

Psychology Labs at Boston College

Lab	Area of Study	Professor	Contact	Email	Summary	Accepting undergraduates this year?
Interdisciplinary Affective Science Lab	Emotion & Affect	Barrett	Janine Vlassakis	janine.vlassakis.1@bc.edu	Our lab investigates questions about the nature of emotions using cognitive, social, physiological and neuroscience methods. We ask questions like "what are emotions?" "what is the role of language in emotion?" "what more basic ingredients produce emotions?" "how do the ingredients in emotion contribute to other mental states like perceptions, thoughts and memories?"	RAs Fall 09 : Yes RAs Spring 09: Yes Thesis students 09-10: No
Ballweber Lab	Social Cognition	Ballweber	Dr. Christy Ballweber	ballwebe@bc.edu	My current research is in the area of Social Cognition, more specifically looking at moral reasoning and decision making. My first project is looking at the role of moral reasoning in the resolution of cognitive dissonance by examining attitudes and voting behavior pre- and post- election for the 2000, 2004, and 2008 presidential elections. My second project is a study looking at moral reasoning as a moderating factor in the observed attitude change of proximal attitudes post persuasive communication.	RAs Fall 09 : Yes RAs Spring 09: Yes Thesis students 09-10: Yes
Infant and Child Cognition Lab	Cognitive Development	Cordes	Liz Heller	BcCognition@gmail.com	The Infant and Child Cognition Lab is a brand new lab. The lab focuses on understanding how infants, children, and adults keep track of number and other quantities (e.g., time, extent). Recent research suggests that numerical abilities in infancy are correlated with later mathematics achievement in the classroom, thus current projects are aimed at determining factors that facilitate early preverbal quantity discrimination, such as the use of verbal labels and/or training with counting books.	RAs Fall 09 : Yes RAs Spring 09: Yes Thesis students 09-10: Yes

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Cognitive Affective Neuroscience Lab	Emotion & Memory	Kensinger	Katherine Schmidt & Ranga Atapattu	schmidki@bc.edu & atapattu@bc.edu	The Cognitive and Affective Neuroscience laboratory combines behavioral and brain imaging techniques to understand how the emotional content of information affects the processes that we use to remember information. We are interested in understanding these processes in young adults and in identifying how these processes change across the adult lifespan. When undergraduate students join our laboratory, they typically spend at least one or two semesters assisting with behavioral research studies being conducted by graduate students in the laboratory. Students who continue to work in the laboratory for multiple semesters may have the opportunity to assist with cognitive neuroscience research (including fMRI) or to conduct their own independent research.	RAs Fall 09 : No RAs Spring 09: Yes Thesis students 09-10: No
Vision and Cognition Lab	Vision and Cognition	McEvoy	Dr. Sean McEvoy	sean.macevoy.1@bc.edu	The newly-established Vision and Cognition Lab uses functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI) combined with behavioral methods to understand the neuroscience of visual perception and cognition, with an emphasis on the processes underlying object recognition. Current and upcoming projects include efforts to understand how the visual system encodes information about multiple simultaneously-viewed objects, the impact of perceptual learning upon the physiology of the visual system, and the functional relationships among high-order visual areas of the temporal lobe.	RAs Fall 09 : Yes RAs Spring 09: Yes Thesis students 09-10: Yes

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Neurobiology of Social Behavior	Behavioral Neuroscience of Social Behavior	Numan	Dr. Michael Numan	numan@bc.edu	The lab's general research area is the study of the neurobiology of motivation, emotion, and social behavior. Specifically, we assess the neurobiology of parental behavior in rodents and assess the affect of hormones and experience on relevant hypothalamic, limbic and striatal circuits.	RAs Fall 09 : No RAs Spring 09: No Thesis students 09-10: No
Petrovitch Lab	Behavioral Neuroscience of Appetitive Behavior	Petrovitch	Kate Gildersleeve & Christina Reppucci	gildersk@bc.edu , reppucci@bc.edu	All work in the Petrovitch lab uses animal models (specifically rats) and focuses on the neurobiology of motivation and feeding behavior. Current projects focus on the modulation of hunger and satiety mechanisms through both learning and stress. We are also interested in investigating the functional organization of the brain systems mediating environmental control of food intake, specifically interactions between the amygdala, prefrontal cortex, and hypothalamus.	RAs Fall 09 : Yes RAs Spring 09: Yes Thesis students 09-10: Yes
Social and Emotional Development Lab	Emotion, Development & Attachment	Rosen	Shannon Snapp & Jennifer Drake	Snapp@bc.edu , drakejc@bc.edu	Our lab focuses on the development of attachment relationships between young children and their mothers and fathers and the consequences of these attachments for later social and emotional functioning We are currently exploring sibling relationships as well. We have developed a scheme for classifying the quality of sibling relationships in young children and are studying the implications of these relationships for emotional development. We are also now studying attachment relationships in adolescent college students, exploring questions about the "hookup" culture as it relates to attachment, intimacy, and self-esteem.	RAs Fall 09 : Yes RAs Spring 09: Yes Thesis students 09-10: No

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Ryu Lab	Quantitative Methodology	Ryu	Dr. Ehri Ryu	ehri.ryu.1@bc.edu	My research interests are in quantitative methodology. The current research topics can be summarized into statistical issues in multilevel structural equation modeling and application of multilevel structural equation modeling to fMRI data analysis. The specific projects that I am currently working on are: (a) the impact of violation of distributional assumption on model fit assessment, (b) fixed parameter model vs. random coefficient model for multilevel multivariate data, and (c) advantages and limitations of multilevel structural equation modeling and generalized linear latent and mixed models.	RAs Fall 09 : No RAs Spring 09: No Thesis students 09-10: No
Emotion Development Lab	Emotion & Development	Russell	Dr.Sherri Widen	widensh@bc.edu	Our lab looks at emotion in 2 ways: 1. We investigate how adults conceptualize emotions Current projects include looking at how people interpret the disgust facial expression and how other emotional information (e.g., posture, contextual cues) influences people's interpretation of facial expressions. 2. We also work with children in local daycares looking at how they understand emotions. Current projects include looking at how children recognize emotions in videos, and how what situations children think will elicit disgust.	RAs Fall 09 : No RAs Spring 09: No Thesis students 09-10: No
MaP Lab	Memory & Perception	Slotnick	Preston Thakral	thakralp@bc.edu	In our lab, we investigate the nature of memory for visual items, and visual spatial attention. Our research questions include: How detailed are memories and how are memories constructed? How does attention modulate neural processing and what are the neural regions involved in its control?	RAs Fall 09 : No RAs Spring 09: Yes Thesis students 09-10: No

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Emotion and Social Cognition Lab	Emotion Regulation	Tamir	Brett Ford	fordbc@bc.edu	Our lab investigates the functional underpinnings of emotion regulation. Based on social-cognitive approaches, we explore why individuals regulate their emotions, how they benefit from their emotions and how they learn about the implications of their emotions.	RAs Fall 09 : Yes RAs Spring 09: Yes Thesis students 09-10: No
Arts & Mind Lab	Development, Cognition, & the Arts	Winner	Caren Walker	walkercl@bc.edu	The Arts and Mind Lab studies the psychological components of involvement in the arts as well as other aspects of conceptual development.	RAs Fall 09 : Yes RAs Spring 09: Yes Thesis students 09-10: Yes