Current Works in Clinical Psychology and Neuroscience
2016-2017 Syllabus

Thursdays 11:35am-12:50pm
Kirtland 207

Faculty Advisor:
Dylan Gee, Ph.D.

Student Committee:
Grace Brennan, Michael Bronstein, Colin Stanton, Allison Stuppy-Sullivan, Scott Tillem

September 1: Welcome and Faculty Blitz Talks
Welcome to Current Works in Clinical Psychology & Neuroscience for the 2016-2017 academic year! Area group faculty (Arielle Baskin-Sommers, Ty Cannon, BJ Casey, Dylan Gee, Avram Holmes, Jutta Joormann, Alan Kazdin, Mary O’Brien) will present brief presentations (6-minute talks, 2 minutes for questions) about their work. Announcements about the series will be discussed briefly.

September 8: Conor Liston, M.D., Ph.D.
Dr. Liston is an assistant professor of psychiatry and neuroscience in the Sackler Institute for Developmental Psychobiology and the Brain and Mind Research Institute at Weill Cornell Medical College. His research examines the circuit mechanisms by which neurons in the prefrontal cortex contribute to cognitive and emotional processes and aims to understand how they are disrupted in neuropsychiatric disease states. He is interested in how stress, sleep, and other circadian rhythms interact to regulate synaptic remodeling in corticolimbic circuits, especially during adolescence and young adulthood. Dr. Liston’s laboratory uses a variety of optogenetic tools, two-photon microscopy and other imaging modalities, behavioral assays, and functional MRI in rodent models, healthy humans, and clinical populations.

September 15: Recent Graduates Panel
Recent graduates of the clinical program (Stacey Blase, Matt Lebowitz, Elena Mayville, and Natasha Schvey) will join us to share their experiences of internship and first jobs. They will form a panel to discuss and answer questions from students about the application process, their transitions between career stages, and what to expect in these positions.

September 22: Golda Ginsburg, Ph.D.
Dr. Ginsburg is a professor in the Child Division of the Department of Psychiatry at the University of Connecticut. She has wide-ranging expertise in child anxiety and aims to raise awareness of its prevalence and how to identify its early signs. Dr. Ginsburg has developed and evaluated school-based, community-based, and family-based treatments for anxiety. She has been a leader on numerous clinical trials including the CAMS, CAMELS, TADS, and CBIT studies of anxiety and depression in youth.
September 29: No Current Works (SRP)

October 6: George Bonanno, Ph.D.
Dr. Bonanno is a professor of clinical psychology at Teachers College, Columbia University. His research and scholarly interests focus on how human beings cope with loss, trauma, and other forms of extreme adversity, with an emphasis on resilience and emotion regulation. His recent empirical and theoretical work has focused on defining and documenting adult resilience in the face of loss or potential traumatic events, and on identifying the range of psychological and contextual variables that predict both psychopathological and resilient outcomes.

October 13: Student Blitz Talks
Across the two semesters, each student in the clinical and neuroscience areas will present a brief talk on their research. The content can vary from an interesting finding to a methodological challenge that would benefit from discussion among colleagues. Lunch will be provided during these talks.

October 20: No Current Works (October Recess)

October 27: Regina Miranda, Ph.D.
Dr. Miranda is a professor of psychology at Hunter College. Her research focuses on the cognitive processes related to the onset, maintenance, and treatment of depression and suicide in adolescence and emerging adulthood. She seeks to translate social cognition research to the study of clinical phenomena. Specifically, Dr. Miranda is interested in the role of ruminative thinking in the development of hopelessness-related cognitions, racial and ethnic differences in vulnerability to suicidal behavior, and the interplay between culture and cognition in explaining risk for suicidality.

November 3: Rebecca Jones, Ph.D.
Dr. Jones is an assistant professor of neuroscience in psychiatry at the Sackler Institute for Developmental Psychobiology and the Center for Autism and the Developing Brain at Weill Cornell Medical College. She studies the development of the social brain and how and why this differs in those with autism spectrum disorders and typically developing individuals. Her laboratory uses a variety of technologies including functional MRI, wearable devices, and eye tracking in order to examine the neural systems in the brain that drive social behavior and how these systems change across age.

November 10: Deanna Barch, Ph.D.
Dr. Barch is a professor and Chair of the Department of Psychological & Brain Sciences and a professor of radiology at Washington University in St. Louis. Her current research is focused on the interplay among cognition, emotion, and brain function to better understand the deficits in behavior and cognition found in illnesses such as schizophrenia and depression. In particular, Dr. Barch is interested in determining the cognitive, emotional, and neural bases of risk for the development of schizophrenia and depression, potentially as a means of developing better preventative approaches. She uses functional MRI, structural MRI, and cognitive neuroscience
methods to examine the neural basis of disturbances in cognitive control and emotional processing in individuals with schizophrenia and those at risk for the development of schizophrenia, as well as in individuals with mood disorders.

**November 17: Irina Esterlis, Ph.D.**

Dr. Esterlis is an assistant professor of psychiatry at the Yale School of Medicine and at the Molecular Imaging Program at the VA National Center for PTSD. She is interested in examining the high rates of comorbidity between various psychopathologies and tobacco smoking. Dr. Esterlis’ research uses neuroimaging techniques (e.g., PET and MRI) to examine neurochemical changes associated with the cognitive deficits found in individuals with comorbid mood disorders and tobacco addiction. One of the ultimate goals of this research is to identify potential neural systems that could be targets of future pharmacological interventions.

**November 24: No Current Works (Thanksgiving)**

**December 1: Brian Nosek, Ph.D.**

Dr. Brian Nosek is a professor of psychology at the University of Virginia. He studies thoughts and feelings that occur outside of conscious awareness or control and how they influence perception, judgment, and action in a variety of domains, particularly stereotyping, prejudice, ideology, and morality. Dr. Nosek pursues methodological innovations and maintains an infrastructure for improving behavioral research as a co-founder of the Center for Open Science (COS), a non-profit technology company that coordinated the Reproducibility Project and provides free and open services to increase inclusivity and transparency of research.

**December 8: Clinical Students meet with Director of Clinical Training**

The clinical area students will meet with Dr. Mary O’Brien, the Director of Clinical Training.

**December 15: Randy Buckner, Ph.D.**

Dr. Buckner is a professor of psychology and neuroscience at Harvard University, and the director of the Psychiatric Neuroimaging Research Division at Massachusetts General Hospital. His research focuses on how large-scale networks in the human brain give rise to higher-order cognition. Using a variety of different research modalities (e.g., behavioral measures, neuroimaging paradigms, and computational techniques), Dr. Buckner’s research attempts to characterize these networks, determine how genetic variations can influence network characteristics, and evaluate how network variations may lead to individual differences or even dysfunction in cognition (as in the case of neuropsychiatric illness).

**January 19: Tanja Jovanovic, Ph.D.**

Dr. Jovanovic is an assistant professor in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at the Emory University School of Medicine. Her research program focuses on the interaction of traumatic experiences, neurophysiology, neuroendocrinology, and genetics in adults and children at risk for psychopathology. She is a lead investigator on the Grady Trauma Project and uses a variety of psychophysiological (e.g., acoustic startle response, skin conductance
response, heart-rate variability) and neuroimaging (e.g., structural and functional MRI) methods.

**January 26: Dana Small, Ph.D.**
Dr. Small is a professor of psychiatry and psychology at the Yale School of Medicine. Her work at the John B. Pierce Laboratory is directed toward understanding the neural mechanisms underlying taste, flavor, and feeding in the human brain using neuroimaging, neuropsychology, and psychophysics methodologies in healthy and disordered populations. A major focus of her current work is to understand how the modern food environment interacts with central and peripheral physiology to promote weight gain.

**February 2: Student Blitz Talks**
Across the two semesters, each student in the clinical and neuroscience areas will present a brief talk on their research. The content can vary from an interesting finding to a methodological challenge that would benefit from discussion among colleagues. *Lunch will be provided during these talks.*

**February 9: Aaron Heller, Ph.D.**
Dr. Heller is an assistant professor of psychology at the University of Miami. He is interested in better understanding the temporal dynamics of positive emotion (i.e., how we sustain or don’t sustain positive emotion) in depressed and healthy individuals. To this end, Dr. Heller’s lab uses a variety of methods, including brain imaging (fMRI), psychophysiological (facial EMG, skin conductance), and experience sampling (using smart phones) techniques to better understand emotion and psychopathology.

**February 16: Ruchika Prakash, Ph.D.**
Dr. Prakash is an assistant professor of psychology at Ohio State University. She is interested in understanding neuroplasticity throughout the aging process in healthy individuals, as well as in individuals with neurological disorders, such as multiple sclerosis. Specifically, Dr. Prakash’s research uses MRI techniques to examine neuroplasticity in structural and functional neural networks in the hopes of developing interventions to lessen the cognitive deficits experienced by those with neurological disorders.

**February 23: Nim Tottenham, Ph.D.**
Dr. Tottenham is an associate professor of psychology at Columbia University. Her research focuses on the development of neural circuits that underlie affective behaviors across childhood and adolescence, with a particular emphasis on corticolimbic connections. Dr. Tottenham aims to characterize normative human brain development and the effects of early-life stress (e.g., adverse caregiving) using behavioral, physiological, and functional MRI methods in order to identify sensitive periods during which the environment has the largest influence on neural phenotypes.
March 2: Elise Robinson, Ph.D.
Dr. Robinson is an instructor at Harvard Medical School and Massachusetts General Hospital and is affiliated with the Broad Institute. Her research focuses on the genetic epidemiology of behavior and cognition. She is interested in using genetic data to understand the biology of neurodevelopmental variation, and to study differences within and between psychiatric disorders. She uses data and results from large genomics consortia to examine disease patterns in population samples. Robinson’s work to date has linked genetic risk factors for severe neuropsychiatric disorders to variation in behavior in the general population, evaluated continuous trait and quantitative models of disease risk, and examined sex differences in psychiatric disease.

March 9: Ian Gotlib, Ph.D.
Dr. Gotlib is the David Starr Jordan Professor of Psychology and the Chair of the Department of Psychology at Stanford University. His research examines psychological and biological factors that place individuals at increased risk for depression, as well as processes that are involved in recovery from this disorder. Dr. Gotlib is also examining the impact of innovative cognitive and neural procedures both to treat depression and to reduce young children’s risk of developing depression, as well as the effects of early life stress on brain development during puberty.

March 16: No Current Works (Spring Recess)

March 23: No Current Works (Spring Recess)

March 30: Greg Hajcak, Ph.D.
Dr. Hajcak is a professor of psychology at Stony Brook University. He is interested in the intersections between cognition, emotion, and psychopathology. Much of this work focuses on understanding how people respond to motivationally salient events and information—and whether individual differences in these responses might serve as concomitants of, and markers of risk for, affective psychopathology (i.e., anxiety disorders and depression). Dr. Hajcak’s laboratory uses a variety of approaches including EEG/ERPs and other psychophysiological and behavioral measures.

April 6: Student Blitz Talks
Across the two semesters, each student in the clinical and neuroscience areas will present a brief talk on their research. The content can vary from an interesting finding to a methodological challenge that would benefit from discussion among colleagues. Lunch will be provided during these talks.

April 13: Mike Crowley, Ph.D.
Dr. Crowley is an assistant professor at the Yale Child Study Center. His work focuses on key questions in social and affective neuroscience and how treatment might lead to brain changes in child anxiety. He uses techniques such as dense array electroencephalography, peripheral physiology, and functional imaging to investigate the neural substrates of avoidance, threat detection, and worry in children with anxiety.
April 20: Cindy Crusto, Ph.D.
Dr. Crusto is an associate professor of psychiatry at the Yale School of Medicine and is the Director of Program and Service System Evaluation at The Consultation Center. She has extensive experience developing, implementing, and evaluating preventive interventions in schools and community agencies. Dr. Crusto is interested in culturally relevant interventions for children from racial/ethnic minority and low-income backgrounds and in school-based behavioral health services. Her research examines the impact of family violence on children and the ecological influences on child and family well-being, and includes rigorous evaluations of community-based initiatives involving substance use, violence prevention, and the promotion of school readiness.

April 27: Randy Auerbach, Ph.D.
Dr. Auerbach is an assistant professor of psychology at Harvard Medical School and serves as director of Clinical Research for the Simches Division of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry at McLean Hospital. His research is aimed at identifying psychosocial, behavioral, neurobiological, and genetic factors that render certain children, adolescents, and young adults vulnerable to experience depressive symptoms and episodes. He uses a multimodal approach (e.g., laboratory-based experiments, EEG, fMRI) to examine behavioral and neural mechanisms that may mediate depressive symptom change in the context of individual cognitive behavioral therapy.

May 4: Clinical Students meet with Director of Clinical Training
The clinical area students will meet with Dr. Mary O’Brien, the Director of Clinical Training.