



THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

Department of Psychology



2015/16
ANNUAL REPORT



UBC Psychology At a Glance

November 2017

Our place in the world

1st in Canada (Times Higher Education & Maclean's)

10th ranked globally (Times Higher Education)

Faculty, Students & Staff

60 Tenure-stream & emeritus faculty

20 Sessional lecturers and teaching fellows

114 Graduate students

21 Post-doctoral fellows

18,427 Total students enrolled

8,339 Undergraduate students

2,066 BA psychology major

137 BSc psychology majors

185 Operations and research staff

Awarding Excellence

30 Killam Research Prizes

8 Killam Teaching Prizes

7 Royal Society of Canada Fellows

5 Canada Research Chairs

3 CPA Gold Medals

2 American Assoc. for Advancement of Science Fellows

1 Officer of the Order of Canada

1 Killam University Professor

1 American Academy of Arts & Sciences Member

1 SSHRC Gold Medal



THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

Department of Psychology

Behavioural Neuroscience | Clinical | Cognitive
Developmental | Health | Learning Enhancement
Quantitative | Social & Personality



Message from the Head

The Department of Psychology is a world leader in innovative research, distinguished teaching, and active community engagement. For the past two years, Maclean's Magazine has ranked our program number one in Canada—and the department continues to move up in global rankings. This annual report highlights the scholarly accomplishments made by our faculty members and students in 2015-16.

The strength of our faculty gives strength to our department. In 2015-16, we welcomed two exceptional new tenure-track research faculty members, Assistant Professors Kristin Laurin and Joelle LeMoult. We also expanded our roster of outstanding Lecturers to include Benjamin Cheung, Mark Lam, and Lillian May. In addition, our Behavioural Neuroscience research faculty members began the transition of their offices and laboratories to the Djavad Mowafagian Centre for Brain Health, a state-of-the-art facility where they will have the opportunity to work closely with other UBC experts in brain science.

I would like to thank all our faculty, students, and staff for their commitment to making this department an international front-runner. The stories and numbers you will read in this report demonstrate their dedication to our pursuit of excellence.

Dr. D. Geoffrey Hall
Head, Department of Psychology





Research and Innovation

2015-2016 Highlights

\$6,740,120 million in research grants awarded

\$3,541,840 Tri-council

\$1,253,980 Other government

\$1,144,300 Industry & non-profit

\$800,000 Canada Research Chairs

206 peer-reviewed articles published

14 books, textbooks, & edited volumes published

Research Excellence

Dr. Kiley Hamlin, Dr. Toni Schmader, and Dr. Janet Werker were among UBC's Canada Research Chair renewals in 2016.

Dr. Kenneth Craig was appointed Officer of the Order of Canada.

Dr. Elizabeth Dunn was admitted to the Royal Society of Canada's College of New Scholars, Artists and Scientists.

Dr. Liisa Galea received a 2015 YWCA Women of Distinction Award and a Dean of Arts Faculty Research Award.

Dr. Kiley Hamlin was awarded a 2015 UBC Killam Research Prize.

Dr. Steven Heine was elected Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada.

Dr. Kiran Soma was named Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

Dr. Peter Suedfeld was awarded the Canadian Honours Polar Medal.





Teaching and Learning

2015-2016 Highlights

16,923 total undergraduate students enrolled

7,915 undergraduate students

1,936 BA psychology majors

143 BSc psychology majors

122 honours & directed studies students

49 co-op students

\$6,825 in psychology undergraduate awards

Student Awards

Honours student **Robin Richardson** earned the Governor General's Silver Medal and UBC's Premier Undergraduate and Wesbrook Scholarships in 2015.

BSc major **Yousef Shahin** received a 2016 Wesbrook Scholarship.

Teaching Excellence

UBC Killam Teaching Prizes were awarded to **Dr. Catherine Rawn** (2015) and **Dr. Steven Barnes** (2016). The awards reflect their excellence in teaching throughout their careers at UBC.

In recognition of their commitment to teaching, **Dr. Geoffrey Hall** and **Dr. Linda Scratchley** (2015) and **Dr. Frances Chen** and **Dr. Janel Fergusson** (2016) received Robert E. Knox Teaching Awards.

Dr. Steven Barnes developed six free Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) to prepare students for the Advanced Placement (AP)[®] Psychology exam.

A new course developed by **Dr. Sunaina Assanand**, *Witnessing Auschwitz: The Psychology of Genocide*, explores the psychology of the holocaust.





Graduate and Post-doctoral Training

2015-2016 Highlights

269 graduate student applications

114 graduate students

30 MA students

84 PhD students

21 post-doctoral fellows

\$29,865 median support provided to graduate students

68% of graduate students held fellowships

25 MA degrees awarded

14 PhD degrees awarded

Scholarly Excellence

PhD students **Ashley Whillans** (2015) and **Grace Truong** (2016) were awarded UBC Killam

Graduate Teaching Assistant Prizes in recognition of their contributions to undergraduate learning.

PhD student **Michael Muthukrishna** received the 2016 CGS/ProQuest Distinguished Dissertation Award for his dissertation, *The Cultural Brain Hypothesis and the Transmission and Evolution of Culture*.

Post-doctoral fellow **Daniel Tobiansky** was the recipient of the Bluma Tischler Post-Doctoral Fellowship.

Postdoctoral fellow **Desiree Seib** received a NARSAD Young Investigator Grant.





Leadership and Community Outreach

2015-2016 Highlights

300 conference presentations by faculty & students

126 invited addresses by psychology faculty

22 journal editorships and associate editorships held by faculty

Creating Connections

Co-founded by **Dr. Janet Werker**, *UBC Language Sciences* was created to foster connections among researchers studying language across the university. Her Excellency Sharon Johnston visited **Dr. Andrew Baron's Living Lab** at Science World. Her Excellency participated in an experiment, sparking her interest in the cognitive development of children.

Leadership

Dr. Sunaina Assanand was appointed Associate Dean, Student Success in the Faculty of Arts at UBC.

Dr. Eric Eich was appointed as UBC's Vice-Provost and Associate Vice-President Academic Affairs.

Dr. Janet Werker was awarded a University Killam Professorship, UBC's highest honour.

Public Engagement

At the 2016 Quinn Memorial Lecture **Dr. Ellen Bialystok** presented her talk *Lifelong Bilingualism: Reshaping the Mind and Brain*.

In celebration of her SSHRC Gold Medal, **Dr. Janet Werker** presented *Bilingual Babies*, a special public lecture at Science World.

Eight international speakers were invited to UBC to deliver colloquium talks on a wide range of topics.





Media Coverage

2015-2016 Highlights

Our research received **485** media mentions in local, national and international media including CBC News, The Globe and Mail, Global News, The Guardian, Time Magazine, The New York Times, New York Magazine, The Washington Post and The Wall Street Journal.

Popular Stories in the News

Dr. Lynn Alden's research showed that kindness may help socially anxious people relax.

Research by **Dr. Andrew Baron** and **Anthea Pun** revealed that reducing racial bias is possible in older children.

Dr. Susan Birch's research team found young children learn just as well from interactive media as from face-to-face instruction.

A study by PhD candidate **Kostadin Kushlev** and **Dr. Elizabeth Dunn** suggested that easing up on email checking can reduce psychological stress.

Research by former MA student **Alyssa Croft**, **Dr. Toni Schmader**, **Dr. Andrew Baron**, and MA student **Kate Block** shed important new light on gender roles in the home.

Dr. Rebecca Todd's research showed children are more attuned to happy faces than angry faces —while young adults are more attuned to angry expressions.

Dr. Catharine Winstanley's research found that bright sounds and lights make rats more prone to taking risks when gambling.





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