Welcome

Message from the Head

I’m proud to work with an exceptional group of colleagues who create an intellectually stimulating, collaborative and inclusive environment for research and learning. Our rankings place us among the strongest departments in Canada and globally. I know we will continue on this path of excellence in the years to come.

Our new faculty members—and their areas of expertise—build on our existing research strengths. In 2018, we welcomed two new tenure-track Assistant Professors, Dr. Connor Kerns and Dr. Daniela Palombo. Dr. Azim Shariff, a UBC psychology alumnus, joined the Department as Associate Professor and Canada 150 Research Chair in Moral Psychology. We also expanded our team of Lecturers to include Dr. Jay Hosking, Dr. Andrew Rivers, and Dr. Eva Zysk.

The stories captured in the Department’s 2018/19 annual report celebrate our teaching contributions, our research accomplishments, our leadership and community engagement and our student successes.

I continue to be inspired by our faculty, students, and staff—and their commitment to excellence in scholarship, teaching, and service.

Dr. D. Geoffrey Hall
Head, UBC Department of Psychology
Research and Innovation

2018-2019 Highlights
$7,575,973 million in research grants awarded
  $3,989,086 Tri-council
  $724,318 Other government
  $2,222,569 Industry & non-profit
  $640,000 Canada Research Chairs
213 peer-reviewed articles published

Research Excellence
Dr. Andrew Baron and Dr. Amori Mikami each earned a 2018 UBC Killam Research Prize.
Dr. Anita DeLongis and Dr. Kiran Soma are members of the new UBC Social Exposome Research Cluster.

Dr. Eric Eich was named a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.
Dr. Paul Hewitt was awarded the Canadian Psychological Association’s Donald O. Hebb Award.
Dr. Daniela Palombo was named a 2018 Rising Star by the Association for Psychological Science (APS).
Dr. Toni Schmader was honoured with the 2018 Daniel M. Wegner Theoretical Innovation Prize from the Society for Personality and Social Psychology.
Dr. Nancy Sin received the Springer Early Career Achievement Award in Research on Adult Development and Aging from Division 20 of the American Psychological Association.
Dr. Janet Werker received the 2018 Killam Prize in Social Sciences and was named a William James Fellow by the APS.
Teaching and Learning

2018-2019 Highlights
17,664 seats filled by undergraduate students
7,833 undergraduate students
2,255 BA psychology majors
171 BSc psychology majors
140 honours & directed studies students
12 co-op students
$5,325 in psychology undergraduate awards

Student Awards
Psychology student Brandon Forys was awarded the prestigious designation of Wesbrook Scholar. In addition, Forys received an HSBC Emerging Leader Scholarship and the Suedfeld Scholar Award.

Teaching Excellence
Dr. Steven Barnes was recognized with a 2019 3M National Teaching Fellow Award for his leadership in enhancing post-secondary teaching excellence and for superlative undergraduate teaching over several years.

Dr. Simon Lolliot and Dr. David Worling each received a 2018 Robert E. Knox Teaching Award. These awards recognize and celebrate psychology faculty whose teaching practice is both exemplary and inspiring.
Graduate and Post-doctoral Training

2018-2019 Highlights

292 graduate student applications
119 graduate students
   32 MA students
   87 PhD students
27 post-doctoral fellows
$30,791 median support provided to graduate students
76% of graduate students held fellowships
$920,915 in new graduate student fellowships
13 MA degrees awarded
16 PhD degrees awarded

Scholarly Excellence

Dr. Maria Arredondo and Dr. Drew Weatherhead won the Artinis Win-A-Brite Contest for their pilot study proposal What’s in a word? Imaging the birth of a word using fNIRS.

Michael Barrus received the 2018 Demetri Papageorgis Teaching Assistant Award.

Ryan Dwyer and Alexander Terpstra received prestigious 2019 Vanier Canada Graduate Fellowships.

Dr. Ashley Whillans (2017 PhD) was the winner of the 2018 Canadian Association for Graduate Studies Distinguished Dissertation Award for her dissertation Exchanging Cents for Seconds: The Happiness Benefits of Choosing Time Over Money.
Leadership and Community Outreach

2018-2019 Highlights
Ranked 1st in Canada and 12th globally
356 conference presentations by faculty
153 invited addresses by psychology faculty
19 journal editorships and associate editorships held by faculty
2 society presidents

Public Engagement
Dr. Richard Aslin was the distinguished speaker for the 2018/19 Quinn Memorial Lecture.
Dr. Steven Barnes and the CREST.BD team received a CIHR Gold Leaf Prize for their patient engagement.
Dr. Elizabeth Dunn delivered a TED Talk on the nuances of achieving happiness.
Dr. Brian Nosek gave a stimulating talk on the rewards of open science.

Leadership
Dr. Frances Chen’s research on health and social psychology was featured in a Canada Foundation for Innovation campaign.
Dr. Kalina Christoff was appointed Interim Director of the Peter Wall Institute for Advanced Studies.
Dr. Liisa Galea leads a new UBC Women’s Health Research Cluster with the goal of improving women’s experience in the healthcare system.
Dr. Toni Schmader’s research on gender stereotypes and implicit biases was featured in UBC’s national advertising campaign, called ‘The potential is yours.’
Dr. Peter Suedfeld received the nation’s highest honour, an appointment as Officer of the Order of Canada. Dr. Suedfeld was also awarded the Lawrence J. Burpee Medal by the Royal Canadian Geographical Society.
Dr. Luke Clark received new funding to extend the impact of the Centre for Gambling Research at UBC.
People in 2018-2019

New faculty members
Dr. Jay Hosking, Lecturer
Dr. Connor Kerns, Assistant Professor
Dr. Daniela Palombo, Assistant Professor
Dr. Andrew Rivers, Lecturer
Dr. Azim Shariff, Associate Professor, Canada 150 Research Chair
Dr. Eva Zysk, Lecturer

Promotion and tenure
Dr. Frances Chen, Associate Professor
Dr. Luke Clark, Professor
Dr. Christiane Hoppmann, Professor
Dr. Catherine Rawn, Professor of Teaching
Dr. Rebecca Todd, Associate Professor
Dr. Jiaying Zhao, Associate Professor

Retirement
Dr. Larry Walker, Emeritus Professor

In remembrance
Dr. Michael Chandler, Emeritus Professor
Media Coverage

2018-2019 Highlights

Popular Stories in the News
Men place less value on care-oriented careers like nursing, suggests research from graduate student Katharina Block and Dr. Toni Schmader.

Research from graduate student Gabriel Brooks and Dr. Luke Clark found that loot boxes attract gamers who share behaviours of problem gamblers.

Research by postdoctoral researcher Dr. Mariya Cherkasova and Dr. Catharine Winstanley found that blinking lights and jingles in casinos may encourage risky decision-making and promote problem gambling behaviour.

A study by Dr. Lillian May and Dr. Janet Werker showed that infants as young as eleven-months-old can learn to associate the language they hear with ethnicity.

Findings by graduate student Zachary Witkower and Dr. Jessica Tracy reveal that a downward head tilt can make people seem more dominant.

Research by Dr. Alan Kingstone and colleagues found that people think and behave differently in virtual reality than they do in real life.