



CPD Lab

Cognition in Psychological Disorders

Spring 2018

CPD LAB NEWS

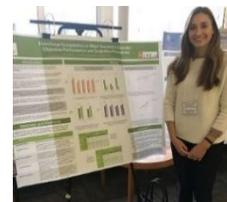
New collaborative study

Pictured left to right: Haykaz Mangardich from the EEL Lab, Melissa Milanovic from the CPD Lab and Amanda Shamblaw from the Mood Lab, are excited to announce their new collaboration: a study on decision-making in major depressive disorder (MDD). More specifically, this comprehensive study uses a battery of cognitive assessments and neuroimaging techniques to investigate brain-behaviour relations during decision making. This team is supported by Dr. Christopher Bowie and Dr. Michela David (psychologist at Providence Care Hospital) with funds received from Providence Care Hospital. Great work, team!



PhD students Haykaz Mangardich, Melissa Milanovic and Amanda Shamblaw

Congratulations to Tanya Tran & Dr. Katherine Holshausen on Convocation Day this fall.



Melissa Milanovic presenting ratings of functional competence in depression at the Queen's Mood and Anxiety Disorders conference.

- Great news for the CPD and Mood Labs at Queen's! They received funding from CIHR through the Patient-Oriented Research program to study mental health outcomes of University students, including medical students, at Queen's with Co-PI Anne Duffy and Kate Harkness.
- Master's student Stephanie Woolridge was awarded a CIHR Canada Graduate Scholarship – way to go Stephanie!
- Congrats to Tanya Tran on receiving a SSHRC PhD Scholarship and to incoming Grad student Chelsea Wood-Ross on receiving the Ontario Graduate Scholarship!
- Congratulations to SWEP students Talia Leibovitz and Alison Carney!
- Congratulations to RA Sid Lichtenstein and RA alum Vanessa Montemarano on their abstract acceptance for the upcoming Queen's Psychiatry Day.

Around the World with the CPD Lab



- Mike Best broadens his clinical and research skills at the Beck Institute in Philadelphia and the Psychosis Research Unit in Manchester. [Click here to read more](#)
- This fall in Dublin, Mike Best presented preliminary findings on our BOOST treatment for internalized stigma in early psychosis at the 2017 International Association for Youth Mental Health.



Dr. Bowie attended the first Canadian Conference on Cognitive Remediation [Click here to read about it](#)

Our lab is expanding AND moving!!

Welcome to many of the new RA's who have joined the lab this term. We'll be moving to our new (and larger) location at 99 Barrie St in the summer.

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|-----------------|------------------|----------------|---------------|-----------------|
| Minha Haque | Tarindi Welikala | Nicole Sanvido | Kaylynn Brant | Samantha Irwin |
| Talia Leibovitz | Natasha Barich | Zoe Frank | Kyra McGovern | Lindsay Simourd |
| Erica Zilli | Caroline Uchida | Thea Smith | Alison Carney | Mara Dempsey |

Thesis Project Spotlight with Mandy Hagen

Q: Mandy, tell us about your research:

My main research question revolved around the ways that computerized cognitive training is delivered and if intrinsic motivation is important in these tasks. I ran a total of twenty-four participants in seven weeks, and each assessment was two and a half hours.

Q: What kinds of skills did you develop?

There were definitely some aspects to this study, such as recruiting from the community from scratch that were new and added to my skillset. I have never written anything as comprehensive before, so it was a great opportunity to work on my writing skills as well.

Congratulations to Research Assistant's **Mandy Hagen, Jessie Eriksen and Lilian Laferriere** on completing their data collection for their 4th year thesis.

Q: Do you have any advice for students who would like to run their own research study in the future? I think there is a degree of vulnerability inherent in creating. But this is your own study! Be courageous to bring new ideas to the table and take ownership of your project.

Q: What did you like best about running your own research study? The awareness that you are gathering data that has literally never been gathered before, and that you get to look at it and see what it says. You get to be part of the



Mandy Hagen, 4th year CPD Lab RA displaying one of the assessments used in her thesis project.

process of discovery and contribute in a teeny tiny but totally unique way.

Q: What opportunities will you have to transfer this knowledge in the future?

While the results of this study won't transfer particularly well, the research skills I've gained from my time in the CPD lab will be invaluable as I transition into graduate school in the fall.

If you can imagine it, you can achieve it. If you can dream it, you can become it. ~ William Arthur Ward ~

Best wishes on your journey to all of the 4th year CPD Lab RA's . Thank you for all of your hard work and dedication. We'll miss you! Mandy Hagen, Jessie Eriksen, Lilian Laferriere, Tessa Rootenberg & Sidney Lichtenstein

Thesis Project Spotlight with Jessie Eriksen



4th year RA Jessie Eriksen, left, works on her thesis, assessing the reading ability of people who have experienced their first episode of psychosis.

Q: Jessie, tell us about your research: Eight participants who were being treated for their first episode of psychosis (at the Heads Up! clinic in Hotel Dieu Hospital), nine participants diagnosed with developmental dyslexia, and nine healthy controls, completed a comprehensive battery of psychoeducational reading tests and participated in a novel naming-speed eye-tracking task. The total assessment took a total of 2.5 hours to complete and all sessions took place at the Queen's Neuroscience Facility - Hotel Dieu.

Q: What kinds of skills did you develop? I further developed my assessment skills, through learning how to administer and score psychoeducational assessments. Further, I was able to develop valuable coordinating skills through the recruitment process, and through organizing the entire study with individuals working in different departments (education and neuroscience).

Q: Do you have any advice for students who would like to run their own research study in the future? Yes! Definitely take the opportunity to do a thesis! I can easily say that this experience was the most valuable part of my undergraduate studies. I have always preferred working in labs or taking lab courses because I enjoy applied learning, if you also learn best through application of skills then I would encourage you to apply to 501!

Q: What did you like best about running your own research study? I feel very fortunate to have completed a thesis project that was truly my own from conception of the idea, to developing the procedure, consulting experts in other areas that I was not familiar with (such as special education and neuroscience) for input on my initial hypotheses, and analyzing/interpreting the results. I have always been interested in learning about disorders with magnocellular dysfunction and therefore, the relationship between schizophrenia and dyslexia I found most fascinating.

Q: What opportunities will you have to transfer this knowledge in the future? I am eager to continue exploring this area of research and I hope to do so in the future. As I plan to attend graduate school in clinical psychology, the skills and insight I have gained from completing a thesis are definitely applicable to my academic and professional career goals.

From the Lab Library

- Published in the Journal of Affective Disorders, Melissa Milanovic found that self-perceptions of functional abilities may have low concordance with objective assessments in depression. [Click here to read about it](#)
- Melissa Milanovic discovered that self-efficacy is an important factor that bridges the gap between functional abilities and real-world behaviour in depression, published in the Journal of Nervous and Mental Disease.
- Mashal Haque examined the factor structure of psychotic symptoms, published in Early Intervention in Psychiatry. [Click here to read about it](#)
- Congrats to Mike, Tanya, Dan, and Mashal - new paper in Schizophrenia Research. With 2 weeks of intensive executive functioning training, observable effects on cognition and brain function. [Click here to read about it](#)

For more information, please contact:
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Visit us at:
<http://www.queensu.ca/psychology/cognition-psychological-disorders/research-team>