

The Bi-Annual GSAC Newsletter

Fall 2020

Interested in what's going on in the department? Want to see what other grad students are up to?

Welcome to the GSAC Newsletter – your source for departmental happenings!



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A note from your GSAC reps...

Hello! Welcome to the Fall 2020 GSAC Newsletter! It is our hope that students in the MSU psychology department can use this bi-annual newsletter as a way to stay updated and connected to what is going on in the department as a whole, beyond any one program. We are excited to see how this newsletter will grow and evolve to help students connect with each other. If you have any suggestions for additional features to the newsletter in the future, please reach out to us at gsacpsymsu@gmail.com or to your respective GSAC rep.



2020-21 GSAC Representatives

CSA Rep

Kara Cochran

- Event Planner
- 4th year
- Studying intergenerational stress/trauma with Dr. Bogat and Dr. Levendosky

BNS Rep

Jessica Lee

- Chairperson
- 3rd year
- Studying the neural mechanisms underlying social behaviors with Dr. Alexa Veenema

ORG Rep

Caitlin Briggs

- Communications Officer
- 4th year
- Studying diversity and inclusion in the workplace with Dr. Ann Marie Ryan

ECO Rep

MK Kitzmiller

- Communications Officer
- 4th year
- Studying juvenile justice with Dr. Cavanagh and Dr. Campbell

CCN Rep

Alison Day

- Financial Officer
- 4th year
- Studying sleep and false memory with Dr. Kimberly Fenn

Alison is serving as the COG rep for Fall 2020. Elle Wernette will serve as the COG rep for Spring 2021.

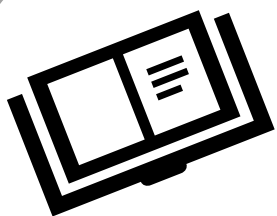
S/P Rep

Mariah Purol

- Secretary
- 2nd year
- Studying close relationships and personality with Dr. William Chopik and Dr. Richard Lucas



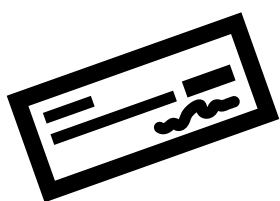
GSAC Activities Report



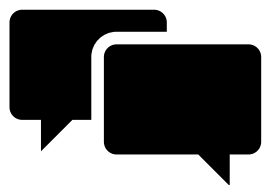
This past summer GSAC provided feedback on the 2020 Graduate Student Handbook to make sure that program and departmental policies are communicated clearly and accessibly.



GSAC facilitated a Town Hall Meeting in October. Concerns identified during the meeting included plans for resuming in-person research activities, availability of GOF funding, support for international students, and protections for graduate student workers. GSAC relayed these concerns to Departmental leadership and consolidated their responses in a meeting brief to students (*to be released soon*).



GSAC raised student concerns to Departmental Leadership around the revised hourly employment policy that was put into effect in Fall 2020. An email about the policy was sent to students on 10/22/20.



GSAC has been in communication with members of the Graduate Education Task Force regarding plans for the current academic year. GSAC will be involved in co-facilitating the remaining workshop on performance review virtually in Spring 2021.

Meet the 1st Years: Organizational Psychology



Nathan Baker

Where are you from?

I'm from Mount Gilead Ohio and went to Ohio State University for my undergraduate degree.

What makes you excited about organizational psychology?

I think the fact that organizational psychology exists in an intersection of science and practice makes it especially dynamic. The complexity of real work-settings is a powerful sources of new ideas and I'm excited to explore them during my time here at MSU.

What do you do in your spare time?

In my spare time I run, play piano, read, and try to stay in touch with friends.

Rachel Pyram

Where are you from?

I'm from Tampa, Florida (fun fact: Tampa is the lightning capital of the United States).

What makes you excited about organizational psychology?

I like that organizational psychology contains both the psychological theory and mathematical complexity that I find interesting, all while allowing me to do work that is impactful in a meaningful and real way for employees and organizations.

What do you do in your spare time?

In my spare time, I like to subject myself to scary movies, experiment in the kitchen, and attempt to emulate Jimi Hendrix's finesse on the guitar.



William Scott

Where are you from?

I am from Austin, Texas. I went to Undergrad at Texas A&M University

What makes you excited about organizational psychology?

Organizational psychology makes me excited about getting to help improve the work environment and also help to better understand and improve employee well-being and satisfaction. I am also excited about cross-cultural and international applications in org psych, as I am interested in work in other countries.

What do you do in your spare time?

I enjoy trying out new restaurants, going on walks, watching educational videos on YouTube/documentaries, and learning about other countries and cultures in my free time.



Meet the 1st Years: Clinical Science Area



Carolina Anaya

Where are you from?

I was born in Ponce, Puerto Rico, but grew up in Northern Virginia and went to undergrad at University of Virginia.

What makes you excited about clinical psychology?

I'm excited about being a part of a program that values both research and practice, and uses a comprehensive and developmental lens to study psychopathology. I am also super excited about the opportunity to pursue my research interests in the study of interactions between biological and social processes and how they influence eating disorder risk during adolescence.

What do you do in your spare time?

I like to watercolor paint, bake, and play board games with friends (now virtually).

Kalei Glozier

Where are you from?

Fenton, Michigan

What makes you excited about clinical psychology?

I am excited to have the opportunity to work with sexual and gender minority clients in the Psychology Clinic.

What do you do in your spare time?

In my spare time, I play a lot of video games and enjoy exploring antique stores.



Devon Kimball

Where are you from?

I'm originally from Connecticut, but I've also lived in New York and California.

What makes you excited about clinical psychology?

Studying clinical science offers a valuable opportunity to gain a better understanding of both the current science and its application to promoting individuals' wellbeing. I'm excited to have the opportunity to develop my research and clinical skills through my studies at MSU.

What do you do in your spare time?

In my free time, I enjoy writing, listening to music and podcasts, and playing games with friends.



Meet the 1st Years: Clinical Science Area (cont.) & Social / Personality Psychology 7



Jessica Tschida

Where are you from?

I grew up in Minnesota and Oklahoma. I completed my undergrad in New York and worked as an RA in Philadelphia before coming to MSU.

What makes you excited about clinical psychology?

I am excited to learn from everyone in the Clinical Science program and to explore research that can help decrease the research to practice gap for youth on the autism spectrum

What do you do in your spare time?

In my spare time, I enjoy dancing, reading, spending time outdoors, and fostering dogs through a local rescue.

Elyn Fullen

Where are you from?

I am from Holland, Michigan and just moved to Grand Rapids.

What makes you excited about social/personality psychology?

I love the Social/Personality Psychology program for how collaborative and creative it is. Already just within my first semester I feel inspired and encouraged to ask big questions and try new things.

What do you do in your spare time?

In my spare time, I spend time with my husband and 1-year-old daughter, practice photography, and visit the beach whenever I can – rain or shine!



Shree Vallabha

Where are you from?

I'm from India where I did my Master's in cognitive science.

What makes you excited about social/personality psychology?

Amongst the many things I love about social psychology, what excites me the most is studying the things that make life meaningful for most human beings – happiness and purpose, morality and religion, social belonging, love and relationships, politics and intergroup relations, and of course, Netflix :P (social media).

What do you do in your spare time?

In my free time, I stalk celebrities' hairstyles, learn how to relationship from JoJo in The Bachelorette, and read books on how to lead a more meaningful life.



Kyle Fitzpatrick



Meet the 1st Years: Behavioral Neuroscience & Cognition & Cognitive Neuroscience



Abby Barrett

Where are you from?

I am from Rome, New York. I went to The University at Buffalo in Buffalo, New York where I received both my Bachelors and Masters in Psychology.

What makes you excited about behavioral neuroscience?

I am extremely excited about the Neuroscience program and my affiliation with the Psychology program, due to my summer and fall lab rotation in Dr. Veenema's lab! I am most excited about the opportunity to participate and contribute to the high caliber research that is being conducted here at MSU and being able to continuously broaden my knowledge of behavioral neuroscience!

What do you do in your spare time?

In my spare time (and in pre-COVID times), my favorite thing to do is travel. I did some exploring of Michigan this summer and fall, as I am not a native Michigander, and have fallen in love with my new home! I also really enjoy baking, music, and spending time with friends.

Erin Neaton

Where are you from?

I am from Farmington Hills, MI and I went to the University of Michigan for undergrad.

What makes you excited about cognition and cognitive neuroscience?

Neuroscience is an exciting field that will help us to answer questions about what comprises individual differences in intelligence and ability. I'm looking forward to investigating these topics at MSU!

What do you do in your spare time?

In my spare time, I like to try new recipes, take care of my plants, knit, and sew.



Beau Zhang

Where are you from?

I am from Hangzhou, China.

What makes you excited about cognition and cognitive neuroscience?

I am excited about potentially learning more about conducting neuroimaging experiments to study perception. I also appreciate the interdisciplinary atmosphere of the department and look forward to opportunities to be involved in a variety of fascinating projects.

What do you do in your spare time?

In my spare time, I work out (resistance training, running, yoga, etc), play video games, or edit videos.





Student Celebrations



MILESTONE CELEBRATIONS

- The following students recently successfully defended a master's thesis or doctoral dissertation:
 - **Abby Dester (MA), Ajay Somaraju (MA), Aksheya Sridhar (MA), Alex Vasquez (MA), Andrew Guhin (MA), Benjamin Fry (MA), Caitlin Briggs (MA), Chris Webster (MA), Christopher Dishop (PhD), Dani Chiamonte (PhD), Daniel Griffin (MA), Jacob Bradburn (PhD), Jeff Olenick (PhD), Jaleah Rutledge (MA), Jasmine Engleton (MA), Lauren Raycraft (MA), Lauren Wiklund (MA), Malu Castro (MA), Megan Mikhail (MA), Nathan Brucher (MA), Rachael Goodman-Williams (PhD), Rome Meeks (PhD), Sarah Carroll (MA), Sergio Marquez (MA), Tyler Virden (PhD)**
- The following students recently proposed a dissertation:
 - **Benjamin Fry, Lauren Raycraft**
- The following students recently passed comprehensive exams:
 - **Lauren Raycraft**

In this section we invite everyone to celebrate fellow students' high points – academic or otherwise!





Student Celebrations (cont.)



GRANT & FELLOWSHIP CELEBRATIONS

○ Grants

- **Caitlin Briggs** and **Danni Gardner** were awarded a COVID-19 Small Grant from the College of Social Science.
- **Courtney Bryant** received a small grant from the Michigan Psychological Association Foundation for her dissertation work.
- **Lauren Collier-Spruel** (with Dr. Ann Marie Ryan) was awarded an Anti-Racism Grant from the Society for Industrial and Organizational Psychology.
- **Sergio Marquez** and **Jo Alanis** were awarded a COVID-19 Small Grant from the College of Social Science.

○ Fellowships

- **Ajay Somaraju** and **Daniel Griffin** received fellowships from the Department of Defense's National Defense Science and Engineering Graduate Fellowship Program.
- **Funmi Ayeni** was awarded a grant from Society for Community Research and Action (SCRA) to support her MA thesis.
- **Jessica Lee** received a fellowship from the NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Program in April 2020.
- **Karis Casagrande** was the winner of the Jacqueline J. Oatman Graduate Fellowship in Clinical Psychology.
- **Kara Cochran** and **Jessica Saucedo** received the Hiram E. Fitzgerald Engaged Scholar Fellowship.
- **Tatiana Bustos** was awarded the Michigan Psychological Association Foundation's inaugural dissertation grant.



Student Celebrations (cont.)



PUBLICATION & PRESENTATION CELEBRATIONS

○ Publications

- **Benjamin Fry** published a first-author paper in *Schizophrenia Bulletin* titled "Assessing Reality testing in Mice Through Dopamine-Dependent Associatively Evoked Processing of Absent Gustatory Stimuli".
- **Benjamin Fry** submitted a manuscript to *Learning & Memory* that is currently under peer review.
- **Lauren Raycraft** published co-authored reviews in *Physiology and Behavior* titled "The dynamic regulation of appetitive behavior through lateral hypothalamic Orexin and Melanin Concentrating Hormone".
- **Lauren Vollinger** published a sole-authored article on human trafficking research using an intersectional approach in *Journal of Human Behavior in the Social Environment*.
- **Natasha Fowler** published a first-author paper in *International Journal of Eating Disorders* titled "A virtual issue highlighting animal studies of eating disorders as valuable tools for examining neurobiological underpinnings and treatment of eating disorders".
- **Natasha Fowler** published a first-author book chapter in *Animal Models of Eating Disorders* titled "The binge eating prone/resistant animal model: A valuable tool for examining neurobiological underpinnings of binge eating".
- **Sergio Marquez** published an article in the *Journal of Occupational and Environmental Medicine* as first author.

○ Presentations

- **McKenzie Javorka** presented her research on Title IX and the criminal justice paradigm as a part of It's On Us and End Rape on Campus's Summit Series.
- **Lauren Raycraft** presented a talk titled "Identifying a subpopulation of Melanin Concentrating Hormone neurons that increase motivational responding during diestrus" at the Neuroendocrine Control of Metabolism Research Club in August 2020.
- **Jessica Saucedo** received first place for her oral presentation at the MSU Alliances for Graduate Education and the Professoriate (AGEP) Student Success Conference.



Student Celebrations (cont.)



MORE CELEBRATIONS

○ Leadership

- **Jaleah Rutledge** was elected President of MSU's Black Graduate Student Association.

○ Awards

- **Danni Gardner** was awarded the Joseph L. White Outstanding Student Multicultural Research Award for her MA thesis, "What's in it for you? Demographics and self-interest perceptions in diversity promotion".
- **Kyle Frost** was the winner of the Research Excellence Award and received an NRSA grant for her project entitled "Using the Theory of Change framework to map active ingredients and mechanisms of change underlying an early parent-implemented intervention for autism spectrum disorder".
- **Lauren Wiklund** was awarded the MA Thesis Presentation Award for her talk, "Amplifying Strengths within Multiply Marginalized Communities".
- **Megan Mikhail** was the winner of the Norm Abeles Award for outstanding clinical service.

○ Career

- **Corbin Standley** was featured on the website of the International Network of Early Career Researchers in Suicide and Self-Harm for his article linking suicide prevention research to policy.
- **Daisuke Katsumata** acted as a peer reviewer for the Journal of Expertise.
- **Jacob Bradburn** began a full-time position with Ford Motor Company.
- **Jeff Olenick** began as an Assistant Professor at Old Dominion University.
- The following students completed (virtual) summer internships: **Daniel Griffin** (Jackson National Life), **Caitlin Briggs** (U.S. Office of Personnel Management), **Lauren Collier-Spruel** (Facebook), **Sergio Marquez** (HumRRO), **Zach Woessner** (Ford Motor Company)

○ Personal Accomplishments

- **Jen Gruber** achieved her fastest 5K, with a finishing time of 23:30.



Reminders

○ Yearly RCR Requirements

Year	RCR Requirements
Year 1	Complete 4 CITI online modules: Introduction to the Responsible Conduct of Research, Authorship, Plagiarism, Research Misconduct
Year 2	Complete 3 additional CITI online modules, selected from the following: CITI Collaborative Research, CITI Conflicts of Interests, CITI Data Management, CITI Financial Responsibility; CITI Mentorship; CITI Peer Review; IACUC Tutorial for Animal Care Training · Human Research Protection/ IRB Certification · Rigor and Reproducibility Course
Year 3 and beyond	<p>Complete 3 hours of refresher training, to be comprised of discussion-based training and/or online courses offered by the Graduate School</p> <p>Discussion-based training can include coursework in the Department of Psychology or another department at MSU. The syllabus for this course must be submitted to the Psychology Department's Associate Chair for Graduate Studies for review and approval.</p> <p>Discussion-based trainings can include professional development seminars or trainings in the Department of Psychology or elsewhere. Materials for the seminar must be submitted to the Department's Associate Chair for Graduate Studies for review and approval.</p>

Register for CITI workshops [here](#)

Enroll in RCR workshops [here](#)

Log your RCR Requirements [here](#) (due annually on April 15)



Reminders (cont.)

- **Switching to New Grad Plan:** Grad Plan will be switching to a new version. The following is information sent out by the Graduate School:
- The Graduate School has developed a new version of GradPlan that will be used by all Master's and Doctoral (Ph.D.) Students. The new GradPlan will go live in Campus Solutions on January 11, 2021.
 1. Ph.D. students who graduate in Fall 2020, Spring or Summer 2021 will continue to use the current GradPlan. Master's students who graduate in Fall 2020, Spring or Summer 2021 will continue to follow the current paper process.
 2. Any GradPlan that was made "**Official**" by December 1, 2020 will be converted to the new GradPlan. Otherwise, you will need to create a plan in the new GradPlan beginning January 11, 2021.
 3. Beginning January 11, 2021 all newly admitted graduate students (from Summer or Fall 2020 and Spring 2021) and students graduating Fall 2021 or after will use the new GradPlan.



Reminders (cont.)

- **Proquest Deadline for Fall:** The deadline for the final submission of your thesis or dissertation to Proquest in order to graduate is December 18 at 5pm. This must be your final submission, already fully revised for formatting.
(<https://grad.msu.edu/etd/etd-deadline-dates>)
- **Spring Graduation Application:** The deadline to apply for graduation next spring occurs early in the spring semester. Keep an eye out for it!
- **Department-Wide Update:** The Org Psych program welcomed a new faculty member this fall, Dr. Quinetta Roberson Connally
(<https://broad.msu.edu/news/quinetta-roberson-joins-msu-as-next-hannah-distinguished-professor/>)



Thanks for Reading!

If you have any ideas for future additions to the newsletter please email us at gsacpsymsu@gmail.com or to your respective GSAC rep.