Honours Students Research Options for 2022

https://www.auckland.ac.nz/en/science/about-the-faculty/school-of-psychology/psychology-research.html

Supervisor surname	Supervisor First name	Proposed Projects on offer in 2022 (subject to change)	Any additional requirements
Arnold-Saritepe	Angela	1. Increasing exercise in school age children and looking at impact of this on mental wellness. 2. Clinicians and community perspective on social validity (social importance and acceptability) of behavioural interventions.	

Atkinson	Quentin	*A range of Honours projects are available across the following three areas* *1.* The foundations of human political ideology - *Anyone who has debated politics over the dinner table knows that political opinions can vary widely, even within one family. But what is it that determines our views on taxation and welfare, military spending and climate change, abortion and gay marriage, and why do opinions about these seemingly disparate aspects of our social lives coalesce the way they do? This project will use survey and experimental data to identify the underlying psychological mechanisms that shape the human political landscape. This project will require and further develop good critical thinking, experimental design and quantitative skills. An interest in human evolution is preferred.* *2.* Can religion help us save the planet*? - Opinions differ regarding the extent to which religiosity promotes or suppresses concern about the challenges of the 21st century, from climate change to vaccination. The 'religious right' in the US is notoriously blasé about the threat of climate change, for example. Conversely, Pope Francis has put the moral weight of the Catholic church behind climate action. However, the potential for religion to help motivate environmental concern remains understudied. This project will review research in the area and design experiments to test predictions regarding how the psychology underlying religion could be used to motivate prosocial environmental action. The project will require and further develop good critical thinking, experimental design and quantitative skills. An interest in human evolution is preferred* *3. Behavioural Insights to tackle climate change - In recent years, behavioural insights from cognitive science have been applied to 'nudge' human behaviour to solve a range of social problems, from increasing retirement savings and rates of organ donation. In the domain of climate change, behavioural insights have been used to reduce household energy consumption and increase public transport patronage. However, this work has tended to focus on the behaviour of consumers of fossil fuels (rather than producers and political leaders) and individuals, rather than corporate and institutional actors. This project will move beyond individual nudges to investigate the potential applications of behavioural insights in these new domains.*	Recommended students have completed PSYCH 317 or take Psych 725

Ballard	Elaine	Topics will be in the area of multilingualism. Possibilities would include but are not limited to a) language, culture and identity in a multilingual community in NZ b) language maintenance and shift in a multilingual community in NZ	It is recommended, but not essential, for students to have taken PSYCH313. Students who have an interest in a topic in bilingualism should email Elaine at e.ballard@auckland.ac.nz.
Braun	Virginia	My research using critical qualitative and feminist theoretical approaches to explore topics related to gendered bodies, sex and sexuality, and health, across a range of specific topics, and different data formats, from media, to generated stories, to more. Students interested in these areas and types of research should get in touch with Ginny via email v.braun@auckland.ac.nz.	In general, I expect students to have taken PSYCH319 if they are UoA graduates; students are expected to take PSYCH733 and PSYCH743 as part of their honours year.
Corballis	Paul	Topics in the cognitive neuroscience of visual perception and attention. Possible projects include: 1. Electrophysiology of target selection and distractor suppression in visual search. The project will explore the neural generators and functional significance of several lateralized ERP components that have been associated with the visual target selection and maintenance, and distractor suppression. 2. Competition for representation in the human visual system. The project will use event-related brain potentials (ERPs) and behavioural data (response times and accuracy) to explore the conditions under which visual stimuli compete for representation in the brain. The long-term goal of this research is to develop a technique for studying the functional architecture of the visual system. 3. Modelling the human face. The project will involve developing realistic computer-graphics models of the human face and facial expression. The long-term goal is to generate a highly configurable simulation of the face for use in psychological research. 3. The interaction between facial expression of emotion and selective attention. The project will use ERP and behavioural measures of performance to examine the influence of emotional stimuli – pictures or movies of facial expressions – on the allocation of spatial attention.	Interested students should contact me to discuss requirements for this project. Some experience with elementary computer programming and/or data analysis would be helpful, but is not a strict requirement

Cowie	Sarah	**Using past experience to navigate the present/future:** This project explores how choice is influenced by past and potential future rewards and punishers, and information about these events. Projects explore how choice depends on the similarity between past experience and the present situation, distance between the present and relevant past experience, and on the nature of events that provide information about the likely future (reinforcers, punishers, one's own recent behaviour, and other stimuli). This project will likely use pigeon subjects, but may also be suitable for those who wish to work with human participants (including children). **Understanding the complexities of simple learning:** This project involvement of simple behavioural processes in planning and future-directed behaviour, particularly with regards to non-specialized/general behaviour. This project will likely use pigeon subjects, but may also be suitable for those who wish to work with human participants (including children). **Neuroeconomics of choice:** This project explores the neural and behavioural dynamics of fast and slow decision-making in humans making choices about money, altruism, and other potential outcomes. Potential projects in this area could involve developing neural 'signatures' of decision-making processes, exploring similarities between decisions about different types of outcome, or exploring the influence of wider experience including culture in the brain activity underlying decisions. **Enrichment in animal research laboratories:** Research with animals remains a critical part of psychology. This project uses behavioural measures to assess how the lives of lab animals (pigeons) are impacted by environmental enrichment. The project will involve coding video footage and assessing data from behavioral experiments, to assess the degree to which animal enrichment initiatives affect the behaviour of lab animals during and outside of behavioural experiments.	Interested students should contact me to discuss projects. Students will need to be available to assist with running of the lab and/or experiments. Students working with basic animal research or translation of these findings should take PSYCH759.
Dudley	Makarena	Tba https://unidirectory.auckland.ac.nz/profile/m-dudley	

Erb	Chris	Dr. Erb's research uses a technique known as *reach tracking* to investigate how processes across perception, cognition, and action are reflected in participants' hand movements as they perform computerized tasks by reaching to touch response targets on a digital display. His research explores a range of age groups (children, adolescents, young adults, and older adults) and topics in psychology, including: **Cognitive Control:** Human beings exhibit a remarkable capacity to control their thoughts and actions. Developmental and individual differences in this capacity have been linked to a wide range of important outcomes, including emotion regulation, academic performance, physical health, and success in the workplace. What are the key cognitive processes that underlie this capacity? How do these processes develop across the lifespan and differ between individuals? This line of research explores these questions by measuring participants' hand movements as they perform computerized tasks designed to target different aspects of cognitive control, including inhibitory control (the ability to suppress or override an impulsive response) and switching (the ability to flexibly shift between different tasks). **Numerical Cognition:** A longstanding question in the numerical cognition literature concerns the extent to which our bodies shape and reflect how we represent and reason about numbers. This set of projects uses reach tracking to explore how children's numerical cognition is reflected in their unfolding hand movements as they perform various mathematical tasks (e.g., identifying whether a number is smaller or larger than 5). This approach enables us to evaluate how children link their understanding of numerical relations to their understanding of spatial relations at different points in development. **Attention and Distraction in Visually Guided Action:** In order to behave adaptively, we must be able to focus our attention on relevant objects and events in our environment. This can be especially difficult in situations that feature salient distractions. This line of research explores how the ability to focus visual attention develops between childhood and adulthood by using visual search tasks that require participants to locate a target among distractors that vary along different dimensions (e.g., shape or colour). continued… Each of these projects will enable students to further develop their statistical and experimental design skills while also gaining familiarity with an exciting new behavioural research technique. Students particularly interested in development, embodied cognition, cognitive neuroscience, or computational modelling are especially encouraged to apply.	Working with children and families requires having a flexible schedule, given that much of our data collection takes place during the evening or on the weekend. Community outreach is also an important component of recruiting and connecting with families. Students interested in working with children will therefore be asked to help with data collection and community outreach on some evenings and weekends. Students will also be expected to attend lab meetings for one hour roughly every other week. Please feel free to contact Dr. Erb christopher.erb@auckland.ac.nz if you have any questions.

Elliffe	Doug	On-going research in the Experimental Analysis of Behaviour Research Unit. Probably investigating choice in pigeon subjects, but there is also some possibility of a project on stimulus equivalence with human participants.	Must take PSYCH 759, and must make contact with me in advance. Must be available for 2 hours 1-2 days/week throughout the year to help run lab experiments.
Filippova	Olga	Tba https://unidirectory.auckland.ac.nz/profile/o-filippova	
Gavey	Nicola	My research is focused on gender and sexual violence and rape culture, and I use critical qualitative and feminist methodologies. Projects I'm currently working on include (1) developing and assessing a primary prevention model that works with boys and young men with the aim of undoing some of the often-invisible gendered underpinnings of men's sexual violence against women and girls, (2) a critical analysis of the focus on consent within sexual violence prevention discourse, (3) deconstructing "rough sex" and the relationship between emerging norms and sexual violence. For students who are interested in working on projects related to these or similar topics, please contact Nicola n.gavey@auckland.ac.nz.	Please email Nicola prior to application, to discuss potential projects, and ensure working in this area is a good fit for your background and skills. It is recommended that students have taken Psych 319 and/or Psych 320, and required that they enrol in Psych 767.
Groot	Shiloh	My research interests are in community and liberation psychology, Indigenous worldviews and communities, resilience, the global self, poverty and wellbeing. My primary area of interest is homelessness, the sharp edge of poverty. I also explore the relevance and application of Māori and other Indigenous cultural concepts for understanding contemporary relationships and peoples' efforts to cultivate a positive sense of self and place. In particular my research is action-oriented where not only does theory and research inform practice, but practice also shapes the refinement of theory and research.	It is recommended that you take PSYCH 717. Interested students should contact Dr Groot to discuss the details of the project.

Hamm	Jeff	<u>Comparing Endogenous and Exogenous attention</u>. 1) We can choose to pay attention to a location in space, such as by paying attention to our left or right based upon the colour of a fixation cross (i.e. blue means attend left). In addition, our attention can be automatically drawn to a location, such as by a brief flash in our peripheral vision. It has been argued that these two forms of shifting our attention might be shifting the same or different kinds of attention. Attention can be quantified by looking at how much faster we respond to targets in the attended location compared to targets that appear in a non-attended location. So, if our voluntary shifts and the automatic capture are working on the same attention, then someone who shows a large difference in one condition should show a large difference in the other as well. If, however, different and unrelated forms of attention are being shifted, then there is no reason to assume having a large difference in one case tells us anything about the size of the difference in the other. Using this individual difference approach, we will examine whether or not the evidence suggests that the same attention is being directed by colour changes and peripheral flashes. <u>Illusory Line Motion</u>: 1) If a bar is presented between two boxes, and one of the boxes flashes, when the bar is removed it appears to shoot away from the flashed box. However, if the bar is removed during the flash, it appears to shoot into the box. Previous research has determined that these two illusions arise for different reasons and are unrelated to each other. Another way to create an illusion of motion is to present two differently coloured boxes (say, red and green) and when the bar appears, it will shoot out of the box that matches the bar in colour (a red bar out of the red box). While the illusion away from the flash and these colour illusions are unrelated to each other, it is unknown if the illusion towards the flash is related to the colour based one. Determining this will be the focus of the current project. 2) If a bar appears between two boxes after one of the boxes flashes, the bar will appear to shoot out of the flashed box. One explanation for this illusion is that our attention has been drawn to the box and speeds our detection of that end of the bar, so it appears to come on first, just like a real bar in motion. Others have suggested that the flash sets up low level visual features that result in the stimulus display that produce the illusion and that attention has nothing to do with it. Attention can also be attracted by shifting a box up and down slightly. This should not result in the same low level visual features, and therefore, if the illusion continues to arise it would be more consistent with the attention explanation, but if the illusion does not occur, it would be more consistent with a low level, non-attention based, explanation.	Students should be comfortable with statistical analysis and having completed PSYCH 201 and/or PSYCH 303 would be a benefit. Those interested should contact Dr. Hamm to discuss the project. continued…

Harre	Niki	My research focuses on human values and sustainable communities and schools. If you are interested in environmental sustainability and human flourishing, please come and talk with me about options for 2022. I use mixed-methods including participatory action research, interviews and observations.	It is essential students take Psych 715, Psychology and Sustainability.
Hautus	Michael	There are three major projects (below) and several other minor projects (bottom) in which to undertake a PhD or Masters thesis, an Honours Dissertation, or a Stage 3 research project (Directed Study). ***Hedonics, Satisfaction, and Preference Testing*** Preference is not an intrinsic or measurable property of stimuli. It is a psychological dimension generated from the interactions between perceptions, memories, and internal psychological states. Preference influences choice, so the ability to quantify preference is essential to a scientific understanding of human behaviour. Measurement of preference is currently based on an analysis of the responses given by a group; for example, 80% prefer X over Y. This is an inadequate measure because percentage preference does not indicate the magnitude of preference; 80% may prefer X over Y, but the magnitude of their preference may be small, or large; X may even be the least disliked option. Also, percentage preference is contaminated by response bias and other factors. For example, when presented with two identical stimuli, typically around 40% of judges will have a preference for one over the other; yet this selection can only be based on extraneous factors such as response bias. My current research is investigating approaches to the assessment of satisfaction and preference, in different sensory modalities, that overcome the limitations outlined above. ***Modelling of Performance in Sensory Tasks*** When an assessment of sensory (or other) performance is undertaken, the most desirable outcome would be to produce a measure of performance that is independent of both the task and the response bias of the individual. Signal Detection Theory (SDT) presents an approach to accomplish this by specifying separate measures of response bias and performance. In theory (but not quite in practice) SDT will provide the same estimate of performance for the same stimuli judged in different tasks. This is certainly not true of	

		commonly used methods of performance, such as the proportion of correct judgements. My research has involved developing and evaluating SDT-based models for tasks such as the same-different task and the matching-to-sample task. ***Other Projects in Experimental Psychology*** I also have several projects underway in psychophysical research. These projects involve various aspects of model building, further improvement of advanced psychophysical techniques, and computer programming projects to design tools for psychophysical analysis. These projects are focussed on the auditory, gustatory, or olfactory sensory modalities.	

Henderson	Annette	**Annette is the Director of the Early Learning Lab (ELLA) and has a range of projects available studying social and cognitive development across early childhood (0 – 6 years of age). The following are examples of potential topics. If you'd like to discuss further, please let me know!** **Cooperation, prosocial behaviour, and social competence in early childhood:** Thriving in human societies requires individuals to be able to work well with others, even when doing so may be at a cost to themselves. Given how essential getting along with others is to human functioning, it is not surprising that infants learn to do so early in life. This project will involve being a part of one of two longitudinal studies looking at indicators of social competence, such as cooperation, helping, sharing, etc, across the first six years of life. Questions the project might address are: How do prior experiences influence social behaviours such as cooperation? Is there a relationship between socio-cognitive skills such as theory of mind and children's social competence or prosocial behaviour? What demographic factors influence children's cooperative ability? How does parenting and parenting-related processes shape children's socio-emotional development? The specific question in this topic to be addressed will be determined once the student has been matched to Annette. **Cooperation and communication in early caregiver-infant interactions:** Infants engage in cooperative interactions with their caregivers from the moment they are born. The goal of this project is to examine how diverse contexts (e.g., digital media vs face-to-face interactions) influence the cooperative nature of early communicative interactions, such as peek-a-boo, free-play or word learning. Questions the project might address are: How does technology influence caregiver-infant interactions? How does the structure of cooperative communicative interactions, such as peek-a-boo, change across in-person and digital contexts? How do these strategies differ across parent-infant dyads? How do parents teach their infants words at the earliest stages of development? Do parents respond to another baby (either AI baby, or human infant) in similar ways as to how they respond to their own baby? Can we build models of early parent-infant interactions? These are just a few questions that could be examined by the student working on this project. The specific question to be addressed in the honours thesis will be determined once the student has been matched to Annette. This project will be co-supervised with Alecia Moser, a Research Fellow in the ELLA lab.	It is recommended that students have taken PSYCH 326 and/or PSYCH 200. Students must take PSYCH 744, are strongly encouraged to take PSYCH 722 and/or PSYCH 764, and must be available for ELLA group meetings. Honours students are asked to help with recruitment and data collection for studies with infants and young children. Many of our families work during the week and thus, these studies are often run on the weekends. As such, students will be asked to help with studies and recruiting outside of regular university hours for some evenings and/or weekends throughout the academic year. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions, a.henderson@auckland.ac.nz

Hughes	Barry	The sense of touch is the oldest of our senses, the first to ignite in development and the last to be extinguished in old age. Students in my lab investigate questions as to how the skin is involved in perception, how the fingerpads can learn to read, how the hands are organs for both sensing and doing. I would love to work with students who are intrigued by questions related to perceiving, knowing and doing by touch. Our recent work involves • braille reading (is it similar to reading print with the eyes and if so, how?) • texture perception (why is touching texture more accurate than being touched by texture?) • do blind people develop a super sense of touch? • how the skin codes number and density ('how may raised dots are there?' is not answered by counting. It is more complicated --and mysterious-- than that.) Students will acquire new skills in experimental design, research methods, data acquisition (behavioural and perhaps EEG) and analysis, working at the cutting edge of research into this underappreciated sensory modality.	Students should be enrolled in PSYCH 746. Students will have weekly supervisor or lab meetings. Students who are potentially interested in this area should contact me to discuss.
Jiang	Lixin	People spend a significant amount of time at work; work can positively or negatively influence employees. Specializing in Occupational Health Psychology, my overarching research goal is to examine how factors promote or undermine employee health and well-being, as well as prevent and attenuate the negative impacts of work stressors on employees. Within this framework, examples of research topics that students could work on include, but not limited to: • Job insecurity has been traditionally considered a bad thing. However, is there a situation where employees can actually reap some "benefits" from experiencing job insecurity? • It has been found that workplace incivility, bullying, and harassment negatively employees. But why? Which kinds of interventions are most effective in preventing such mistreatment from occurring? • Which kinds of leadership styles are most effective in terms of mitigating employee work stress and enhancing employee well-being?	Students must take PSYCH 744 (or equivalent). Students must also be available for weekly lab meetings. It is strongly recommended that students take PSYCH 761-Organizational Psychology and PSYCH 766-Occupational Health Psychology.

Kemper	Joya	I am keen to supervise students who are interested in doing qualitative research into sustainable and ethical consumption – topics may include food waste, plastic (non)usage, zero waste, flexitarianism (meat reduction), and also, the impact of eco-anxiety and climate change concerns on the decision not to have children, live off grid, participate in activism etc. I am in the marketing department and specialise in: Sustainable Marketing and Marketing for Good (sustainable/ethical consumption, circular economy, waste reduction, socio-political activism), Sustainable and Healthy Eating (such as meat reduction, food waste), Social Change (social marketing, social and institutional change, education, environmental interventions) and Education for Sustainable Development. Examples of past student topics include: MCom, 2019 - “Exploring sustainable food choice amongst young New Zealand consumers”, MBioEnt, 2019 - “The psychosocial barriers of switching to a vegan diet” (MCom) – “What's your beef: Exploring meat substitute perceptions”, MCom 2021 - "Understanding the role of consumption and activism in coping with climate change emotions"	Please email me if you would like to know more: j.kemper@auckland.ac.nz You can also see my webpage for details of past projects https://directory.auckland.ac.nz/profile/edit/j-kemper
Kirk	Ian	The structural and functional human brain connectome. Functional (fMRI) or diffusion imaging of brain pathways in different populations. (e.g. different *BDNF* or *COMT* polymorphisms or elderly and Alzheimer’s) Memory systems and EEG. Neural oscillations in memory networks. Looking at the role of theta, alpha and gamma in working, spatial or recognition memory. Memory and synaptic plasticity (human LTP; EEG, fMRI) and genetics (e.g. BDNF and COMT polymorphisms). Social neuroscience – political ideology. EEG signatures correlated with ideology or personality. All Projects involve a combination of the acquisition and analysis of high-density EEG, structural, or functional MRI, and/or genetic data.	Students will likely have taken Psych 202 and 305 or equivalent, and will likely also take Psych 714 (and possibly 721 and 742), and Psych 744.

Lambert	Tony	I am currently pursing research in several different areas, and would welcome Honours students who express an interest in any of the projects listed below: 1. Can you imagine how these words would sound, if they were being read by Jacinda Ardern, or Barack Obama? Can you imagine sitting on a white sand beach at the end of the day, and watching the sun dip below the horizon? People vary massively in their ability to conjure clear mental images of sounds and sights. Some say that they can imagine the scene as clearly as if they were actually there; while others say that are completely unable to generate any auditory images at all of familiar sounds, or visual images of familiar scenes. I am interested in studying associations between auditory and visual imagery and their absence. An absence of auditory imagery has been termed 'anauralia', and lack of visual imagery is known as aphantasia. Another aspect of this work is to study relationships that auditory imagery and its absence may have with other psychological processes, such as memory, planning, self-regulation and music. 2. If you look carefully at almost any picture of David Bowie you will notice that he had very unusual eyes. Bowie suffered from a condition called 'anisocoria'. The pupil of his left eye was permanently dilated, while the pupil of his right eye changed size normally, constricting in bright light and dilating when the illumination was dim. This contributed to his striking appearance, even without his famous Ziggy Stardust persona. Changes in people's eyes (where they are looking, changes in the size of the eye pupil) provide important information during social and other interactions, conveying signals about emotional state, alertness, and whether someone is engaged and interested or disengaged and bored during a task or social interaction with a partner. I am interested in studying these changes and their links with emotional, cognitive and social processes. 3. <u>Accident vulnerability among older adults.</u> Older adults are over-represented in accident statistics. I am interested in studying whether age-related decline in a visual brain pathway known as the dorsal visual stream might play a significant role in increasing accident vulnerability among older people. Working on this project will involve distributing an online questionnaire about the frequency of everyday accidents and mishaps, and then inviting participants to visit our lab to carry out specially designed visual tests. 4. Vision, consciousness and eye movements. This is an ongoing project, which involves testing experimental predictions generated by our 'unified model of vision and	

		attention' – see Lambert et al. (2018). Towards a unified model of vision and attention … *Journal of Experimental Psychology: Human Perception and Performance, 44(3)*, 412-432. http://dx.doi.org/10.1037/xhp0000474 . Working on this project will involve studying the ability of people to move their eyes rapidly and accurately in response to information presented briefly in peripheral vision. 5. Eye movements and visual art.	
Le Grice	Jade	Jade's research programme explores the intersections of Indigeneity, gender, and youth through domains of reproductive decision-making, sexuality education, abortion, sexual violence prevention, and whānau. Theorising the connective tissue between lived experience, psychosocial and sociocultural contexts, knowledge, policy and practice – research projects are designed to highlight invisibilised issues, have community relevance, and address areas of social injustice. Honours projects will explore rangatahi wāhine Māori (young Māori women), rangatahi tāne Māori (young Māori men), kaumātua (knowledgeable elders), or key stakeholders' talk about health and wellbeing, relationships, sexual ethics, online intimacies, and sexual violence prevention.	Familiarity with Kaupapa Māori, Mana Wahine and/or Critical psychology through the study of PSYCH320 and/or PSYCH319 is advised. Honours students are strongly advised to take postgraduate papers taught by members of the Psychology and Social Issues groups PSYCH 717, 726, 733 and 758, 767).
Lueders	Eileen	**Unique Insights into the Structure of the Human Brain** You will be deeply involved in your very own brain mapping project applying a state-of-the-art tool to analyse neuroimaging data. The data have been acquired using structural magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) and are readily available for analysis. You will not need to collect any data. Various projects are available.	It is recommended that you either take PSYCH 736 and/or have experience in MRI data analysis. If you would like to know more, just send me an e-mail (e.lueders@auckland.ac.nz).

Manuela	Sam	My research focuses on mental health beliefs, Pacific peoples, and identity. I am interested in working with a student who is interested in developing a small project on either: • Cultural differences in self-concept • Ethnic and gender stereotypes These projects will require your assistance with the preparation of ethics applications and data collection. These projects will be suited to those that have an interest in Pacific research and are comfortable working within that space.	It is recommended students have taken PSYCH 320 and/or PSYCH 311. Students that have an interest in Pacific-oriented research can email Sam on s.manuela@auckland.ac.nz " It is recommended the students enrol in PSYCH 758.
Maxwell	Jessica	My research is broadly focused on sexual well-being and romantic relationships, and predominately uses quantitative methods. More specifically, topics may include (but are not limited to): - How the media influences our sexual attitudes and beliefs - The role of incremental/entity mindset in relationship functioning - Implicit (i.e. automatic, gut-level) measurement of sexual satisfaction - Our decision-making processes during relationship transitions (e.g., cohabitation, marriage) - The generalizability of relationship and sexuality measures across diverse demographics (e.g., across different ethnic and sexual orientation groups, across open relationships, etc.) - Anything else in the general are of sex and relationships that you are keen on ☺	These projects may require your assistance with various aspects of the research process including preparing ethics applications, collecting data (including running a couple's study) preparing tables/figures, coding videotaped interviews, etc. Students who have a passion for statistics and detail-oriented work will be a good fit. It is recommended students have taken PSYCH 204 and/or PSYCH 311. It is also strongly recommended that students take PSYCH 716, PSYCH 768, and PSYCH 744 (or related courses).

McCann	Clare	▯ The impact of communication difficulties in criminal justice settings. ▯ An evaluation of gender bias in the speech language therapy profession.	It is advisable to have taken PSYCH 313 or PSYCH 300. Please email me if you are interested in these or other possible research projects: c.mccann@auckland.ac.nz
Miles	Anna	Patient experience of acoustic neuroma surgery – preparedness, physical and rehabilitation, psychological support and follow up. Medical practitioners attitudes and knowledge of acoustic neuroma surgery rehabilitation and follow up Training medical practitioners in acoustic neuroma surgery rehabilitation and follow up	In collaboration with Suzanne Barker-Collo. Could take 2 students
Moreau	David	Research in the lab is centered on three main goals: *(1)* Theoretical: understanding the mechanisms of behavioral and neural change: *How does the brain change? To what extent, and in what respect? Are those changes sustained over time?* (2) Methodological: refining the measurements and methods to evaluatethese dynamics; *How can we develop tools that help measuring change in the brain? What existing techniques can we leverage in this specific field?* (3) Translational: designing and implementing interventions to improve mentaland physical health. *How can we harness the malleability of brain and behavior to improve human performance? Can the same methods be used to treat or alleviate brain disorders?* Multiple projects are available in these three domains	Prospective students should contact David (d.moreau@auckland.ac.nz) to discuss specifics and requirements.

Overall	Nickola	Nickola's students will have the opportunity to be involved in a large-scale longitudinal project examining family resilience and wellbeing, including how couples, parents and children manage a range of challenges, such as relationship conflict, problems with parenting, emotion regulation difficulties, and life stress. Examples of research topics that students could work on include: • identifying the communication strategies that are most effective in resolving relationship conflict and the communication dynamics that increase the risk of relationship dissolution and divorce • investigating how and when adults' communication and emotion regulation strategies during marital conflict impact the health, wellbeing and social functioning of their children • exploring how power and sexist attitudes influence family dynamics, including emotional and behavioural reactions to conflict and biased perceptions of relationship and parenting interactions • examining the impact of attachment insecurity and depressive symptoms on family functioning, including parenting, and identifying the factors that can overcome these vulnerabilities • investigating the impact of (a) different emotion regulation strategies or (b) social support in protecting psychological and physical health from the damaging effects of stressful life events	It is recommended students have taken PSYCH 311. Students will be required to take PSYCH 716. It is recommended that students take PSYCH 768 and PSYCH 744. All students who are interested in these (or related) topics should email Nickola for more information (n.overall@auckland.ac.nz).
Osborne	Danny	Topics broadly situated within the areas of intergroup relations and political psychology. The specific research topics may include, but are not limited to: The effect of stereotype threat on women's performance in maths. Forms of system justification and their impact on people's attitudes toward (in)equality. The system-justifying functions of political ideology. The impact that racial stereotypes have on people's memory of others. The effects of moral credentialing on people's attitudes toward racial minorities General topics on intergroup relations in New Zealand.	It is recommended students have taken PSYCH 204 and/or PSYCH 311. It is also strongly recommended that students take PSYCH 700 and PSYCH 744 (or related courses). All students who are interested in these (or related) topics should email Danny (d.osborne@auckland.ac.nz) before applying to the program.

Peterson	Liz	**Explore a research question using the Growing Up in NZ (GUiNZ) data** Growing up is a multidisciplinary, ethnically and demographically diverse longitudinal study following approximately 6500 children from before birth and the children are now 12. There is enormous number of potential topics that can be explored using the data sets collected up to the age of 8. Check out the Growing Up website for the measures we have used (https://www.growingup.co.nz/available-data-2) Possible projects could include helping to analyse and code some of the qualitative response the children and parents gave to the following questions: • What do you want to be when you grow up and why? • What has been the biggest highlight and challenge with your eight-year-old child? • What are you most looking forward to about the years ahead with your child? These questions could be explored in a number of ways including looking within different ethnic groups, or children growing up in different circumstances or with different learning needs. **Student beliefs** I also have some data on students beliefs related to the following topics that may also be of interest • Intellectual Humility • Adaptability • Academic buoyancy • Beliefs about failure • How do different types of impostership relate to help-seeking behaviour? • How do emotions and emotion regulation across an assessment period differ for those who succeed vs fail or perceive they will fail?	I recommend students take • PSYCH 744 (or equivalent) • PSYCH 769. Students wanting to work with Growing Up data are likely to be asked to help with other aspects of the growing up study which should also develop their research skills
Phillips	Katrina	• Café impact • Assessment of the usefulness of rubrics • Decreasing plagiarism	

Purdy & Leung	Suzanne Joan	Auditory processing in adults with mild cognitive impairment (MCI) • Project for one Honours students • How does auditory processing and cognitive performance compare between MCI and healthy controls? • Does auditory training impact on auditory processing performance, and have secondary impact on cognition? • How acceptable/accessible are remote/online assessments and training for older adults with and without MCI?	It is recommended but not essential that you have taken PSYCH 313. Interested students should e-mail sc.purdy@auckland.ac.nz
Roberts	Reece	Students will have the option of one of the following projects: 1) Using EEG to shed light on the neural correlates of memory and imagination. 2) Using behavioural and/or EEG techniques to explore how the brain segments continuous experience into events, and the effect of event segmentation on subsequent memory. 3) Analysing already collected functional MRI data to explore the role of the hippocampus in future imagination 4) Using behavioural and/or EEG techniques to investigate how visual features (colours, shapes, orientation etc.) and objects are maintained in visual working memory 5) Using fMRI data to investigate the aging brain	Interested applicants should contact Reece to discuss research projects and their requirements r.roberts@auckland.ac.nz

Schwarzkopf	Sam	<u>How does the brain represent visual information in the absence of awareness?</u> What is the point of conscious awareness? Previous by many labs suggests that the brain encodes a lot of sensory information even when we are not aware of it – for example, when the stimuli are actively masked or blocked from consciousness by inattention or in pathological conditions. However, several findings suggest that the way the brain integrates sensory information is different when we are aware of it compared to when we are not. In this project, we will use functional MRI to measure the response of visual brain areas to images that have been rendered invisible by flickering them very fast. This allows us to better understand the subconscious processing by each stage of the visual pathway. <u>Retinotopic mapping with EEG (with Paul Corballis)</u> Functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI) has been an essential tool for visual neuroscientists for the past 30 years. It allows us to produce high-resolution maps of how the brain represents the visual field. However, fMRI does not measure neural activity directly but rather infers it from changes in blood oxygenation. Not only is this an indirect measure but it is also very slow (many, many long seconds). The technology for electroencephalography (EEG) has improved considerably in recent years and now allows researchers to obtain precise spatial information as well. However, its potential for producing similar maps as are possible with fMRI remains unexplored. In this project, we will trial retinotopic mapping experiments with EEG.	School of Optometry & Vision Science
Sheng	Zitong	My research area is organisational psychology, which mainly focuses on attitudes and behaviors that are relevant to the work domain. There are a few topics that I'm exploring and would love for one of them to be an honour thesis topic. Students can feel free to choose from: 1. This study looks at how team members' psychological ownership (i.e., they see the company as their company) influences the safety climate within the team and people's safety behavior. I have a sample of truck drivers to test this idea. 2. This study looks at the extent to which managers demonstrates justice when they deal with safety-related issues influences whether their management efforts are effective. This is a factory worker sample also with a focus on safety. 3. **Supervisor-subordinate affectivity fit and employee emotional well-being:** Supervisor-subordinate affectivity fit is a crucial determinant of how much "emotional labour" subordinates will experience. Affectivity refers to the degree of a person's response or susceptibility to emotional stimuli such as pleasure, pain, etc. When the	The student should have demonstrated the ability to analyse, interpret and report statistics (e.g., have taken PSYCH 744 or equivalent, or other evidence). It is preferrable that the student is also passionate about research publication. My goal is to help the student develop an honour thesis that is submission ready to academic conferences/journals.

		two parties differ in affective propensities, they will generate different emotional reactions to work events and situations (Watson & Tellegen, 1985). Due to low-status, subordinates may need to conceal or adjust their genuine feelings to match their supervisors' affective reactions, to avoid potential conflicts (Overbeck et al., 2010). This emotional toll will harm their well-being by increasing their emotional exhaustion and reducing their job engagement. This study aims to test this idea. 4. **Who uses abusive supervision to punish deviant employees?** Previous research has recognized that subordinate's deviant behaviour may trigger supervisor's abusive supervision towards them (e.g., Lian et al., 2014; Mawritz et al., 2017; Shillamkwese et al., 2020). However, the majority of research in this area uses a victim precipitation paradigm, suggesting that some victims are more prone to abuse than others because they possess certain characteristics (e.g., personalities, styles of speech or dress, actions, or even their inactions). Research on workplace mistreatment has advocated for a perpetrator predation paradigm, which puts agency and control of a mistreatment behaviour clearly into the hands of perpetrators (Cortina, 2017; Cortina et al., 2018). This study aims to apply a perpetrator predation paradigm to understand what supervisor characteristics make the more (or less) likely to exhibit abusive supervision towards deviant employees.	The students will be having weekly/biweekly meetings with supervisor over zoom. Interested students are welcome to reach out and discuss with me.

Sibley	Chris	6-7 possible honours topics to choose from: 1. How can we measure psychological distress in New Zealand? This study will validate and provide normative data for a measure non-specific psychological distress, anxiety and rumination in the New Zealand population using data from the New Zealand Attitudes and Values Study '(NZAVS)'. The study will also look as specific differences across gender, age and ethnic groups in psychological distress in the New Zealand population. 2. How many New Zealanders are using facebook, and is facebook use linked to psychological outcomes? This study will analyse data from the NZAVS to look at the use of facebook in a nationally reprehensive New Zealand sample, and document trends across cohorts. The study will also examine psychological correlates and outcomes associated with facebook use in the population. 3. What do New Zealanders value? The study will look at the social values held by New Zealanders, such as values of equality, authority, tolerance, and respect for elders, using data from the NZAVS. The study will also look at possible change in the values held by New Zealanders over the last three years, and across different groups in New Zealandsociety. 4. What predicts identification with multiple ethnic groups? This study will look specifically at people in the NZAVS who identified with multiple ethnic groups and examine whether identification with multiple group memberships changes over time. The study will try to determine what factors might predict change in the identification with only one ethnic group, or with multiple ethnic groups, and test whether this is linked to psychological health and wellbeing in different contexts *continued*	Required courses are PSYCH 744 and PSYCH 731. Students should come and talk to me in person to discuss the topic and details

		5. Does income predict life satisfaction, and if so for whom? This study will use data from the NZAVS to examine the extent to which income is linked with various measures of subjective wellbeing and health. The study will determine at which point income reaches a point of diminishing returns in predicting subjective wellbeing. The study will also explore whether the link between income and life satisfaction holds constant for different group in society, or whether income is more strongly linked to wellbeing for some groups relative to others. 6. What predicts the wellbeing and acculturation of Asian immigrants in New Zealand? This study will use data from the NZAVS to look specifically at Asian immigrants living in New Zealand. The study will look at the factors that buffer or ameliorate the psychological health, wellbeing, and acculturative stress of Asian peoples in New Zealand society. 7. How do women's and men's body images differ? And do differences in body image predict difference is psychological health, rumination and eating behaviour? This study will use data from the nationally representative NZAVS dataset to look at men's and women's levels of satisfaction with their bodies depending on their BMI and income. *Continued* The research will examine possible gender differences and the power of social roles in the extent to which concerns about body image predict psychological wellbeing, eating behaviour and self-esteem for people within different BMI ranges.	

Slykerman	Rebecca	In addition to my University position, I work at Starship Hospital as a Clinical Psychologist & Neuropsychologist. My research interests and projects are broadly in the area of child & adolescent brain development, brain injury, neuropsychology and mental health. Projects include but are not limited to: 1. Examining the recommended interventions that are made in neuropsychological assessment reports generated after a child has a neuropsychological assessment. 2. Investigating common cognitive and behavioural presentations in children referred for cognitive assessments following medical events likely to have caused brain injury. I also have a research stream investigating nutrition, probiotics and health outcomes including immunity 3. Examining the relationship between self-reported stress and frequency of common viral illnesses in healthcare workers.	If you would like to ask questions or discuss projects feel free to email me on r.slykerman@auckland.ac.nz

Stasiak	Karolina	I am a psychologist with a keen interest in in youth mental health issues and digital (eHealth/mHealth) interventions (apps, chatbots, web-based tools, VR etc.). I work in a multi-disciplinary team in Grafton and really enjoy working with School of Psychology students (having graduated from it myself!). I have co-developed SPARX (sparx.org.nz), the world's first online intervention for depression in a form of a serious game for adolescents. Our team have a web platform and a system to allow us to rapidly design and test novel interventions (i.e. chatbots for mental health, wellbeing, hauora, resilience, behavioural health). **If you're interested in any of this, get in touch please.** k.stasiak@auckland.ac.nz **Currently (2022) seeking Masters students only.** Some of the topics I am interested in are: • Health apps - what role do they play in supporting our wellbeing? • Tertiary students' mental health, wellbeing and resilience • How do we integrate digital health approaches into clinical services? • Migrant health and wellbeing • Have you got what it takes to design and evaluate a new eHealth interventions (a chatbot)? Get in touch! • Gamification of health interventions - can you 'play away' depression, stress or anxiety? • Virtual reality/augmented reality – disruptive technologies for better health • Social media and mental health? The good, the bad or the ugly?	Inquiries from prospective Masters students welcome!!! k.stasiak@auckland.ac.nz

Taylor	Alex	Two projects are on offer in my lab for 2022: 1. How stubborn are cognitive biases? There are many flaws in the decision making of humans but we have little idea how persistent these biases really are. This is unfortunate, as effective debiasing techniques could be of enormous benefit across society, particularly if they can improve our ability to think critically and scientifically about the world around us. This project will examine if the key biases surrounding scientific thinking can be mitigated through interventions and so improve critical thought in participants. 2. The Clever Canine lab at UoA (http://clevercaninelab.auckland.ac.nz/) is focused on understanding how dogs think. We hope our research will not only shed light on how social intelligence evolves, but also lead to a better understanding of dog-human social interactions. We currently have an Honours project available that will focus on developing the use of non-invasive EEG recording for dogs. This project aims to develop EEG techniques that can be used to not only understand how dogs' minds work, but also find better ways of selecting dogs for highly intensive training programs, such as those required when training guide dogs for the blind or mobility dogs.	Recommended students have completed psych 317 and take Psych 725
Tippett	Lynette	Examining predictors of decline in individuals with Mild Cognitive Impairment. This will be based in the Dementia Prevention Research Clinics. Data include detailed neuropsychological data, medical data including vascular risk variables, lifestyle data and neuroimaging data.	
Waldie	Karen	Predictors of mental health status at 8 years of age Persistence of behavioural problems from ages 2 to 8: Growing Up in NZ	

The following staff members are available only to students who are selected into the clinical programme

Barker-Collo , Suzanne		Lambie, Ian
Cowie, Sue		Willis, Gwenda
Gibson, Kerry		