Experimental Research Program Handbook

Department of Psychology
Cleveland State University

June 10, 2019

(For students who enter the program Fall 2019)

(Note: This handbook is a guide to the program and its requirements. Nothing in this handbook is intended to contradict the program requirements and academic regulations of the College of Graduate Studies as detailed in the CSU Graduate Catalog [https://catalog.csuohio.edu/index.php?catoid=32]. If there is any conflict, the Graduate Catalog is correct and this handbook is incorrect.)

(Subject to revision)
1. Program Philosophy

The Experimental Research Program (ERP) is a specialization in the M.A. in Psychology program at Cleveland State University (CSU) in which students are trained to develop skills in conducting psychological research by using experimental methods. We define experimental psychology as a methodological approach, not as a subject, and thus ERP encompasses a variety of fields within psychology.

The goals of ERP are for students to develop:
   a. skills in research design and analysis so students have the ability both to conduct and evaluate research;
   b. broad knowledge of substantive areas of psychological research; and
   c. expertise in a specific area of research.

2. Program Faculty

ERP currently has five core faculty members. Their contact information and areas of expertise are listed below. These faculty members comprise the ERP committee.

Core Faculty Members

- Eric Allard (Assistant Professor, e.s.allard@csuohio.edu)
  - Emotional Function and Aging

- Conor McLennan (Professor, c.mclennan@csuohio.edu)
  - Language Perception

- Andrew Slifkin (Associate Professor, a.slifkin@csuohio.edu)
  - Control of Action

- Albert Smith (Associate Professor, a.f.smith@csuohio.edu)
  - Word perception; Cognitive aspects of survey methodology

- Kenneth Vail (Assistant Professor, k.e.vail@csuohio.edu)
  - Social Psychology

3. Program Structure

In ERP, to be awarded the M.A. degree in Psychology, a student must complete 38 credit hours of coursework and a thesis. The program is designed so that all requirements for the M.A. degree can be completed in two academic years (i.e., a student who enters the program in August, 2019, is expected to graduate in May, 2021).

Typically, a student’s work on a thesis is conducted while the student is registered for at least 8 credits of PSY 699 (Research and Thesis).
Thesis

A student in ERP will conduct a research project and summarize findings in a thesis. A faculty member will serve as the student's advisor and supervise the thesis research project. In most cases, students entering ERP have already been matched with a thesis advisor. However, if not, the student should identify a suitable advisor (consult with the ERP director for assistance if needed). In consultation with the advisor, the student identifies three other faculty members to serve, along with the advisor, on the student's thesis committee. After the committee approves a thesis proposal, the project may be carried out. Completion of the thesis project requires that (a) the written thesis is accepted by the thesis committee and (b) the student orally presents the findings to the thesis committee. For more details about the thesis requirement and procedure, see section 4.

Coursework

The curricular requirements are listed below. In selecting courses, a student must involve the student’s advisor and/or the ERP director. The ERP committee must approve departures from the specified curriculum, as well as acceptance of transfer credit.

To earn a degree, the College of Graduate Studies requires achievement of at least a cumulative grade-point average of at least 3.0 for all courses taken as a graduate student. Students need to inform their faculty advisors if they receive a grade of less than a “B” in any course. There are other academic regulations set by the College of Graduate Studies (see http://catalog.csuohio.edu/content.php?catoid=10&navoid=985). The student is responsible for following these regulations.

ERP is a full-time program, and therefore the following courses may be scheduled by the department at any of CSU’s standard class times. It is the student’s responsibility to be available to attend classes according to the course schedule set by the university.

• Required courses (29 credits total)
  o PSY 509 Proseminar in Experimental Psychology (4 credits)
  o PSY 511 Univariate Statistics (4 credits)
  o PSY 525 Social Psychology (3 credits)
  o PSY 562 Learning, Memory, & Cognition (3 credits)
  o PSY 611 Advanced Data Analysis (4 credits)
  o PSY 677 Foundations of Cognitive & Behavioral Neuroscience (3 credits)
  o PSY 699 Research & Thesis (8 credits)

• Elective courses (9 credits)
The following should be kept in mind:

1. Each student is expected to enroll in 1 credit of PSY 509 during each of four semesters, for a total of 4 credits.

2. A student’s thesis proposal must be approved by that student’s thesis committee before the student is permitted to register for PSY 699 (see section 4 for details). A total of 8 credits of PSY 699 is required. Typically, PSY 699 is taken twice (once in the fall semester of the second year and once in the spring semester of the second year) for 4 credits per semester. At the end of each semester of PSY 699 enrollment, a “T” will be assigned until a final version of the thesis has been produced. Then, either an “S” or a “U” (instead of a typical letter grade) will be assigned and will replace the “T” grades from all previous semesters of PSY 699.

3. Each student is required to complete 9 credit hours of elective coursework. PSY 593: Special Topics in Psychology—Experimental Psychology is a 3-credit course that is typically offered each year by a different team of three ERP faculty members. It provides students with expanded, in-depth exposure to ERP faculty and their research and/or methodological interests. The ERP faculty strongly recommend that students take two semesters of 593. If a student wishes to fulfill elective credits by taking a course other than two semesters of 593, the ERP faculty has agreed that the student should discuss their plans with the program committee prior to enrolling in that course.

4. Ordinarily, no more than 3 credits of PSY 596 and/or PSY 696 should be included within the 9 elective credits.
Here is the recommended two-year sequence of courses (along with other recommended activities) for students entering the Experimental Research Program (ERP) at the start of the Fall 2019 semester:

**Fall 2019**
PSY 509: Proseminar in Experimental Psychology (Required: 1 credit)
PSY 511: Univariate Statistics (Required: 4 credits)
PSY 677: Foundations of Cognitive and Behavioral Neuroscience (Required: 3 credits)
*Also*, if not already identified, then identify an advisor and start thinking about thesis research.

**Spring 2020**
PSY 509: Proseminar in Experimental Psychology (Required: 1 credit)
PSY 611: Advanced Data Analysis (Required: 4 credits)
PSY 562: Learning, Memory, and Cognition (Required: 3 credits)
PSY 593: Special Topics in Psychology – Experimental Psychology (Strongly recommended elective: 3 credits)
*Also*, develop a thesis proposal (and get it approved before the fall semester begins).
*Also*, submit a graduation application before the deadline (which is usually at the beginning of the fall semester for graduation in the spring. See [http://www.csuohio.edu/registrar/graduation-information](http://www.csuohio.edu/registrar/graduation-information)).

**Fall 2020**
PSY 509: Proseminar in Experimental Psychology (Required: 1 credit)
PSY 512: Research Methods in Psychology or other elective (Elective: 3 credits)
PSY 699: Research & Thesis (Required: 4 credits)
*Conduct thesis research.*

**Spring 2021**
PSY 509: Proseminar in Experimental Psychology (Required: 1 credit)
PSY 525: Social Psychology (Required: 3 credits)
PSY 593: Special Topics in Psychology – Experimental Psychology (Strongly recommended elective: 3 credits)
PSY 699: Research & Thesis (Required: 4 credits)
*Defend thesis.*

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2 Schedule of offerings subject to change. Typically, required courses PSY 562 and PSY 677 are offered every other year, and PSY 511, PSY 611, and PSY 525 are offered every year. We strongly advise completing PSY 511 and PSY 611 in the first year.
4. Thesis requirement and procedure

Students in ERP are expected to be engaged in the following thesis-related activities throughout their two-year program of study.

(1) Identify a thesis advisor

In all likelihood, each student will already be matched with a thesis advisor at the time of admission to ERP. If not, after being admitted to the ERP, the student should expeditiously begin identifying a potential thesis advisor. Given that the student will conduct a thesis project under the advisor’s supervision, it is important that the student’s research interest and the advisor’s areas of expertise are compatible. Accordingly, the student should become familiar with ERP faculty’s research programs by reading their publications and by meeting with them individually. For the same reason, although it is highly advisable that the student find an advisor from the core members of ERP faculty, the student may select an advisor from other members of CSU faculty. To pursue this possibility, the student must consult with the ERP director. A synopsis of ERP faculty research interests is in Appendix D at the end of this handbook.

If not already matched with an advisor, a student should identify a thesis advisor during the fall semester of the first year.

(2) Develop a thesis proposal

After a faculty member has agreed to supervise a student’s thesis project (and after the selection of the advisor has been approved by the director of ERP, if the advisor is a non-ERP faculty member), the student starts developing a proposal in consultation with the advisor. The thesis proposal describes the proposed research project in detail. The proposal should follow the thesis format specified by the College of Graduate Studies, and, with the exception of a section presenting actual results, should contain all sections required for the final thesis (e.g., front page, abstract, table of contents, etc.; for details, see http://www.csuohio.edu/gradcollege/students/thesis/thesis.htm). Instead of a section describing results, to allow the thesis committee to fully evaluate the quality of the proposed research, the proposal should contain well-justified hypotheses and a detailed plan for data analysis. For a general writing style, the proposal should follow a specific standardized style appropriate for the area of proposed research (e.g., APA style).

The proposal must be approved by the student’s advisor before it is submitted to the thesis committee. A complete acceptable draft of the proposal will typically have gone through several rounds of revision with the student’s advisor.
(3) Form a thesis committee

Working with the advisor, the student identifies three other members of the CSU faculty who have expertise in areas relevant to the student's thesis project. These faculty members, along with the advisor, will constitute the student's thesis committee. (The advisor will serve as the chair of the thesis committee.) This committee will approve the student’s thesis proposal and eventually the final thesis.

If the thesis advisor is not a member of the ERP core faculty, a core member of ERP faculty must be on the thesis committee and serve as the methodologist.

When the thesis committee is formed, the student and all committee members must sign the Thesis Proposal and Final Thesis Requirements Form (see Appendix A). It is the student's responsibility to collect all necessary signatures on the form and submit the completed form to the ERP director.

(4) Defend the thesis proposal

After a thesis proposal draft has been approved by the student’s advisor, the student submits the draft to all members of the thesis committee. At the same time, the student should schedule, at a time mutually convenient to the student and all members of the thesis committee, a meeting in which the student will orally present the proposal to the thesis committee (proposal defense meeting). Ordinarily, the proposal draft should be submitted to members of the thesis committee approximately **two weeks** before the proposal defense meeting.

At least 90 minutes should be reserved for the proposal defense meeting. During this time, the student will give a 10–20 minute presentation of the proposal, which should be supported by appropriate media (e.g., handouts; PowerPoint slides), after which the committee members and the student will discuss the proposal. At the end of the meeting, the student will be asked to leave the room while the committee discusses the proposal and decides whether to approve it. Finally, the student will be asked to come back into the room and the chair of the committee will summarize the committee's decision. The decision will typically take one of three forms: (a) The committee approves the proposal as is; (b) some revisions are necessary before the committee will approve the proposal; and (c) substantial work is necessary before the committee will be able to determine whether to approve the proposed thesis project (in this case, it is possible that the student will be asked to schedule another proposal defense meeting after such work is completed).

It has frequently been the case that the student is asked to revise the proposal after the proposal defense meeting (i.e., the second outcome described above). Thus, when the student schedules the meeting, the additional time required for further revision should be factored in to the student's research timetable. In other words, generally, the student should not expect that the final approval of the proposal can be obtained on the date the defense meeting takes place.
(The third possible outcome of a proposal defense meeting described above should never occur.)

The criteria for approving a thesis proposal are concerned only with the quality and feasibility of the proposed research project and of the rationale provided for the research. Other factors, such as the student’s need to graduate by a certain time, will not be considered.

(5) Register for PSY 699 (Research & Thesis) and carry out the thesis project

When the proposal is approved by the thesis committee, the student must secure required signatures on two forms (Thesis and Dissertation Proposal Approval Form and Permission to Register for PSY 699; see Appendix B) and submit them to the chair of the Psychology Department. Upon acceptance of these forms, the student will be given permission to register for PSY 699. Note that for a student to register for PSY 699 in the fall semester of the second year, the final approval of the thesis proposal must be obtained by the Last Day to Add in the fall semester (to find out when the Last Day to Add is in a given semester, see CSU’s academic calendar at http://www.csuohio.edu/enrollmentservices/registrar/calendar/).

We strongly recommend that a student not initiate thesis data collection until the student’s proposal has been approved by the committee. Although a student may collect pilot data prior to the proposal defense meeting, extensive data collection without the committee’s approval is unwise. Proposed research projects are frequently modified during the proposal approval process. If a large amount of data were collected prior to the proposal defense meeting, and if the design and procedure of the project were altered as a result of the meeting, then the student would need to re-start the project. For everyone’s benefit, this should be avoided.

The thesis project must be carried out in the way it is described in the approved proposal. If any modification is needed, the student must consult with the thesis committee. A thesis project that is altered without the committee’s knowledge and approval could result in the final thesis being rejected.

(6) Write a thesis

When the student has collected and analyzed data that are needed for the thesis project, the student starts developing a draft of the final thesis. It is acceptable (and indeed reasonable) that the student uses the thesis proposal as a foundation for the final thesis. The final thesis must follow the formatting guidelines described by the College of Graduate Studies and use a standardized writing style (e.g., APA style) appropriate for the area of

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3 Note that collection of even pilot data collected from living organisms requires approval from the appropriate review authority (i.e., Institutional Review Board; Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee).
thesis research. Needless to say, the final thesis must include the actual results, and those results must be thoroughly discussed.

As for the thesis proposal, the final thesis draft must be approved by the student’s advisor before it is submitted to the thesis committee. A complete acceptable draft of the thesis will typically have gone through several rounds of revision with the student’s advisor.

(7) Defend the thesis

After a thesis draft is completed and approved by the student’s advisor, the student submits the draft to all members of the thesis committee. At the same time, the student should schedule a meeting at a time mutually convenient to the student and all members of the committee in which the student will orally present the thesis to the thesis committee (thesis defense meeting). Ordinarily, the thesis draft should be submitted to the thesis committee approximately two weeks in advance of the defense meeting.

The thesis defense meeting is open to the public. Once the date and time of the meeting have been established, the student should (a) complete the Thesis Defense Announcement Flyer (see Appendix C), (b) send an electronic version of the flyer to each member of the thesis committee and to the ERP director, and (c) post a copy of the flyer on the office door of each of the members of the thesis committee, on the office door of the ERP director, and in a few other conspicuous locations in the Psychology Department.

The format of a thesis defense meeting is as follows: Two hours should be reserved for the meeting. During this time, the student will give a 10–20 minute presentation (which should be supported by appropriate media, e.g., handouts, PowerPoint slides), which will be followed by discussion, comments, criticisms, etc. At some point the thesis committee chair may ask everyone attending the defense meeting other than committee members and the student to leave the room. At the end of the meeting, the student will be asked to leave the room while the committee discusses whether to approve the thesis. Finally, the student will be asked to come back into the room and the chair of the thesis committee will summarize the committee’s discussion and inform the student about its decision. Decisions will typically take one of three forms: (a) The committee approves the final thesis as is; (b) some additional revisions are necessary before the committee will approve the thesis; and (c) much more work is necessary before the committee will be able to determine whether to approve the thesis.  (In the third case, another thesis defense meeting may be necessary).

Of the three possible committee decisions described above, the second is the most frequent. Thus, the student should plan to have a thesis defense meeting well in advance of the deadline for submitting the final thesis to the College of Graduate Studies. The thesis committee will not approve a thesis simply because the student is running out of time to graduate. Decisions will be based on the quality of the thesis, not on the timing of graduation.
The third outcome should never occur.

After the final version of the thesis is approved by the thesis committee, the student must obtain signatures of the committee members on the thesis and submit signed copies of the final thesis to the College of Graduate Studies. Typically, the deadline for submission is at the end of the last week of the semester in which the M.A. degree is to be granted. There are various Graduate College requirements regarding the physical details of the submitted thesis (e.g., the number of copies required; the color and quality of the paper; etc.), and the student must become familiar with them prior to preparing the final submitted version of the thesis. For details, visit the website of the College of Graduate Studies at http://www.csuohio.edu/gradcollege/students/thesis/thesis.html.

(8) Live happily ever after!
Appendix A

Thesis Proposal and Final Thesis Requirements Form
Cleveland State University
Experimental Research Program  -  Department of Psychology
Thesis Proposal Requirements

• A core member of the ERP will serve as either Chair or Methodologist.

• A proposal defense will not be scheduled until the form on page 3 of this document is 1) signed by all committee members, 2) returned to the ERP program director, and 3) a complete acceptable draft of the written proposal is submitted to the committee.

• To be “a complete acceptable draft”, the written proposal should be in the same format that is required for the final thesis, and should include all sections required for the final thesis (e.g., table of contents, references, etc.). The written proposal should include a results – or planned analyses – section in which it is clear exactly how the data will be analyzed.

• A complete acceptable draft of the written proposal will typically have gone through several rounds of revision with the chair of the student’s thesis committee.

• A proposal defense should follow the following format: A minimum of 90 minutes should be reserved for the meeting. During this time, the student will give a 10–20 minute presentation, which should be supported by appropriate media (e.g., PowerPoint), and the rest of the time will be reserved for discussion, comments, criticisms, etc. At the end of the meeting, the student will be asked to leave the room while the committee discusses the proposal and decides whether to approve it. Finally, the student will be asked to come back into the room and the chair of the committee will summarize the committee’s decision. Decisions will typically take one of three forms: 1) The committee approves the proposal as is. 2) Some additional revisions are necessary before the committee will approve the proposal; the committee will generally provide the student with recommendations for revision. 3) Much more work is necessary before the committee will be able to determine whether or not to approve the project. It is possible that the student will be asked to schedule another proposal defense after such work is completed. The second outcome is the most frequent. The third outcome should never occur, because prior to the meeting, the proposal should have gone through several rounds of revision with the chair of the thesis committee, who presumably would not have said that the proposal draft was acceptable if it was very much not.
Final Thesis Requirements

- A final thesis defense will not be scheduled until a complete acceptable written thesis is submitted to the committee.

- A complete acceptable written thesis will typically have gone through several rounds of revision with the chair of the thesis committee.

- A final thesis defense is open to the public, and thus the student should 1) complete the Thesis Defense Announcement Flyer, 2) send an electronic version of the flyer to each member of the thesis committee and to the ERP program director, and 3) post a copy of the flyer on the office door of each of the members of the thesis committee, on the office door of the ERP program director, and in a few other conspicuous locations in the department.

- A final thesis defense should follow the following format: A minimum of two hours should be reserved for the meeting. During this time, the student will give a 10 – 20 minute presentation, and the rest of the time will be reserved for discussion, comments, criticisms, etc. At some point the thesis committee chair may ask everyone attending the defense other than committee members and the student to leave the room. At the end of the meeting, the student will be asked to leave the room while the committee discusses whether to approve the thesis. Finally, the student will be asked to come back into the room and the chair of the thesis committee will summarize the committee’s discussion and inform the student about its decision. Decisions will typically take one of three forms: 1) The committee approves the final version as is. 2) Some additional revisions are necessary before the committee will approve the thesis. The committee may also suggest revisions that should be considered if the thesis is submitted for publication, but need not be made in the final version of the thesis. 3) Much more work is necessary before the committee will be able to determine whether to approve the thesis, and another final thesis defense may be necessary. The second outcome is the most frequent. The third outcome is very unlikely. Thus, the student should plan the final thesis defense well in advance of the deadline for submitting the final thesis to the Graduate College. Committees will not approve a thesis simply because students are running out of time to graduate. Decisions are based on the quality of the thesis – not on the timing of graduation.
By signing below, I acknowledge that I have read – and agreed to follow – the Experimental Research Program’s thesis proposal and final thesis requirements.

**Graduate Student**
Name: ___________________________ Department: ____________
Signature: ________________________ Date: _________________

**Thesis Chairperson**
Name: ___________________________ Department: ____________
Signature: ________________________ Date: _________________

**Thesis Committee Member**
(mark “X” in the blank if also the Methodologist ___)
Name: ___________________________ Department: ____________
Signature: ________________________ Date: _________________

**Thesis Committee Member**
Name: ___________________________ Department: ____________
Signature: ________________________ Date: _________________

**Thesis Committee Member**
Name: ___________________________ Department: ____________
Signature: ________________________ Date: _________________
Appendix B

Thesis and Dissertation Proposal Approval Form and Permission to Register for PSY 699
Thesis and Dissertation Proposal Approval Form  
College of Graduate Studies

Prior to a student registering for Master’s Thesis or Doctoral Dissertation, a Committee must be formed. Once a student has a proposed thesis or dissertation project approved by the supervising committee, the student should complete this form and secure the required signatures. The form should be sent by the Committee Chairperson to the Department Chairperson, for signature, then to the Academic College Dean and finally to the Graduate College Dean. Upon final approval, the student is then permitted to register for thesis/dissertation credits. A copy of the form is sent to the student and the Department after all signatures are secured. See the requirements below on Committee membership.

Name ____________  
CSU ID# ____________

Address ____________________________  
city, state, zip code __________

Proposal:  
☐ Master’s Thesis  
☐ Doctoral Dissertation

Department of ____________________________

Proposed Title: ____________________________

*Committee Membership  (Please print names. **Please list University or organization if other than CSU.)*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chairperson</th>
<th>Dept</th>
<th>**University</th>
<th>Signature</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Member</strong></td>
<td>Dept</td>
<td>**University</td>
<td>Signature</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Member</strong></td>
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<td>Signature</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Member</strong></td>
<td>Dept</td>
<td>**University</td>
<td>Signature</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Notification

Department Chairperson ____________  
Date ____________

Final Approval:

Academic College Dean ____________  
Date ____________

Graduate College Dean ____________  
Date ____________

*Master’s thesis committees must be composed of at least three members. The chairperson and at least two other members must hold Graduate Faculty status. *Doctoral dissertation committees must consist of at least three members. The chairperson and at least two other members must hold Graduate Faculty status. At least one member of the dissertation committee must be from outside of the unit awarding the degree. The outside member must hold Graduate Faculty status, or be approved by the Graduate Dean. Both master’s thesis and doctoral dissertation committees may have additional members beyond the minimum of three persons. To be a voting member, the additional person(s) must have Graduate Faculty status. Committee members not holding Graduate Faculty status may serve as non-voting members of the committee. To determine if a faculty member holds Graduate Faculty status, please consult the College of Graduate Studies’ website at: www.csuohio.edu/gradcollege/. Or, contact the College of Graduate Studies at 216-687-9370, Parker-Hannifin Hall, 218.

Copy distribution:  Graduate Studies / College Dean / Department / Student (REV. 08/2011)
Cleveland State University Department of Psychology
Permission to Register for PSY 699 (Thesis)

Student Name (printed) ___________________________ Student ID Number ___________________________

Graduate M.A. Program Specialization:

____ Clinical PSY  ____ Industrial-Organizational Research  ____ Experimental Research

may register for PSY 699 for ___ semester credit hours during the _________________ term.
# credit hours ____________________ Fall/Spring/Summer, and Year

Name of PSY 699 instructor (printed) ___________________________________________________________

Name of advisor/chairperson (printed) ___________________________________________________________

Signature of Student’s Program/Specialization Director (and printed name)
Date ___________________________
Appendix C
Thesis Defense Announcement Flyer
Department of Psychology
Experimental Research Program MA Thesis Defense Announcement

Thesis Title: [Thesis Title Here]
Presented by: [Student Name Here]

Thesis Advisor: [Name Here]
Thesis Committee: [Advisor Name Here, Name 2 Here, Name 3 Here, Name 4 Here]

Date: [Date Information Here]
Time: [Time information Here]
Place: [Place Information Here]

This thesis defense is open to the public
Department of Psychology  
Experimental Research Program MA Thesis Defense Announcement

Thesis Title: Regulatory Fit and Consumer Brand Preferences  
Presented by: Johnny Sams

Thesis Advisor: Ernest S. Park  
Thesis Committee: Ernest S. Park, Andrew B. Slifkin, Stephen D. Slane

Date: Friday, September 10, 2010  
Time: 2:00 PM  
Place: UN 702

This thesis defense is open to the public
Instruction to students:

1. Complete the first page by filling in the information and send an electronic copy of your flyer to the program director.

2. Print your flyer and post it on the doors of offices of the program director, your advisor, and the other members of your committee, and in several other places in the Psychology Department.

3. After your thesis defense is completed, take down all flyers you posted.
### Appendix D

**Synopsis of Research Interests of ERP Faculty**

**ERP FACULTY INTERESTS 2018-2019**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Email</th>
<th>Research Interests</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Allard, Eric</td>
<td><a href="mailto:e.s.allard@csuohio.edu">e.s.allard@csuohio.edu</a></td>
<td>Dr. Allard investigates the behaviors and mental processes that impact healthy emotional functioning across adulthood and old age. Of particular interest are age differences in the strategies and abilities individuals utilize to manage their emotional states. Dr. Allard’s lab uses various tasks and methods, which include assessing the role of visual attention (via eye tracking) and psychophysiological activity (via heart rate and skin conductance measures) on successful emotion regulation throughout the adult lifespan. Students interested in working in Dr. Allard’s lab are encouraged to contact him.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Slifkin, Andrew</td>
<td><a href="mailto:a.slifkin@csuohio.edu">a.slifkin@csuohio.edu</a></td>
<td>Dr. Slifkin investigates the control of action (i.e., motor control) and action-related perceptual processes. Some of his specific areas of interest include non-linear dynamic assessment of motor system output, aging and the motor system, movement disorders, mindfulness and motor control, and decision making in action. Students interested in research in Dr. Slifkin’s laboratory are encouraged to contact him to discuss potential opportunities.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>McLennan, Conor</td>
<td><a href="mailto:e.mclennan@csuohio.edu">e.mclennan@csuohio.edu</a></td>
<td>Dr. McLennan is a cognitive psychologist who directs the Language Research Laboratory. His research interests include language perception, bilingualism, cognitive aging, and other topics in perception, language, and cognition. The goals of his research program include understanding how various populations of listeners represent and process spoken language, understanding the role of bilingualism on cognitive processes such as inhibition, and considering how language research can be applied in interesting ways to address practical problems in other areas. Any student interested in possible research opportunities is encouraged to contact Dr. McLennan directly.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Smith, Albert</td>
<td><a href="mailto:a.f.smith@csuohio.edu">a.f.smith@csuohio.edu</a></td>
<td>Dr. Smith conducts two disparate lines of research. In one, in the area of health survey methodology, he collaborates with nutritionists and statisticians to improve methodology for dietary data collection and to understand situational and respondent characteristics that are associated with errors in dietary reports. In the other, he investigates word perception and the stimulus factors that influence it. Students interested in research in cognition are invited to contact Dr. Smith to discuss research opportunities.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vail, Ken</td>
<td><a href="mailto:k.e.vail@csuohio.edu">k.e.vail@csuohio.edu</a></td>
<td>Dr. Vail investigates topics in social psychology, including: belief systems, politics, religion and atheism; existential motivation, personal growth, and defense; and freedom and support for leadership/authority. Research assistants receive training in significant aspects of the research process, including: addressing theory and research questions; participant recruitment; research design &amp; materials preparation; conducting experiments; preparing data for analysis. Students interested in research opportunities are invited to contact Dr. Vail.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>