some practice. It is very important to READ, READ AGAIN, and READ AGAIN. Take notes on what you read. Quiz yourself on what you read. Ask your professor if you

don't understand what you read. You can't remember what you don't understand. It takes time to master new material—give yourself your best chance by doing the readings that are assigned.

Second, the psychology major involves writing. If this is not a strength of yours, make liberal use of the writing center. Read and USE the feedback your professors give you on your papers. We all want you to succeed here and in the future—and working hard to build your reading and writing skills will serve you well now and in the future!

Who to contact? Questions about Psychology

Anila Duro is Administrative Director of the **Psychology Department**. She oversees the operation of the department and works closely with the Chair and faculty on strategic initiatives and academic programming. Anila oversees the Research Experience Programs for the department. Anila can be reached at aduro@jjay.cuny.edu or 212-484-1188. Dina Baky is the coordinator of the **Research Experience Program**. Faculty and students can contact Dina at rep@jjay.cuny.edu. Brandon Garcia is the coordinator for the **Psychology Department**. Brandon oversees student intake and supports faculty, staff and students with all matters. Brandon can be reached at psychology@jjay.cuny.edu or 212-237-8771.

Kelisha Layne is Assistant Director of **Master's Programs**. She oversees and provides academic advisement services to nearly 400

graduate students. She oversees the operation of the MA Excellence Fees initiative. Connect with her by email at klayne@jjay.cuny.edu or 646-557-4862.



We also welcomed this year Naomi Naiztat, Assistant Director of **Master's Program Career Advising**. She advises students on externship opportunities, in addition to providing assistance with career preparation and advisement. She can be reached at nnaiztat@jjay.cuny.edu or 212-393-6490.

Shakiera Duren is the coordinator of the **Psychology PhD Programs**. Shakiera provides support to our PhD programs, both assisting current students and fielding questions from students interested in applying. She recently earned her MA in Psychology from City College. She can be reached at sduren@jjay.cuny.edu or 212-237-8252.

Happy Black History Month!

DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY
BLACK HISTORY MONTH
"WE OWE TRAYVON A PLACE WHERE HE WOULDN'T WORRY THAT HE LIVES NEXT TO SOMEONE —OR A GROUP OF SOMEONE'S—THAT ROOTS FOR HIS MURDER." DR. GOFF

Join Dr. Veronica Johnson and the Department of Psychology for a talk celebrating prominent Black Psychologists throughout history.



Dr. Joseph L. White, Father of Black Psychology

Dr. Veronica Johnson's research focuses on views of Black Culture historically and working together to come from a strengths based perspective.



Thursday, February 21st

Community hour @ 1:40 PM

L2.85 NB

RSVP: psychology@jjay.cuny.edu

