

Department of Psychology Research Labs

Attention & Memory Lab

Dr. Keith A. Hutchison

khutch@montana.edu

montana.edu/attmemlab/

Our lab investigates human attention, memory, and language processes. In the attention domain, we focus on peoples' ability (or inability) to control attention and how this influences performance across a variety of tasks including word recognition/pronunciation, memory for word lists, and inhibiting dominant (but inappropriate) responses. In the memory and language domains, we focus on both beneficial and detrimental effects of context on word recognition and memory. Another goal of our research is to understand how cognitive control over performance changes across situations and across individuals. In addition to examining individual differences in attentional control among young adults, we also test healthy older adults from the community to examine potential changes in control with age.

Babcock Lab Group

Dr. Michael Babcock

mbabcock@montana.edu

montana.edu/babcocklab/index.html

We have an active research program that includes collaborative projects with other labs at Montana State University and institutions in our state. Our laboratory uses a variety of behavioral paradigms and traditional neuroscience techniques to study the effects of cerebral ischemia on the brain.

Persuasion and Affect Laboratory

Dr. Ian Handley

ihandley@montana.edu

montana.edu/ihandley/PAL/html

The Persuasion and Affect Lab (PAL) conducts research broadly within the domain of social cognition. Primary research areas include attitudes and persuasion, unconscious thought, automaticity, and the effects of initial expectations on subsequent experiences. Within the attitudes and persuasion realm, our research investigates the influence of action/inaction goals, emotional experiences, individual differences, and non-conscious thinking processes on the extent to which individuals' attitudes are formed or changed. Our lab also studies emotion-regulation processes, the influence of affect on judgments of familiarity, the influence of familiarity on affective judgments, and the effects of non-conscious emotion on judgments and evaluations. More recently, we have conducted research investigating factors that influence when our expectations for future feelings actually influence our subsequent experiences (e.g., the placebo effect).

Socioeconomic Adversity, Resilience, and Health Lab

Dr. Neha John-Henderson

neha.johnhenderson@montana.edu

montana.edu/psychology/sarhlab.html

This lab focuses on how daily life experiences, health behaviors, and social relationships may moderate the relationship between low socioeconomic status and problematic physiological profiles. Ultimately, research from this lab seeks to contribute to the reduction of socioeconomic disparities in health.

Memory & Aging Lab

Dr. Michelle Meade

mlmeade@montana.edu

montana.edu/memagelab/index.html

Research in the Memory & Aging Lab examines mechanisms that give rise to memory distortion and investigates how those mechanisms might also lead to memory enhancement. In particular, research is focused along the following three lines: the impact of source confusion on memory distortion, the impact of social factors on improving memory, and the role of individual differences in predicting memory performance within and between populations. To study these questions, we test young and older adults using behavioral research methods along with subjective judgments and neuropsychological assessment.

Child and Adolescent Anxiety Lab of Montana

Dr. Brandon Scott

brandon.scott2@montana.edu

montana.edu/caalmlab

The Child and Adolescent Anxiety Laboratory of Montana (CAALM) was recently established by Dr. Brandon Scott in the Department of Psychology at Montana State University. CAALM is devoted to understanding how emotional factors contribute to anxiety problems in childhood and adolescence. We use physiological, cognitive, and behavioral measures to uncover individual differences in youths' emotion regulation and how these differences relate to anxiety problems. In the end, we hope for our basic science findings will aid our team and others (researchers, mental health professionals) in developing anxiety-focused prevention and treatment protocols for youth.

Research, Education, and Culture in Health

Dr. Monica C. Skewes

reachlab14@gmail.com

montana.edu/reachlab/index.html

Our lab investigates health and health disparities from a cultural perspective. Health disparities are inequities in health behaviors, rates of illness, disease processes, and health outcomes affecting certain groups of people such as racial/ethnic minorities, women, LGBTQ populations, and people who live in rural areas. We examine social determinants of health with a focus on mental health and addictive behaviors. We examine addictive behaviors from a biopsychosocial perspective, meaning that body, mind, and social/cultural factors are connected and interact to influence behavior. This model aligns well with the American Indian medicine wheel. The ultimate goal of this research is to discover culturally appropriate ways to restore balance in body, mind, emotions, and spirit to prevent harm and improve wellness.

Motivation and Diversity Lab

Dr. Jessi L. Smith

jsmith@montana.edu

montana.edu/madlab/index.html

Social Psychology is the study of how other people (real or imagined) influence how an individual thinks, acts, and feels. To study this "person by situation" interaction, our lab uses experimental designs, surveys, and observations. In M.A.D. Lab, we research three primary areas: motivation, goals, and stereotype processes, particularly as they relate to gender and achievement outcomes.