

# PsychNews Ψ

Department of Psychology | St. Thomas University | Fredericton, NB

## Welcome

Welcome to PsychNews, a publication of the Department of Psychology, St. Thomas University. We produce two issues per year.

## Purpose

PsychNews provides readers with updates on faculty, honours students, and honours programme alumni, as well as other noteworthy information about the department.

## Editor

The current editor of PsychNews is Dr. Suzanne Prior. Suggestions and/or updates for issues can be sent to Dr. Prior ([prior@stu.ca](mailto:prior@stu.ca)). The Department of Psychology reserves the right to determine the content of PsychNews.

## Editor's Note

It has been four years since the last issue of PsychNews was published. For this reason, this issue is particularly full of exciting news and updates!

## Retirements

The Department of Psychology recently bid fond farewells to two highly respected and valued colleagues, Dr. Douglas Vipond and Dr. Michael Houlihan. Dr. Vipond was a full-time member of the department from 1977 to 2014. He taught courses in research methods, cognitive psychology, and the psychology of music. Dr. Houlihan was a full-time member of the department from 2003 to 2015. He taught courses in biopsychology, personality, and statistics. The department wishes Drs. Vipond and Houlihan the very best in this new chapter of their lives.

### *Dr. Douglas Vipond*



“After teaching in the department for thirty-seven years, I decided it was time to turn the proverbial page. Throughout my career, I was lucky to have supportive colleagues and engaged students; together, they kept things interesting. In my new calling as a freelance academic editor ([www.stu.ca/vipond](http://www.stu.ca/vipond)), I continue to keep in close touch with STU, and, best of all, I often get to use APA style. I'd like to thank everyone for making my career so rewarding.”

## Current Honours Thesis Projects

*A probe recognition investigation of the self-serving bias in causal attribution.* Karen Buckle (Advisor: Dr. Nancy C. Higgins)

*Evaluating multitasking as a desirable difficulty.* Brittany Harris (Advisor: Dr. Sandra Thomson)

*Constructions of female sexuality in Fifty Shades of Grey.* Kasey Lohnes (Advisor: Dr. Monika Stelzl)

*Cross-cultural differences in the perception of workplace bullying.* Alexander McGregor (Advisor: Dr. Marvin Claybourn)

*World assumptions' mediating role between psychological capital and well-being.* Laura Moores (Advisor: Dr. Dave Korotkov)

*Self-compassion, time perspective, and well-being.* Michelle Richard (Advisor: Dr. Dave Korotkov)

*Are multitaskers better at doing two things at once? Investigating the relationship between media multitasking and attentional control.* Maria Clara Santacruz (Advisor: Dr. Sandra Thomson)

*Teachers' knowledge and beliefs concerning both traditional and cyber-bullying.* Mitchell Syvert-Chaplin (Advisor: Dr. Ian Fraser)



## Dr. Michael Houliban

“It is impossible to convey the gratitude I have toward everyone I have come in contact with at St. Thomas during my tenure. One of the main reasons that I chose to work at St. Thomas was the warm reception I received during my interview and I was rewarded with fabulous colleagues. It was an honour to serve and work with everyone. My students were an inspiration. I only hope that my dedication to teaching was felt by them. I truly cherish the successes of all of these graduates. I hope the future holds great things for everyone.”



Honours Class, 2015-2016

Back row (L-R): Mitchell Sivert-Chaplin, Maria Clara Santacruz, Kasey Lohnes, Laura Moores, Michelle Richard

Front row (L-R): Karen Buckle, Alexander McGregor, Brittany Harris

## New Faculty



### ***Dr. Sandra Thomson***

The department welcomes Dr. Sandra Thomson who began her full-time position on July 1, 2014. Dr. Thomson completed her Ph.D. in Psychology at McMaster University in 2013. Her area of specialization is Cognitive Psychology, specifically attention and divided attention.

“I am interested in why people have such a hard time doing two things at once. As an attention researcher, I study the basic cognitive mechanisms involved in multitasking behaviour, and how these are coordinated in the brain on a moment-to-moment basis when we try to do two things at once. It is important to understand how our attention is controlled in these situations, because people multitask all the time! However, there is plenty of research, including some of my own, showing that there are limitations or bottlenecks in our attention that prevent us from being able to effectively perform two tasks at the same time. My current research is investigating the extent to which experience with multitasking in everyday life affects our ability to control attention in the face of distraction, and the effects of multitasking on learning and memory.”

Fun facts about Dr. Thomson: She is from Guelph, ON. She likes to crochet and is an avid baseball fan!

# Honours Alumni News: A Showcase of Diversity and Excellence

## *Graduate School Acceptances and Updates*

Christine Babineau (BA Honours 2013) completed her MA in Psychology at the University of Saskatchewan in 2015. She is continuing in the PhD program.

Julia Bremner (BA Honours 2012) was accepted into the MSW program at Carleton University.

Isabel Brun (BA Honours 2013) was accepted into the MA program in counselling psychology at the University of Calgary.

Ian Davidson (BA Honours 2012) completed his MA in Psychology at York University in 2015. He is continuing in the PhD program.

Mackenzie Doiron (BA Honours 2015) is currently completing the UNB BEd program with a concentration in ESL education.

Mitchell LaPointe (BA Honours 2008) completed his MSc in Psychology at the University of Lethbridge in 2010. He is now completing his PhD at McMaster University.

Craig Mazerolle (BA Honours 2012) was accepted into the JD program in Law at Osgoode Hall Law School, York University.

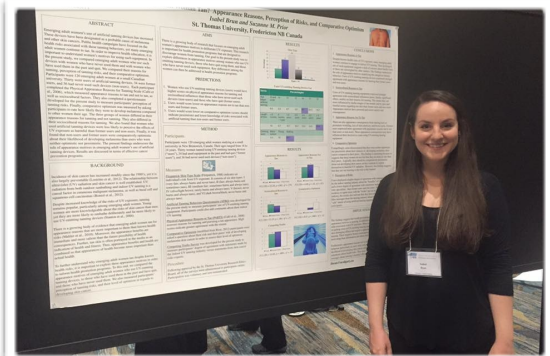
Jaime McKenzie-Mohr (BA Honours 2014) was accepted into the MScOT program in Occupational Therapy at Western University.

Aaron Michaux (BA Honours 2010) is completing his PhD in Electrical and Computer Engineering at Purdue University. His research follows from optimization theory (in engineering) and theory in visual perception, where he and his thesis supervisor take models tested in perceptual psychology and then attempt to recreate them as real world engineering applications.

Jasmine Peterson (BA Honours 2010) completed her MA in Clinical Psychology at Lakehead University in 2015.

Angela Priede (BA Honours 2013) was accepted into the PhD program in Clinical Psychology at the University of Ottawa.

Lindsay Rafuse (BA Honours 2013) completed her MSW at Wilfred Laurier University in 2015.



Isabel Brun (BA Honours 2013) presents her honours thesis research at the Society for the Study of Emerging Adulthood conference, in Miami, FL. in 2015

Emily Ready (BA Honours 2013) was accepted into the combined MSc(OT)/PhD program in Occupational Therapy at Western University.

Brittany Stairs (BA Honours 2012) was accepted into the Midwifery Program, Department of Family Practice, Faculty of Medicine at the University of British Columbia.

Emily Thomas (BA Honours 2014) was accepted into the MA program in Clinical Psychology at Ryerson University.

Katelyn Waite (BA Honours, 2013) was accepted into the MSc(OT) program in Occupational Therapy at Dalhousie University.



## *Career Updates*

Kim Arbeau (BA Honours 2002), PhD is now a research coordinator at the Child and Parent Resource Institute, London, ON.

Cheryl Aubie (BA Honours 2000), PhD is now a clinical psychologist and a member of the board of directors of the Eating Disorder Association of Canada in Halifax, NS.

Jennifer Bennell (BA Honours 2012) completed her MA in Women's Studies at Western University in 2014. Jenn is currently working in management for OSL retail services in Fredericton, NB. She is planning on returning to university to complete her PhD in psychology in the next few years.

Amanda Clark (BA Honours 2005), PhD is now a faculty member in psychology at the University of Tennessee, Chattanooga, TN.

Jennifer Dysart (BA Honours 1998), PhD is now a faculty member in psychology at John Jay College of Criminal Justice, CUNY, New York, NY.

Charlotte Ellis (BA Honours 2011), MSc is now a registered audiologist and working as a clinical audiologist in Calgary, AB.

Shauna Fuller (BA Honours 2003), MA is working as a policy analyst/planner, Chief Mental Health Office in the Department of Health in Charlottetown, PEI.

Hannes Henzinger (BA Honours 2005), PhD is now a clinical psychologist with the Tyrollean Child Welfare Services in Innsbruck, Austria.

Margo MacGregor (BA Honours 2006), MES joined Eastern Canada Response Corporation (ECRC) in Dartmouth, NS, as a member of the Operations Support team after graduation from Dalhousie, and she has worked in management of energy/efficiency and energy policy projects, as well as in the forestry and construction industries.

April McGrath (BA Honours 2005), PhD is now a faculty member in psychology at Mount Royal University, Calgary, AB.

Jean-Christian Maillet (BA Honours 2001), MSc is now a project officer on the HIV/AIDS Research Initiative at the Canadian Institutes for Health Research (CIHR) in Ottawa, ON.

Rachel Ouellette (BA Honours 2003), MD is now a paediatrician in Fredericton, NB.

Halley Phillips (BA Honours 2015) is currently working at a Maine Health Centre as an Administrative Associate, and will be applying to graduate schools to study International Peace and Conflict Psychology, with a planned start date in Fall 2016.

Lindsay Rafuse (BA Honours 2013), MSW is now a registered social worker and is working as a counsellor in counselling service at the University of Waterloo, Waterloo, ON.

Christina Raymond (BA Honours 2000), BEd is now a teacher for the anglophone west school district in Fredericton, NB.

Kaitlin Robertson (BA Honours 2008), MSc is now a certified speech-language pathologist in Halifax, NS.

Katie Saunders (BA Honours 2002), PhD is now a school psychologist in Montreal, PQ.

Joshua Slade (BA Honours 2013) completed a Primary Care Paramedic program in Saskatoon and is currently in active training as a paramedic in La Ronge, SK.

Michelle Snow (BA Honours 2005), MEd is now a certified counsellor and certified hypnotherapist in St. John's, NL.

Lisa Spinney (BA Honours 2004), MSc is now a certified speech-language pathologist in Halifax, NS.

Sarah-Jane Thiessen (BA Honours 2015) is a project coordinator at Partners For Youth Inc. and is working on a youth mental health social action project, as well as a provincial strategy to address the trafficking and sexual exploitation of women and youth. She works in Fredericton, NB.

Danielle Quigley (BA Honours 2006), PhD is now a faculty member in psychology at Douglas College, Vancouver, BC.

Lisa Welling (BA Honours 2005), PhD is now a faculty member in psychology at Oakland University, Rochester, MI.



Lindsay Rafuse (BA Honours 2013), MSW at the University of Waterloo where she works as a clinical social worker in counselling services.



**Former honours students: We would love to hear from you!**  
**Please send updates (photos would be great) to [prior@stu.ca](mailto:prior@stu.ca)**

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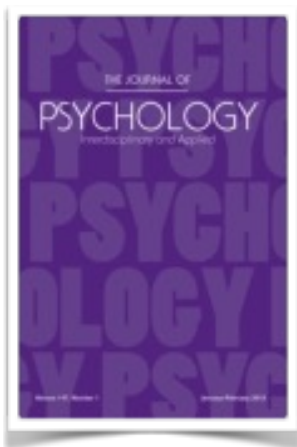
# Recent Faculty Publications and Conference Presentations

## Peer-Reviewed Publications

**Fraser, I.**, Dorgelo, C., & Bond-Fraser, L. (2015). Pre-service teachers' knowledge and perceptions of traditional and cyber-bullying: Are these topics being taught in university education programs? *American Journal of Behavioral and Social Science*, 2, 89-101.

**Fraser, I.**, Bond-Fraser, L., Waite, K., Ready, E., & Morrison, B. (2014). The science behind the fallibility of memory: Is it common knowledge? *American Journal of Behavioral and Social Science*, 1, 1-5.

Wang, Y., **Higgins, N.C.**, Uleman, J., Michaux, A., & Vipond, D. (2015). An interactive activation and competition model of person knowledge, suggested by proactive interference by traits spontaneously inferred from behaviours. *British Journal of Social Psychology*,



Rascle, O., Le Foll, D., Charrier, M., **Higgins, N.C.**, Rees, T., & Coffee, P. (2015). Durability and generalization of attribution-based feedback following failure: Effects on expectations and behavioral persistence. *Psychology of Sport and Exercise*, 18, 68-74.

**Higgins, N.C.**, Bailey, S.J., LaChapelle, D.L., Harman, K., & Hadjistavropoulos, T. (2014). Coping styles, pain expressiveness, and implicit theories of chronic pain. *The Journal of Psychology: Interdisciplinary and Applied*, 0(0), 1-14.

LaChapelle, D.L., Lavoie, S.P., **Higgins, N.C.**, & Hadjistavropoulos, T. (2014). Attractiveness, diagnostic ambiguity, and disability cues impact perceptions of women with pain. *Rehabilitation Psychology*, 59(2), 162-170.

McKenzie-Mohr, S. & **Lafrance, M.N.** (Eds.) (2014). *Women voicing resistance: Discursive and narrative explorations*. London: Routledge.

Wigginton, B., & **Lafrance, M.N.** (forthcoming). How do women manage the spoiled identity of the 'pregnant smoker'? An analysis of discursive silencing in women's accounts. *Feminism & Psychology*.

Wigginton, B., & **Lafrance, M.N.** (2014). 'I think he is immune to all the smoke I gave him': How women account for the harm of smoking during pregnancy. *Health, Risk & Society*, 16(6) 530-546.

**Lafrance, M.N.** (in press). Depression. In N. Naples (Ed.), *Encyclopedia of Gender and Sexualities Studies*. Wiley-Blackwell.

**Lafrance, M.N.** & McKenzie-Mohr, S. (2014). The Diagnostic and Statistical Manual, Overview. In T. Teo (Ed.), *International Encyclopedia of Critical Psychology*, (pp. 501-506). New York: Springer.



**Lafrance, M.N.** (2014). Postpartum depression. In T. Teo (Ed.), *International Encyclopedia of Critical Psychology*, (pp. 1458-1460). New York: Springer.

Brannigan, A., **Nicholson, I.**, & Cherry, F. (2015). Introduction to the Special Issue: Unplugging the Milgram machine. *Theory & Psychology*, 15, 551-563.

**Nicholson, I.** (2015). The normalization of torment: Producing and managing anguish in Milgram's 'Obedience' laboratory. *Theory & Psychology*, 25, 639-656.

**Prior, S.M.**, & Rafuse, L.P. (2015; *in press*). "Oh yeah, they're looking": A thematic analysis of indoor UV tanning industry advertising and articles. *Journal of Public Health Policy*.

**Prior, S.M.**, **Fenwick, K.D.**, & Peterson, J.C. (2014). Adolescents' reasons for tanning and appearance motives: A preliminary investigation. *Body Image*, 11, 93-96.

**Prior, S.M.**, Fujise, K., & **Fenwick, K.D.** (2014). Acquisition of the non-generic definite article in English: The influence of cognitive style. *International Journal of Linguistics*, 6(3), 217-230.

**Stelzl, M.**, & Stairs, B. (2014). The construction of sexuality knowledge in human sexuality textbooks. In A. Pilinska & H. Sigantoria (Eds.), *All Equally Real: Femininities and Masculinities Today* (pp.279-293). Oxfordshire: Inter-disciplinary Press.

Giammarco, M., **Thomson, S. J.**, & Watter, S. (in press). Dual-task backward compatibility effects are episodically mediated. *Attention, Perception, & Psychophysics*.

**Thomson, S. J.**, Danis, L., K., & Watter, S. (2015). PRP training shows Task1 response selection is the locus of the backward response compatibility effect. *Psychonomic Bulletin & Review*, 22, 212-218.

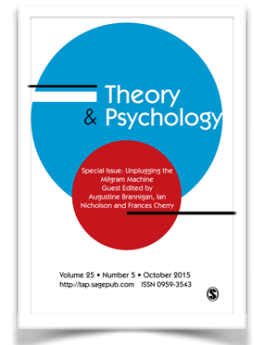
## Conference Presentations

**Fraser, I.**, Dorgelo, C., & Bond-Fraser, L. (2015). Pre-service teachers' knowledge and perceptions of traditional and cyber-bullying: are these topics being taught in university education programs? Presentation at the 18<sup>th</sup> annual conference of the *American Association of Behavioral and Social Sciences*, Las Vegas, NV.

**Fraser, I.**, Ready, E., Bond-Fraser, L. & Morrison, B. (2014). Is the science concerning the fallibility of memory common knowledge? Presentation at the 17<sup>th</sup> annual conference of the *American Association of Behavioral and Social Sciences*, Las Vegas, NV.

**Fraser, I.**, Waite, K. & Bond-Fraser, L. (2014). Police officers' knowledge concerning the fallibility of eyewitness testimony. Presentation at the 17<sup>th</sup> annual conference of the *American Association of Behavioral and Social Sciences*, Las Vegas, NV.

**Higgins, N.C.**, Scheidler, A., & Vipond, D. (2014). Comparative risk estimates are affected by experience. Presentation at the 54<sup>th</sup> *New England Psychological Association meeting*, Lewiston, ME.



Crump L., LaChapelle, D.L., **Higgins, N.C.**, Harman, K., & Hadjistavropoulos, T. (2014). Impact of responsibility attributions and patient gender on nurses' and nursing students' emotional responses and willingness to help patients with chronic low back pain. Presentation at the 35<sup>th</sup> *Annual Scientific Meeting of the Canadian Pain Society*, Quebec City, PQ.

Wigginton, B. & **Lafrance, M.N.** (2014). "I don't talk about it so I'm not judged": Negotiating the good mother discourse in discussions of smoking in pregnancy. Presentation at *Australian Motherhood Initiative for Research and Community Involvement*, Melbourne, Australia.

**Lafrance, M.N.** & McKenzie-Mohr, S. (2014). The importance of counter-stories in critical health psychology. Presentation at *Narrative Matters*, Paris, France.



**Prior, S.M.**, & McKenzie-Mohr, J.H. (2015). Will emerging adult women change their intentions to tan? The effects of an appearance-based intervention. Presentation at the 7<sup>th</sup> annual meeting of the *Society for the Study of Emerging Adulthood*, Miami, FL.

Brun, I., & **Prior, S.M.** (2015). Why do emerging adult women tan? Appearance reasons, perception of risks, and comparative optimism. Presentation at the 7<sup>th</sup> annual meeting of the *Society for the Study of Emerging Adulthood*, Miami, FL.

Fenwick, K.D., **Prior, S.M.**, Bremner, J., & Lamb, M. (2015). Adolescents' tanning behaviors as a function of risk perception. Presentation at the biennial meeting of the *Society for Research on Child Development*, Philadelphia, PA.

**Prior, S.M.** & Brun, I. (2015). To tan or not to tan: Emerging adult women's appearance motives. Presentation at the biennial meeting of the *Society for Research on Child Development*, Philadelphia, PA.

**Stelzl, M.**, Stairs, B., & Kirkby V. (2014). (Mis)understanding sexual distress: Deconstructing human sexuality textbooks. Presentation at the 2014 *Critical Approaches to Discourse Analysis Across Disciplines Conference*, Budapest, Hungary.



**Stelzl, M.**, & Stairs, B. (2014). Bounding sex: Constructing sexuality in human sexuality textbooks. Presentation at the 2014 *Qualitative Analysis Conference*, London, ON.

Ptok, M., **Thomson, S.J.**, Watter, S., & Humphreys, K.R. (2015). Stage-specific attentional mechanisms of desirable difficulty. Presentation at the 25<sup>th</sup> annual meeting of the *Canadian Society for Brain, Behaviour, and Cognitive Science*, Ottawa, ON.

Watter, S., & **Thomson, S.J.** (2014). Episodic learning effects of selective attention via stimulus and response congruency: Evidence from PRP. Presentation at the 56<sup>th</sup> annual meeting of the *Psychonomic Society*, Long Beach, CA.

## Invited Talks

**Nicholson, I.** (2014). 'What Makes these Nazis Tick': Gustave Gilbert, Stanley Milgram and 'Celebrity' in American Psychology. Agence Nationale de la Recherche and the Center for International Research in the Humanities and Social Sciences, New York University, NY.

**Prior, S.M.** (2014). "Look Good. Feel Great!": Understanding Adolescents' Tanning Behaviours and Reasons." University of New Brunswick, Fredericton, NB.

**Stelzl, M.** (2015). "Damned if you do, damned if you don't": Women's accounts of feigning sexual pleasure. University of New Brunswick, Fredericton, NB.

**Stelzl, M.** (2014). Migration processes. St. Thomas University, Fredericton, NB.



Dr. Ian Nicholson doing archival research at Columbia University, Manhattan, NY



STU Psychology Research On Tour

# Congratulations!

Brittany Harris (current honours student) received her gold medal Duke of Edinburgh International Award in 2015. The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award was founded by His Royal Highness Prince Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh in 1956 in conjunction with Kurt Hahn, the German educationalist. Participants complete four sections: Service, skill, physical recreation, and adventurous journey. At the gold level, participants also complete a residential project. Brittany received the award in Halifax from Prince Edward, Earl of Wessex.

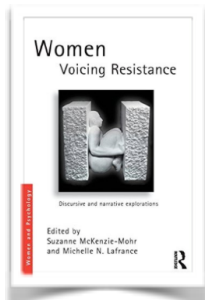


Brittany Harris receives her gold medal Duke of Edinburgh International Award

Dr. Nancy Higgins was promoted to the rank of Professor in 2014.

Dr. Nancy Higgins was re-appointed to the position of Honorary Research Associate in the Faculty of Graduate Studies at the University of New Brunswick in 2015.

Dr. Nancy Higgins was recipient of a General Research Grant from St. Thomas University (2015-2016) to investigate spontaneous activation of multiple types of causal inferences in person memory.



Dr. Michelle Lafrance and Dr. Sue McKenzie-Mohr (Social Work) received the Association for Women in Psychology Distinguished Publication Award in 2015 for their book, *Women Voicing Resistance: Discursive and Narrative Explorations*.

Dr. Ian Nicholson was re-appointed as editor of the *Journal of the History of the Behavioural Sciences* in 2015.

Dr. Suzanne Prior received the Special Merit Award for Service from St. Thomas University in 2014.

Dr. Suzanne Prior received the New Brunswick Federation of Labour Woman in Leadership Award in 2013.

Dr. Monika Stelzl was appointed chair of the department in 2015.



Dr. Suzanne Prior receives her Woman in Leadership Award from the New Brunswick Federation of Labour.