



**AUBURN UNIVERSITY
AT MONTGOMERY**

COLLEGE OF SCIENCES

You Can Get Involved In Research! Active Research Labs in the AUM Psychology Department

Social Cognition Lab

Dr. Clarissa Arms-Chavez (cchavez@aum.edu)

The overarching research interests within the social cognition lab revolve around stereotyping, prejudice, and social categorization. Recent research interests involve investigating the cognitive processes that underlie person and group perception, and how those processes lead to prejudice and stereotyping (i.e., how the hemispheres of the brain perceive person vs. group information differently and the influence of time and familiarity on perceiving others). Other research interests involve investigating prejudice and stereotypes within a purely social setting (i.e., the aspects involved within victim derogation and the influence of cultural change on the perception of immigrants).

Cognitive Behavioral Lab

Dr. Jessica Stagner Bodily (jbodily@aum.edu)

The Cognitive Behavioral Lab focuses primarily on judgment and decision-making processes. Factors such as probability learning, attention, and energy depletion that contribute to suboptimal and risky choice behavior are explored. The results from this work are discussed in terms of how they contribute to our understanding of why people make the choices that they do in their daily life, as well as how human choice behavior compares to that of nonhumans under similar conditions. Students in the laboratory are encouraged to propose original research ideas for data collection.

Healthy Communities Research Lab

Dr. Christine Totura Garrison (ctotura@aum.edu)

The Healthy Communities Research Lab conducts research on the relationship between contexts, such as schools and community settings, and the social, emotional, and behavioral development of youth and their families. We are particularly interested in understanding the role settings play in shaping youth experiences such as bullying, victimization, suicidality, and associated behavioral health issues. As a key aspect of this research, we examine the implementation and effectiveness of prevention programs and policies in promoting community health.

Industrial Psychology Misbehavior Lab

Dr. Casey Giordano (cgiordan@aum.edu)

The industrial (and organizational) psychology misbehavior lab conducts research on facets surrounding employee misbehaviors (e.g., theft, absences, conflicts). This research generally follows two pervading lines of inquiry. The first line of inquiry is concerned with

characteristics (e.g., personality, emotional intelligence, individual differences) that predict misbehaviors. The second line of inquiry is concerned with how misbehaviors structurally related to each other. Additional research projects revolve around the application of individual differences to organizations and advancing methodology to best understand psychological phenomena.

Social Development Lab

Dr. Bridgette Harper (bharper3@aum.edu)

The social development lab research focuses on children's attributions about and coping strategies pertaining to peer victimization. Another more recent focus is on how emotion may influence children's attributions and coping strategies in relation to peer victimization. We have examined the following recently: (1) the mediating role of attributions and coping responses in relation to peer victimization and children's psychosocial adjustment, (2) the influence of the relationship with the provocateur on children's attributions about and coping strategies in relation to peer victimization, (3) and the influence of the context of victimization on children's attributions and coping responses

Health Psychology & Epidemiology Lab

Dr. Steve LoBello (slobello@aum.edu)

Students in the health psychology and epidemiology lab investigate relationships between behavioral patterns and health outcomes using large data sets, primarily the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System surveys. Other specialized health behavior data sets are occasionally used in research (e.g., HINTS, NHANES) and the lab is open to proposals for original research involving data collection.

Clinical Psychology Lab

Dr. Stacy Parenteau (sparente@aum.edu)

The Clinical Psychology Lab focuses on research designed to enhance our understanding of psychological distress and dysfunction. A main focus of the lab will be on exploring: 1) the relationship between forgiveness and physical and mental health outcomes; 2) the relationship between religious coping/appraisals and physical and mental health outcomes. Future research projects will involve examining forgiveness in older adults and in peer perpetrators.

Peer Interaction Group Lab

Dr. Glen Ray (gray@aum.edu)

In the Peer Interaction Group (PIG) research lab, our current focus areas are: 1) children's close peer relationship quality and how friends and best friends change over time, 2) the linkages between parent-child relationships and children's close peer relationships, and 3) aggression, bullying, and victimization within the larger peer group. To date, the majority of our research has been with elementary school aged children in the area schools.

For more information: You can email the department at psychology@aum.edu or call (334) 244-3306 during regular business hours
