

List of 2023 Honours Projects

Please note that this list is subject to change and is current as of 2nd Dec 2022. There may be subsequent additions and/or projects removed from the list.

If you are successful in your application for Honours, you will be invited to attend a zoom meeting at **12.30pm Wednesday 14th Dec** to hear more about the projects. Prior to this, you may contact supervisors via email about their projects if you require additional information.

Students successful in their application for Honours will then be asked to list their top 20 supervisor preferences via survey monkey link **by 12 noon on Thursday 15th Dec 2022**.

If a topic has a strict subject pre-requisite (i.e., not just ‘suggested’, ‘beneficial’ or ‘desirable’) and you have not completed that subject, do not include it as one of your preferences.

Please note that it is very rare that students receive one of their ‘top 5’ choices and that all topics reflect high quality research in psychology.

Please also note that the “number of students” listed indicates the maximum number of students that may be able to work **on that particular project**. It does not reflect **how many students the supervisor can take on** across all topics. For example, a supervisor may have two students listed against three different topics, but they may only be able to supervise a maximum of 3 students. The topics are included as a guide for students, to allow greater understanding of what each supervisor is interested in working on.

Laura Robinson

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Vaping, substance use and mental health

Two vaping (e-cigarette) projects developed collaboratively by a group of honours students and academics (Robinson, Larance, Kelly): Vaping motives, risk perception and mental health in young people Vaping prevalence, nicotine dependence, vaping attitudes and health literacy among people in residential treatment services for substance use disorders

Number of students: 2

No prerequisites

Alcohol and other drug treatment services' presentations

Projects using existing, routinely-collected clinical data from alcohol and other drug treatment services (students will also have opportunities to consult with clinical services/clinicians and/or be involved in primary data collection).

Number of students: 1

No prerequisites

Brin Grenyer

grenyer@uow.edu.au

Topics in the assessment and treatment of chronic mental health difficulties, including personality disorders, self-harm and chronic suicidal ideation.

Look at: www.projectairstrategy.org - The Project Air Strategy for Personality disorders is an internationally recognised leader in research, education and treatment of personality disorders. We aim to support compassionate, evidence-based treatment and recovery for people with personality disorder and related conditions. Students are invited to discuss topics of interest with the supervisor. Original data collection is possible, and archival data sets are available.

Number of students: 2

No prerequisites

Marko Biberdzic

markob@uow.edu.au

Predicting treatment outcome using observer-rated measures of therapeutic alliance: an examination of both client- and therapist-related factors.

This project will aim to investigate the clinical utility of the California Psychotherapy Alliance Scales in predicting treatment dropout. Transcripts of the first three therapy sessions of 20 clients will be analysed. Both client and therapist factors will be examined.

Number of students: 2

No prerequisites

Sebastien Miellet

smiellet@uow.edu.au

Visual attention in face or scene processing

Information sampling and processing for face and/or scene processing. Details of the project are to be discussed between the student and the supervisor.

Number of students: 2

Prerequisites: Yes (see below)

No subject prerequisites, but knowledge or interest in learning computational modelling, deep neural networks, eye-tracking, Matlab or Python are welcome

Jessica Bartschi

jmills@uow.edu.au

Secondary: Lisa-Marie Greenwood

Lisa.Greenwood@anu.edu.au

Psychosocial predictors of overeating behaviours and weight in depression

Understanding factors that may influence or help contribute to overeating behaviours and weight gain in depression are important for developing potential interventions. Students will work with the supervisors to develop a thesis question in this area from within an existing research program, with a focus on social support, quality of life, or other related constructs.

Number of students: 2

No prerequisites

Jane Herbert

herbertj@uow.edu.au

Wellbeing in pregnancy and birth

Pregnancy and the months following birth are times of heightened psychological vulnerability. This project will involve talking with individuals at the beginning of their parenting journey about the

factors that contribute to how they feel about themselves, their child, and their confidence in being a parent.

Number of students: 1

Prerequisites: Yes (see below)

psyc361 prerequisite

Books in the nursery

Book reading is a valuable language learning context for young children. Most research on shared book reading practices have focused on mother-child interactions. This project will involve data collection with nurseries and early education centres to understand how they use, or could use, books in their interactions with infants.

Number of students: 1

Prerequisites: Yes (see below)

psyc361 prerequisite

Supporting refugee families

This project will involve working with the local Multicultural and Refugee Health Service. Using interviews or surveys the student will examine barriers and strengths to existing services in the health system that serve pregnant women, babies and children, and examine how to best meet staff training and family access needs.

Number of students: 1

Prerequisites: Yes (see below)

psyc361 prerequisite

Samantha Reis

sreis@uow.edu.au

Secondary: Brin Grenyer (grenyer@uow.edu.au)

Adult attachment styles and Borderline Personality Disorder

These projects will investigate various clinically relevant aspects, symptoms and co-occurring features of personality disorder (particularly Borderline Personality Disorder) through the lens of attachment theory. Topics are flexible depending on the students' areas of interest, but may focus on problems like self-stigma, perfectionism, self-criticism, pathological narcissism and splitting within BPD.

Number of students: 3

No prerequisites

Ely Marceau

elym@uow.edu.au

Topics on treatment of complex mental health conditions including personality disorder and substance use disorder

Topics to be developed in collaboration with student.

Number of students: 2

No prerequisites

Peter Caputi

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Exploring and improving mental health in Australian paramedics

Many factors influence the mental health of paramedics and their capacity to seek appropriate support at times of need. The specific topic area for this project is flexible, but could include exploration of psychosocial factors on the mental health of Australian paramedics.

Number of students: 1

No prerequisites

Topics in occupational health psychology

This topic will explore the application of psychological principles to improve work life and especially employee well-being.

Number of students: 1

No prerequisites

Exploring the relationship between organisational resilience and psychosocial factors in the workplace.

Organisational resilience (OR) refers to the adaptive capacity of an organisation to deal with adversity. This study will explore the relationship between OR and factors such as work engagement, work resources and employee resilience.

Number of students: 1

No prerequisites

Rodney Croft

rcroft@uow.edu.au

Secondary: Adam Verrender

adamv@uow.edu.au

The role of (mis)information in symptoms attributed to electromagnetic fields

It's evident that we live in a world where lots of misinformation is being circulated on the internet. This misinformation has the potential to influence how concerned people are about the world. This project will try to understand how different sorts of information affects people's psychological and physiological responses to exposure to electromagnetic fields.

Number of students: 2

No prerequisites

Adam Vrender

adamv@uow.edu.au

Secondary: Rodney Croft

rcroft@uow.edu.au

The role of (mis)information in symptoms attributed to electromagnetic fields

It's evident that we live in a world where lots of misinformation is being circulated on the internet. This misinformation has the potential to influence how concerned people are about the world. This project will try to understand how different sorts of information affects people's psychological and physiological responses to exposure to electromagnetic fields.

Number of students: 2

No prerequisites

Rachel Bailey

rbailey@uow.edu.au

Secondary: Brin Grenyer

grenyer@uow.edu.au

Topic of personality disorders

Contribute to the Project Air Strategy for Personality Disorders research lab. The specific topic will be generated with the student.

Number of students: 2

No prerequisites

Dr Elena Vasseleu

elenav@uow.edu.au

Secondary: A/Prof Steven Howard

stevenh@uow.edu.au

Early childhood educator causal attributions about challenging behaviour: contributors and implications for practice

This experimental study will seek to explore whether having standardised assessment data about children's developmental abilities (e.g., in language, numeracy, executive function etc.) influences early childhood educators' causal attributions about challenging behaviour, their affective responses, and chosen intervention strategies. Quantitative data will be collected via online surveys.

Number of students: 1

No prerequisites

Judy Pickard

jpickard@uow.edu.au

Parent child relationships and mental well being

Number of students: 1

No prerequisites

Briony Larance

blarance@uow.edu.au

Vaping: Intentions, motives, risk perceptions and health literacy

Two vaping (e-cigarette) projects developed collaboratively by a group of honours students and academics (Robinson, Larance, Kelly): 1. Vaping motives, risk perception and mental health in young people 2. Vaping prevalence, nicotine dependence, vaping attitudes and health literacy among people in residential treatment services for substance use disorders

Number of students: 2

No prerequisites

NADABase projects: Characteristics of clients accessing alcohol and other drug treatment services

The student will collaboratively develop a research project using existing, routinely-collected monitoring and outcome data from New South Wales non-government alcohol and other drug treatment services (students will also have opportunities to consult with clinical services/clinicians and/or be involved in primary data collection on other studies).

Number of students: 1

Prerequisites: Yes (see below)

No prerequisite subjects, but this project involves working with a large (pre-existing) dataset, so some analytic expertise or interest would be beneficial

Tracey Woolrych

woolrych@uow.edu.au

Investigating the role of personal inadequacies in feelings of loneliness

Breaking down the construct of personal inadequacies this project seeks to investigate which specific elements are related to loneliness.

Number of students: 1

No prerequisites

Belonging and types of loneliness

Belonging is important to mitigate feelings of loneliness - but for some people loneliness is a choice. We will investigate these different types of loneliness and their relationship with belonging.

Number of students: 1

No prerequisites

Do people have an empathy bias?

This project will look at the correlates of personality and other factors on a new measure - the Empathy Bias Scale.

Number of students: 1

No prerequisites

Harold Hill

harry@uow.edu.au

Recognition of three-dimensional face shape

Can we improve recognition of three-dimension face shape? Recognition of sculpture like three-dimensional faces is relatively poor. This project will investigate whether angled, stereoscopic and/or animated presentation can enhance recognition by facilitating the perception of depth. Please contact me for more information harry@uow.edu.au

Number of students: 1

Prerequisites: Yes (see below)

Third year cognition and perception preferred.

How do multiple image arrays facilitate face matching?

Previous work shows that multiple angled or “ambient” image arrays can both facilitate face identity matching. This project will investigate patterns of generalization from angled and ambient image arrays to angled and ambient target image as a test of the information abstracted from image arrays that facilitates matching.

The secondary supervisor for this project will be Simone Favelle.

Please contact me for more information harry@uow.edu.au

Number of students: 1

Prerequisites: Yes (see below)

Third year cognition and perception preferred.

Topics in face and/or depth perception

Happy to help develop student driven projects about face and/or depth perception. Please get in touch to discuss ideas harry@uow.edu.au

Number of students: 2

Prerequisites: Yes (see below)

Third year perception and cognition preferred

Robert Barry

rbarry@uow.edu.au

Secondary: Frances De Blasio

francesd@uow.edu.au

Exploring pink and white noise in human EEG

Pink and white noise are naturally occurring phenomena. We’re interested in exploring their characteristics in human EEG, as very little is currently known. This project will use our recently developed algorithm to validly estimate noise in a resting EEG dataset. Methodological or applied projects are available; please email to discuss.

Number of students: 2

Prerequisites: Yes (see below)

PSYC329

Frances De Blasio

francesd@uow.edu.au

Secondary: Robert Barry

rbarry@uow.edu.au

EEG amplitude coupling: Associations with affective disturbance

Delta-beta amplitude coupling is a simple measure to assess and is typically increased in anxiogenic populations, but has not been well studied in depression. The current project will examine an archival EEG dataset, seeking links between delta-beta coupling and anxiety and depression scores. Some scope for negotiation, email to discuss.

Number of students: 2

Prerequisites: Yes (see below)

Good performance in PSYC329 or equivalent

Stephen Palmisano

stephenp@uow.edu.au

Cybersickness during a virtual reality based search task

Cybersickness is a common problem during head-mounted display (HMD) based virtual reality (VR). Differences in Virtual and Physical Head Pose (DVP) are one likely cause of this sickness. However, past DVP studies have always had participants conduct rather unusual activities while in VR. Here we will examine both DVP and sickness in HMD VR during a more ecological visual search task.

Number of students: 1

No prerequisites

Identifying the precursors of cybersickness in virtual reality

We need to better understand the triggers for sickness during head-mounted display (HMD) based virtual reality (VR). In this study, participants will make tracked head-movements (under various conditions of head-to-display lag) until they first report becoming sick. Then we will examine the precise nature of the changes to their head movements and display motions just prior to the onset of this sickness.

Number of students: 1

Prerequisites: Yes (see below)

PSYC328 Visual Perception

Stuart Johnstone

sjohnsto@uow.edu.au

Secondary: Stephanie Varcoe

svarcoe@uow.edu.au

Mental Health in Preschool and Kindergarten

This project will be focussed on understanding mental health and associated factors in children in preschool and kindergarten. An existing dataset for this project includes: mental health symptoms, executive functioning, parenting, social skills, academic performance, sleep, injuries, EEG, and biological stress. Students working on this project will be involved in collecting follow-up data whilst children are in kindergarten. Project questions could include: Does EEG in preschool predict mental health difficulties in kindergarten? How do raters compare in their understanding of mental health: parents, teachers vs preschool educators? What are the profiles of EEG activation in preschool children? Specific research questions can be negotiated with student.

Number of students: 2

Prerequisites: Yes (see below)

PSYC329

Nicholas Day

nday@uow.edu.au

Secondary: Brin Grenyer

grenyer@uow.edu.au

Pathological narcissism and coercive control

Pathological narcissism is a disorder of significant psycho-social impairment. This study seeks to explore the links between noted impairments in 'self' functioning (oscillating grandiosity and vulnerability) and related impairments in interpersonal relationships (antagonistic, self-enhancing features), through the lens of coercive control and domestic violence.

Number of students: 1

No prerequisites

Leonie Miller

leoniem@uow.edu.au

Secondary: Steven Roodenrys

steven@uow.edu.au

Topics in verbal short-term memory

The student will undertake an experimental project that examines the influence of linguistic attributes of verbal items (i.e. words, nonwords) on short-term memory processes (e.g. recall or recognition). Results are used to test verbal short-term memory theory, determine the explanatory power of theory and refine them when disconfirmation is observed.

Number of students: 2

Prerequisites: Yes (see below)

PSYC345/PSYC327

Mark Schira

mschira@uow.edu.au

Secondary: William Neaves

wneaves@uow.edu.au

Crowding and its effect on letter recognition.

Crowding is the phenomenon that recognition of letters is impaired when presented with flanking letters compared to when presented on their own. The effects of crowding are strongly intertwined with attentional selection, but also understood as a tool into the cortical processes underlying reading. In this project the student will design, conduct and analyse a psychophysical experiment.

Number of students: 2

Prerequisites: Yes (see below)

PSYC328

MRI: Connectivity revealing cortical organisation in early visual cortex

Retinotopic organisation is typically revealed using BOLD (fMRI) and retinotopic mapping stimuli. However, dedicated strictly organised white matter tracks are the structure that establishes these maps. Here at UOW we are one of the first places in the world realising the potential of Diffusion Fibre tracking (DWI) for analysing early visual cortex, combining fMRI with DWI. project will rely on archival data from the Human Connectome Project.

Number of students: 2

Prerequisites: Yes (see below)

PSYC328

The Human Brain Atlas in 3T

This project is an extension of the Human Brain Atlas project (HBA.NEURA.EDU.AU). It will involve collecting 3T MRI data at the Neuroimaging Center in Randwick.

Number of students: 2

No prerequisites

Tim Byron

tbyron@uow.edu.au

Understanding hooks in pop music using continuous self-report methodology

Hooks are elements of pop music that engage the attention and are retained in the memory of listeners. Using continuous self-report methods (i.e., participants moving a slider as they listen) we aim to further our understanding of how these musical elements interact with cognitive processes.

Number of students: 3

No prerequisites

Investigating earworms with probe-caught experience sampling

Earworms are a form of involuntary musical imagery when songs get stuck in our heads. Probe-caught experience sampling involves sending participants random notifications asking them about their inner experiences at that moment.

Number of students: 3

No prerequisites

Anna Sidis

asidis@uow.edu.au

Integrating clinical and lived experience peer work frameworks in suicide prevention - a qualitative co-production project.

This project will involve the use of qualitative collaborative co-production methods to understand how a local suicide prevention team (Next Steps) integrate Peer work and clinical frameworks in practice.

Number of students: 1

Prerequisites: Yes (see below)

No subject prerequisites, but a basic level of knowledge or interest in qualitative methods.

How does reflexivity develop over time in training psychologists?

This project will use qualitative methods to track the development of reflexivity over time in psychologists during practicum training.

Number of students: 1

Prerequisites: Yes (see below)

No prerequisite subjects, but a basic knowledge or interest in qualitative methods

Predictors and variability in treatment outcomes in a brief suicide prevention intervention.

This project will involve analysis of previously collected data from a local suicide prevention team.

Number of students: 1

Prerequisites: Yes (see below)

No prerequisite subjects, but good understanding of basic statistical methods.

Matthew Schweickle

mschweic@uow.edu.au

Performance under pressure in sport

This topic will explore athletes' perceptions of performing well under pressure in competitive sports. This project will be qualitative in design (i.e., interviewing athletes).

Number of students: 1

No prerequisites

Psychological safety in community sport

This topic will explore parents/coaches perceptions of psychological safety in community sporting environments. This project will be qualitative in design (i.e., interviewing parents/coaches)

Number of students: 1

No prerequisites

Caitlin Liddelow

caitlinl@uow.edu.au

Experiences of volunteering in sport: A qualitative study

With a substantial decline in the number of sport volunteers, this proposed project/topic will be a qualitative study exploring the experiences of Australian sport volunteers.

Number of students: 1

No prerequisites

Topics in sport psychology with a focus on women/girls

Open to a range of topics related to women and girls in sport, particularly related to mental health.

Number of students: 2

No prerequisites

Topics in health psychology

Open to discussion and idea formulation of topics in health psychology. Specifically, I have expertise in women health, behaviour change, medication adherence and education of health professionals in behaviour change.

Number of students: 2

No prerequisites

Sam Moreton

smoreton@uow.edu.au

Psychedelics and Attachment

We will run a survey looking at psychedelics and attachment. Details to be decided but will look at self-perceived changes in attachment and how it relates to aspects of the psychedelic experience.

Secondary supervisor for this project will be Samantha Reis.

Number of students: 1

No prerequisites

Ayahuasca and Personality Change

Data from the deep, dark depths of the Amazon rainforest has come into my hands looking at pre-post changes in personality from Ayahuasca use. This project interrogates an existing dataset and we will look at specific sub-traits of the Big5.

Number of students: 1

No prerequisites

Psychedelics and Moral Expansiveness

Do you care about killing a snail? Should you? Is it wrong? This project looks at psychedelics and moral expansiveness: a concept used to describe how wide one's moral circle of concern is. This will use archival retrospective quasi pre-post data to look at potential changes in moral expansiveness from psychedelic experiences and what aspects of the experience predict changes in moral expansiveness.

Number of students: 1

No prerequisites

Psychedelics and Reliable Experiences

Are you real? What is real? Does the sense of "realness" predict persisting beneficial effects of meaningful psychedelic experiences? In this project, we will look at archival data that measures aspects of the psychedelic experience and their relationship to persisting benefits of the experience.

Number of students: 1

No prerequisites

Adam Clarke

aclarke@uow.edu.au

EEG abnormalities in children with ADHD

The projects will look at EEG abnormalities in children with ADHD. The specific projects will be decided by negotiation with the students.

Number of students: 2

No prerequisites

Peter Leeson

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Credibility of Scientific Information

Many areas of science are based on both complex and technical knowledge. Knowledge that is often inaccessible to many members of the general public. This project looks at the ways these circumstances influence trust in science

Number of students: 2

No prerequisites

Emotional intelligence and prejudice.

There has been ongoing debate about the relationship between IQ and prejudice with studies producing inconsistent results (Wodtke, 2016). Nonetheless, there has been little research looking at the role emotional intelligence may play. Given that those high in emotional intelligence are better able to identify the emotions of others, as well as identify their own emotions, it is possible that it could be linked to lower levels of prejudice.

Number of students: 2

No prerequisites

Amy Chan

amychan@uow.edu.au

“What if...”: Imagining counterfactual and prefactual possibilities

In just about any type of experience, we can quite readily imagine how things could have been better or worse. How may such “what if” and “if only” thoughts be related to task performance, learning, and judgement? I am interested in the developmental, cognitive, and social implications of counterfactual and prefactual thinking research. Within this broad topic area, I would be happy to support students to discuss and develop an honours project of mutual interest.

Number of students: 2

Prerequisites: Yes (see below)

Interest and solid understanding of experimental research

Peter Kelly

pkelly@uow.edu.au

Improving substance dependence treatment

Our team conducts a program of research that is focused on improving substance dependence treatment. We work in close collaboration with several external drug and alcohol treatment facilities, including SMART Recovery and Odyssey House. We would be happy to develop a project with the student that is focused on:

- (1) improving the 'experience' of treatment for people accessing drug and alcohol treatment,
- (2) focused on understanding the mechanisms through which SMART Recovery (<https://smartrecoveryaustralia.com.au>) is effective,
- (3) focus on improving the use of routine outcome assessment measurement in substance use treatment.

See: https://scholars.uow.edu.au/display/peter_kelly

Number of students: 2

No prerequisites