Faculty of the Department of Psychology West Chester University

Sandra Kerr, Ph.D., Interim Chairperson
Karen Mitchell, Ph.D., Assistant Chairperson
Dr. Angela Clarke, Ph.D., Director of Clinical Training, Clinical Psychology PsyD Program
Dr. Vipanchi Mishra, Ph.D. Graduate Coordinator – I/O and General Psychology Graduate Programs

Psychology Department website: http://www.wcupa.edu/psych

Note: If you are interested in participating in research, contact the faculty member directly.

Kristen R. Breit, Ph.D. Purdue University. Assistant Professor. Primary teaching interests include biopsychology/behavioral neuroscience, sensation and perception, developmental psychology, and drugs and behavior. Research interests include the effects of alcohol, nicotine, and cannabis exposure on the developing brain; efforts also include community engagement and stigma reduction. My current research focuses on how prenatal polydrug exposure to alcohol and e-cigarettes may alter brain and behavioral development throughout the lifespan. Kbreit@wcupa.edu

Eleanor D. Brown, Ph.D. University of Delaware. Professor. Research, teaching and clinical interests in children's academic, social-emotional, and neurophysiological development, stress and trauma related to poverty and racism, and models of individual and social change, with current research projects focused on positive effects of Head Start preschool, arts and mindfulness interventions, and anti-racism training and support. Email: Ebrown@wcupa.edu

Lauren D. Brumley, Ph.D. University of Pennsylvania. Assistant Professor. Research interests in how exposure to adversity early in life may shape youth's goals and expectations for their futures, with a particular interest in improving outcomes for youth in foster care. Teaching and clinical interests in therapeutic interventions for children and families, child and adolescent psychopathology, stress and trauma, and ethics. Email: lbrumley@wcupa.edu

Rebecca Chancellor, Ph.D. University of California-Davis. Associate Professor. Research and teaching interests in primatology, animal behavior, and human evolution. Email: Rchancellor@wcupa.edu

Janet Chang, Ph.D. University of California, Davis. Associate Professor. Teaching interests in social, cultural, and multicultural psychology. Research interests include ethnic/racial disparities in mental health and sociocultural influences on help seeking, social support, coping, psychological functioning, first-generation college students, and academic achievement. Email: jchang@wcupa.edu

Angela T. Clarke, Ph.D. University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Professor. Research, teaching, and clinical interests in stress and coping, adolescent engagement in group intervention, and community-based interventions to prevent depression and aggression among youth in low-income urban neighborhoods. Email: Aclarke@wcupa.edu

Susan Gans, Ph.D. University of Chicago. Professor. Teaching interests in biological psychology, emotion, learning theory, and statistics. Research interests in behavioral endocrinology, especially the study of family functioning and cortisol (our primary stress hormone) response. Email: Sgans@wcupa.edu

Michael J. Gawrysiak, Ph.D. University of Tennessee. Assistant Professor. His research, teaching and clinical interests are organized around the study of in adult psychopathology (i.e., substance use disorders, posttraumatic stress), contemplative practices and mindfulness-based interventions, and studying brain (i.e., fMRI) and behavioral features of individuals struggling with psychiatric disorders. Email: MGawrysiak@wcupa.edu

Stevie N. Grassetti, Ph.D. University of Delaware. Assistant Professor. Research, teaching, and clinical interests in optimizing clinical interventions to improve life for children, youth, and families in underserved communitysettings. Current studies evaluate psychological programs and interventions implemented in community settings to determine if, how, and for whom these programs work best. Email: SGrassetti@wcupa.edu

Erin Hill, Ph.D. Auckland University of Technology. Associate Professor. Teaching interests in health psychology, aging and adult development, writing for psychology, and statistics and research methods. Research interests in health behavior (including antibiotic resistance preventive behaviors), personality and health, quality of life, social support, stress, and psycho-oncology. Email: Ehill@wcupa.edu

Lauri Hyers, Ph.D. Pennsylvania State University. Professor. Overlapping teaching and scholarship interests include social psychology, qualitative research methods, discrimination, activism, diversity, intergroup relations, group identity, gender socialization, mentoring and rites of passage, psychology of utopian community and well-being, and animals and social justice. Email: Lhyers@wcupa.edu

Vanessa Kahen Johnson, Ph.D. University of California, Berkeley. Professor. Teaching and research interests in developmental psychopathology, including the role of family relationships in children's social and emotional development and the prevention of maladjustment in early childhood. Email: Vjohnson@wcupa.edu

Sandra Kerr, Ph.D. State University of New York at Stony Brook. Professor. Research interests in mindfulness-based stress reduction programs. Email: skerr@wcupa.edu

V. Krishna Kumar, Ph.D., University of Wisconsin-Madison. Professor. Research interests in creativity, hypnosis, paranormal beliefs and experiences, media, memory, and psychometrics. Email: kkumar@wcupa.edu

Vipanchi Mishra, Ph.D. University at Albany, State University of New York. Associate Professor. Teaching interests in Industrial/Organizational Psychology and Statistics. Primary areas of research interest include performance appraisal, influence of cultural values on workplace behaviors, exploring the effects of mindfulness training on workplace outcomes and investigating factors influencing applicant reactions to selection tests and assessment center practices. Email: Vmishra@wcupa.edu

Karen Mitchell, Ph.D. Kent State University. Associate Professor. Teaching and research interests in Cognitive Psychology/Cognitive Neuroscience: human attention and episodic memory, especially source monitoring, eyewitness suggestibility, judging the veracity of others' memories, cognitive disruptions in psychopathology, impact of aging and emotion on cognition. Email: Kmitchell@wcupa.edu

Megan T. Nolan, Ph.D. The University of Akron. Assistant Professor. Research and teaching interests in employee self-regulatory processes (stress management, motivation, and emotion management), individual differences, and contextual factors that impact the well-being and effectiveness of workers. Email: mnolan@wcupa.edu

Lia O'Brien, Ph.D. Temple University. Assistant Professor. Teaching interests in developmental psychology and developmental theory. Research interests in the bi-directional relations between context and cognitive, social, and character development in children and adolescents. My current research is focused on the development of gratitude, optimism, and future orientationEmail: Lobrien@wcupa.edu

Loretta Rieser-Danner, Ph.D. University of Texas. Professor. Research and teaching interests in social, emotional, and personality development in infancy and early childhood, assessment of student learning outcomes among university students, and the development of individual and institutional characteristics associated with university student success. Email: Lrieser-danner@wcupa.edu

Michael J. Roche, Ph.D. The Pennsylvania State University. Assistant Professor. Research, teaching, and clinical interests in personality disorder, interpersonal theory, neuropsychological and personality assessment, experience sampling methodology and individualized models of psychopathology. Mroche@wcupa.edu

Aaron Rundus, Ph.D. University of California-Davis. Associate Professor. Teaching interests in animal behavior, biological psychology, and sensation & perception. Research interests in animal communication and non-human primate behavioral ecology and conservation. Email: Arundus@wcupa.edu

Geeta Shivde, Ph.D. University of Oregon. Associate Professor. Teaching interests in cognition and cognitive neuroscience; research interests include the effects of interference and inhibitory control processes on semantic/conceptual information in long-term and working memory. Email: Gshivde@wcupa.edu

Jasmin Tahmaseb-McConatha, Ph.D. University of Georgia. Professor. Teaching interests include adult development, social psychology, multicultural psychology, history, and systems of psychology. Research interests address stressors and supports inmiddle and later adulthood including the impact of ageism and other forms of discrimination; factors effecting immigrant's well-being intergenerational mentoring, diversity, and cultural transmission across the generations. Email: Jtahmasebmcconatha@wcupa.edu

Stefani Yorges, Ph.D. Purdue University. Professor. Research and teaching interests in Industrial/Organizational Psychology, motivation, stress, and leadership. She manages a private consulting practice in executive leadership development. Email: syorges@wcupa.edu

Deanne Zotter, Ph.D. Kent State University. Professor. Research and teaching interests in body image and eating disorders (including prevention), psychotherapy, and ethics. Email: Dzotter@wcupa.edu