Psychology – Research Labs & Centers

The Center for Community Research and Engagement
The Center for Community Research and Engagement (CCRE) (formerly the Center for Family, Work and Community) was begun by UMass Lowell in 1994 to carry out research and action aimed at improving higher education engagement with diverse families, organizations and communities. Over the last decade, we have raised over $15 million in funding from federal, state and foundation sources. In addition to fund raising, our Center has played a central role in facilitating partnership development and problem solving; have facilitated efforts by schools, police departments, health agencies, nonprofit coalitions and planning offices.

Website:  http://www.uml.edu/Research/CCRE/About-Us.aspx
Co-Director- Robin Toof, Ph.D., Robin_Toof@uml.edu

Mahoney Hall Suite 212
870 Broadway Street
Lowell, MA 01854
978-934-4678 (office)

Center for Women and Work
The Center for Women and Work is an interdisciplinary center at the University of Massachusetts Lowell. Since the Center is designed to support a wide range of projects, there are exciting opportunities for student involvement in both research and community-based action projects relevant to the theme of women and work.

Website -  http://www.uml.edu/research/centers/cww/
Director- Meg A. Bond, Ph.D. - Meg_Bond@uml.edu

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Laboratory for Children and Families
The Laboratory for Children and Families is located in the Department of Psychology at the University of Massachusetts Lowell. The Laboratory provides a site for research on the development of infants and children in the context of their families and communities.

Website -  http://www.uml.edu/research_labs/child/default.html

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Cultural & Immigrant Research Unit
The Cultural & Immigrant Research Unit (CIRU), directed by Dr. Khanh T. Dinh and Dr. Allyssa McCabe, involves research and consultation projects with immigrant and diverse
populations. We are particularly interested in studying the adjustment and well-being of immigrant and refugee youth and families and the process of adaptation to a new culture. We also are interested in examining issues of diversity and social justice. Current major projects include collaborations with Lowell High School, yielding two studies focusing on Southeast Asian and Latino Youth, and with Community Teamwork, Inc. (CTI), an anti-poverty non-profit organization, to explore research initiatives with diverse populations. We also have other on-going research and consultation projects that may represent opportunities for student involvement.

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**Applied Cognitive Psychology**
In my research I examine how to improve the accuracy of both memory performance and the judgments people make about their cognitive functions. My research takes basic memory processes as a starting point, but extends to questions that have direct applied relevance: How can we help students choose optimal study strategies? Why are test scores sometimes so surprising to students? And how can we be sure that what we are remembering actually happened?

Website - [http://yanaweinstein.com/](http://yanaweinstein.com/)
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**Laboratory for Behavior Analysis Research**
The Laboratory for Behavior Analysis Research is located in the Department of Psychology at UMass Lowell. The general research goal of the lab is to better understand human learning and behavior. Research projects in this lab can be classified in three ways: basic research (investigations of the fundamental learning processes of humans), translational research (research that yields implications for solving socially significant problems) and applied research (research that is directly aimed at a socially significant problem). Currently, there are two avenues of research being conducted in the lab: First, investigators are examining ways in which the teaching of fundamental principles of applied behavior analysis (ABA) to potential practitioners can be accomplished online. This is important because there is currently a significant shortage of practitioners in the field of ABA. Second, investigators are examining a behavioral phenomenon known as stimulus equivalence. Stimulus equivalence occurs when humans are trained to relate symbols and their referents to one another, and through these relations new, untaught relations emerge. Stimulus equivalence forms the basis of what is often referred to as “meaning,” and thus has important implications for language training, concept learning and the formation of categories, among other skills. As such, understanding stimulus equivalence could lead to better teaching methods for those with autism and other developmental disabilities.

Richard Serna, Ph.D., - Richard_serna@uml.edu
**Applied Developmental Research Laboratory**  
Professor Stephanie Block’s Research Laboratory is accepting applications for research assistants. Current studies in our laboratory examine child maltreatment, children’s experiences in the legal system, and children’s memory for traumatic and emotional events. Students may assist with many aspects of data collection and preparation, including recruiting and interviewing research participants, entering and coding data, preparing experimental materials, and conducting library research. Please contact Professor Block directly for more information on current opportunities.

Stephanie Block Ph.D - stephanie_block@uml.edu

**Laboratory for Autism and Spectrum Disorders**  
The Laboratory for Autism Spectrum Disorders focuses on two main avenues of research involving adolescents and young adults on the autism spectrum. The first avenue seeks to further our understanding of the processing of emotional stimuli among those with ASD by examining physiological responses and memory for emotion provoking stimuli. The lab's second main research avenue focuses on evaluating various intervention programs for those with ASD. A number of interdisciplinary programs specifically for high functioning adolescents and young adults on the autism spectrum are run through the lab in collaboration with other faculty at UMass Lowell. These include a social skills program, a music program, a fitness program and a movie club. These programs provide a critically needed service to members of our community and their families impacted by ASD. Contact Professor Ashleigh Hillier for further information.

Website - http://faculty.uml.edu/ahillier/

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