



## ***39th Banff Annual Seminar In Cognitive Science***

Organized by Chris Striemer, Anthony Singhal, Aimee Skyee, and Eric Legge



## Acknowledgment

The organizers gratefully acknowledge the support of the Departments of Psychology at the University of Alberta, the University of British Columbia Okanagan, the University of Calgary, the University of Lethbridge, MacEwan University, the University of Manitoba, the University of Saskatchewan, Concordia University of Edmonton, and Mount Royal University, as well as the Canadian Society for Brain, Behaviour, and Cognitive Science.

We acknowledge that the Town of Canmore is located within Treaty 7 region of Southern Alberta. In the spirit of respect, reciprocity and truth, we honour and acknowledge the Canmore area, known as “Chuwapchipchiyan Kudi Bi” (translated in Stoney Nakoda as “shooting at the willows”) and the traditional Treaty 7 territory and oral practices of the Íyârhe Nakoda (Stoney Nakoda) – comprised of the Bearspaw First Nation, Chiniki First Nation, and Goodstoney First Nation – as well as the Tsuut’ina First Nation and the Blackfoot Confederacy comprised of the Siksika, Piikani, Kainai. We acknowledge that this territory is home to the Métis Nation of Alberta, Region 3, within the historical Northwest Métis homeland. We acknowledge all Nations who live, work, and play and help us steward this land and honour and celebrate this territory.

## Friday May 1

5:45 pm Welcome and opening remarks

6:00 pm **Ron Borowsky** (University of Saskatchewan), *Mapping Mind and Brain: Cognitive and Neuroanatomical Localization of Dual Processes Involved in Language*

Our lab focuses on the localization of language processes and their interactions (e.g., basic reading/speech, object, perception/action, semantic/embodiment, and attentional processes), both from a cognitive-behavioural approach (reaction time, duration, accuracy) and a neuroanatomical perspective (fMRI/DTI and patients). Much of our research explores the dualist nature of these cognitive processes and the ventral-dorsality of their neuroanatomy. Through analyses of modularity we examine shared versus unique networks, and through connectivity-based computational modelling we explore structural-functional relationships. We also apply our basic research to neurosurgical applications to help guide safer surgical trajectories in patients. By highlighting some of the work of our lab members over the past few decades, I hope to show you that: (1) stages-of-processing remains a useful heuristic in cognitive models, (2) ventral-dorsality of brain captures several cognitive dual processes, and (3) with the right tools we can optimize measures of structural-functional coupling.

7:30 pm Reception (with cash bar)

8:00 pm Poster session (with cash bar)

## Saturday May 2

8:00 am Continental breakfast

9:00 am **Shayna Rosenbaum** (York University), *Forward Thinking: New Views on the Role of Episodic Memory in Future-Oriented Cognition*

Episodic memory is our internal record of past events in our lives. Loss of episodic memory is prominent in many brain disorders that damage the hippocampus, ranging from encephalitis and traumatic brain injury to Alzheimer's disease. Recent research shows further that people who are unable to remember past events often are also unable to imagine personal future events.

Neuroimaging studies provide converging evidence that tasks eliciting episodic memory and future imagining are consistently associated with an overlapping network of brain regions, including the hippocampus. Does this imply that amnesic individuals with episodic memory loss are confined to the "here and now"? Can one make important decisions about how one's life should go or about which actions one should take when one is unable to remember past or imagine future personal experiences? We examined these questions in a series of studies involving healthy older adults and individuals with episodic amnesia. We replicated findings of comparable deficits in episodic memory and future imagining. We found additional evidence of 1. normal rates of discounting future rewards on an established measure of intertemporal choice (deciding whether to forgo smaller, immediate rewards in favour of larger future rewards), but not when required to imagine personal future events associated with receipt of the reward, and 2. temporal distance biases involving self-appraisal. These findings suggest that the temporal, constructive, and self-related processes underlying episodic thinking are dissociable, and that conditions do exist in which episodic memory may not be needed for other forms of thinking and reasoning about current and future decisions.

10:15 am Coffee break

10:30 am **Chris Madan** (University of Nottingham), *Memory<sup>2</sup>, Methods, and Mentorship*

What makes some experiences memorable while others fade? How does encoding influence subsequent behaviour? A central focus of my research is understanding how motivational factors, particularly emotion and reward, influence memory. Two lines of my work have been the influence of emotion on associative memory and the role of reward values in experience-based risky decision-making. I have employed a diverse array of research methods— including behavioural experiments, brain imaging and stimulation, and computational modelling, as well as qualitative interviews and cross-species comparative studies. Moreover, I have become passionate about supporting doctoral students in exploring a spectrum of career opportunities, in academia and the world beyond. In this talk, I will share four facets of my journey so far. In doing so, I hope to reinforce the view that a breadth of interests and research approaches not only enrich our understanding of cognition but also our ability to mentor and inspire the next generation of researchers.

11:45 pm Buffet lunch

12:30 pm Poster session / buffet lunch

2:30 pm **Peggy St. Jacques** (University of Alberta), *Immersive Memory: From Perspective to Depth*

Autobiographical memory is often described as reconstructive, but less attention has been given to the extent to which memories vary in their sense of immersion or the feeling of being mentally “inside” a past event. In this talk, I propose that immersive memory arises from the interaction between two key factors: the visual perspective adopted during retrieval and the perceptual richness of the original experience. First, I will present evidence that visual perspective is not a stable property of memory, but a dynamic feature of retrieval that can shift over time and systematically influence the characteristics of memory. These findings suggest that perspective reflects a retrieval orientation that shapes how events are reconstructed. Second, I will introduce a novel line of work using immersive virtual reality to manipulate perceptual depth at encoding. Experiences presented in stereoscopic 3D, compared to 2D, produce greater presence and enhance scene-based memory, alongside distinct patterns of eye movements and neural recruitment in visual and medial temporal regions. Bringing these findings together, I argue that memory depends on a common scene construction system in which perceptual input constrains what can be reconstructed, and visual perspective determines how it is reconstructed. This framework highlights immersive memory as an emergent property of interactions between encoding and retrieval processes and unifies research on perception, memory, and imagination.

3:45 pm Coffee break

4:00 PM **Adrian Owen** (Western University), *Informing End-of-Life Decision Making in the ICU: The Appliance of Cognitive Neuroscience*

The thought of being “locked in” following a brain injury or aware during general anaesthesia troubles us all because it awakens the old terror of being buried alive. But what does it mean to be awake, but entirely unable to respond and what can this tell us about consciousness itself? Unfortunately, the only way we can measure consciousness is through a recognised behavioural response, which may be as simple as a spoken answer or a non-verbal signal (such as the blink of an eye). But what if the ability to speak, or blink an eye, or move a hand is lost completely, yet conscious awareness remains? In recent years, improvements in our ability to image the injured brain have started to change the way we think about consciousness and how it should be measured. Functional near infrared spectroscopy (fNIRS) is a promising modality for measuring and mapping brain function in seriously brain-injured patients, as it is portable and can be safely used at the bedside. I will describe a series of recent studies in which we have used fNIRS to document preserved cognitive function, detect covert consciousness, and communicate with behaviourally non-responsive patients in the ICU. These novel approaches – derived directly from cognitive neuroscience – are now improving diagnosis and prognosis in critically brain-injured patients, as well as informing medical ethics and legal discussions around end-of-life decision-making.

5:15 pm Closing remarks and business meeting

5:45 pm Group photo

6:00 pm Adjourn

## Friday Posters

- 1 Chloe Nelson, Kristine Peace (MacEwan University), *The effects of participant and complainant gender identity on legal decision-making: A mock sexual assault trial*
- 2 Danielle Harvey, Mariam Awan, Kari Kinnear, Jose Gomez, Cheryl Techenti (Mount Royal University), *Did you catch that? Personality correlates of sarcasm perception*
- 3 Kari Kinnear, Jose Guillermo Gomez Castro, Cheryl Techentin (Mount Royal University), *Perception of sarcastic cues within ADHD and neurotypical populations*
- 4 Michele Wellsby, Cass Foursha-Stevenson, Nicole Gallant, Isabelle Doyle, Sereena Al Tair (Mount Royal University), *Listen or articulate? Dissociating auditory and motor experience in adult word learning*
- 5 Oladayo E. Ayodeji (MacEwan University), Matthew J. Chilvers, Sean P. Dukelow (University of Calgary), Stephen H. Scott (Queen's University), Christopher L. Striemer (MacEwan University), *Lateralized and non-lateralized deficits in visuomotor control in patients with spatial neglect*
- 6 Amy Zhang, Tori Keeping, Michelle McMahon, Fangfang Li (University of Lethbridge), *Investigating interpersonal neural synchrony between friend and stranger dyads: An EEG hyperscanning study*
- 7 Angie Nikoleychuk, Michael Schutz (University of Lethbridge), *Naturally annoying: Using annoyance to signal urgency in medical device alarms*
- 8 Aditi Roy (University of Alberta), Dominic Guitard (Cardiff University), Jeremy Caplan (University of Alberta), *Greater item memory, but not source memory, for inverted text*
- 9 Jennifer Lozada Mendoza, Daniela Aguilar, Claudia Gonzalez (University of Lethbridge), *Sex differences under increasing visuospatial demands: Insight from the block building task*
- 10 Ashley Kutcher, Kathleen Corrigan (MacEwan University), *Parental beliefs about children's language and music development*
- 11 Claudia Morales Valiente, Peggy L. St. Jacques (University of Alberta), *Validation of the Visual Perspective Questionnaire (VPQ)*
- 12 Shaylyn Kress (University of Lethbridge), Jaana Leppala (Western University), Chelsea Ekstrand (University of Lethbridge), Jody C. Culham (Western University), *Active agency alters functional connectivity in a reach-to-grasp video game*
- 13 Hannah Malmo, Ben Dyson (University of Alberta), *People risk more when playing against a computer than against each other in a competitive game*
- 14 Alexis L. Knee, Cameron Hassall (MacEwan University), *React now, regret later: The neural cost of urgent decisions*
- 15 Eunchan Na, Benjamin J. Dyson (University of Alberta), *Event-related potentials to outcome valence are modulated by the decision to explore or exploit*
- 16 Angus Ball, Randall K. Jamieson (University of Manitoba), *Guessing behaviour in tip-of-the-tongue states*
- 17 Ethan V. Hagen, Matthew M. Harper, Kale R. Scatterty, James Hudson, Yanbo Zhang, Trevor J. Hamilton (University of Alberta), *Psychedelics and addiction: Can LSD treat ethanol-induced withdrawal in zebrafish?*
- 18 Sebastian Toews, Rodney Schmaltz (MacEwan University), *Investigating the effect of debunking pseudoscience to promote skepticism*
- 19 Lanna Zahreddine (MacEwan University), *Investigating 'zombie drug': The effects of acute xylazine exposure in zebrafish*
- 20 Tessa Granson-Woollard, Kacianne Kawulok, Alexander Taikh (Concordia University of Edmonton), *How the length of a filled pause predicts the likelihood of subsequent disfluency in adults who stutter*

- 21 Devon Yanitski, Chris Westbury (University of Alberta), *Using large-language models improve psychometric scales*
- 22 Jared R. Girard, Cameron D. Hassall (MacEwan University), *Audiovisual feedback causes early modulation of reward processing*
- 23 Alyssa Hoffman, Cheryl Heidl, Thomas Loreman, Alexander Taikh (Concordia University of Edmonton), *Practice with repetition: The influence of increased typing fluency on the planning and typing of adjacent words*
- 24 Josh Neudorf, Leanne Rokos, Kelly Shen, Brianne Kent, Anthony R. McIntosh (Simon Fraser University), *Young and old adult brains experience opposite effects of acute sleep restriction on the functional connectivity network*
- 25 Yue Chen, Weimin Mou (University of Alberta), *Structural compatibility constrains when prior knowledge stabilizes predictive computation during action*
- 26 Kayla H Belsher, Steven Prime (University of Saskatchewan), *The effects of action video games on motion perception: A time-to-contact study*
- 27 Kaiden Blakley, Miranda Giacomini (MacEwan University), *Exploring the cognitive self-structure of narcissism: A trifurcated model approach*
- 28 Gloria Naimi, Melody Fahmy, Andrea Albonico (University of the Fraser Valley), *How different degrees of familiarity affect face recognition*
- 29 Madison Morton, Janeen Loehr (University of Saskatchewan), *Experiences of "acting as one" with others among a representative sample of Canadians*
- 30 Dakota Hofforth, Yudhajit Ain, Julia W. Y. Kam (University of Calgary), *Spectral differences in eeg activity between factual and counterfactual theory of mind*
- 31 Avery S. Hudson, Cameron D. Hassall, Christopher L. Striemer (MacEwan University), *Electrophysiological measures of response inhibition during "automatic" online reach corrections*
- 32 Isabelle Doyle, Michele Wellsby (Mount Royal University), *Play and pragmatic language*
- 33 Beverley Mailman, Madisson Pasicka, Fangfang Li (University of Lethbridge), *Linking articulation and hand movement: On the relationship between speech production and manual dexterity in preschool aged children*
- 34 Kathleen Turner, Tori Keeping, Marni Shenton, Kade Manderville, Brenda Leung, Fangfang Li (University of Lethbridge), *The neural rhythm of emotions: An EEG study of auditory emotional processing in young adults with ADHD*
- 35 Josephine Nicholson, Nicholas Brosowsky, Emma Dueck, Liam Yeo, *Valence over volition: Both intentional and unintentional mind wandering fuel downward emotional spirals*
- 36 Nilay Özdemiir Haksever, Peggy L. St. Jacques (University of Alberta), *Shifting perspectives: The time course of visual perspective change in autobiographical memory*
- 37 Hyebin Yu, Yue Chen, Weimin Mou (University of Alberta), *Early linking stabilizes global heading across environmental boundaries*
- 38 R. Tarah Coutard , Cameron D. Hassall (MacEwan University), *Error and reward monitoring as integrated learning systems*
- 39 Tamari Shalamberidze, Kyle Nash, Jeremy B. Caplan (University of Alberta), *Frontal midline theta in trait anxiety and associative memory*
- 40 Liyoumei Zhang, Tammy A. Marche, Jennifer L. Briere (University of Saskatchewan), *Individual differences in executive functions and retrieval-induced forgetting: A scoping review*

- 41 Braedin Bauer, Miranda Macauley (MacEwan University), *Evaluating the efficacy of a brief implementation of the aim curriculum with elementary school students*
- 42 Cecilia Liu, Mason Li, Julia Kam (University of Calgary), *Sticky situations and sticky thoughts: Investigating stress, coping, and thoughts*
- 43 Mason Li, Cecilia Liu, Julia Kam (University of Calgary), *Coping with stress in the moment*
- 44 Carolina Rodriguez Martinez, Nathan Rintoul (Mount Royal University), *Cross-gender perception of sarcastic cues*
- 45 Ela Trivino, Cameron D. Hassall (MacEwan University), *Evidence accumulation is sensitive to urgency and task difficulty*

## Saturday Posters

- 1 Famira Racy, Jenny Schorn, Makayla Vermette, Alain Morin (Mount Royal University), *An exploratory factor analysis of a new theory of mind measure from open-ended reports*
- 2 Kailey Beggs (University of Saskatchewan), *Investigating the cortical mechanisms of object tracking in a motion prediction task*
- 3 Issac Pasloski, Steven Prime (University of Saskatchewan), *Sight over sound: Effect of presentation modality on cognitive load and working memory*
- 4 Deyan Vulkov, Michelle Jarick (MacEwan University), *Basic education can improve ai-generated image detection ability*
- 5 Karson Ince, Elena Antoniadis (Red Deer Polytechnic), *Examining the interplay between personality, pulse rate variability, and cognitive control*
- 6 Jessalyn Paradowski, Austen K. Smith (University of Regina), *Trait emotional intelligence and visual attention biases in laterally posed emotional faces*

- 7 Emma Dueck, Nicholas Brosowsky, Liam Yeo, Josephine Nicholson (University of Manitoba), *Development and validation of the spontaneous-deliberate mental imagery scale*
- 8 D. J. Crossland, Rodney Schmaltz, David Watson, Dawson VonStein (MacEwan University), *Emotional predictors of conspiracy belief: The roles of hopelessness and defeat in misinformation susceptibility*
- 9 Tori Keeping, Daylon Kortt, William Ramsay, Fangfang Li (University of Lethbridge), *Speech characteristics in conversations: The effect of biological sex of conversational partners*
- 10 Stacey-Jane A. Harris, Cameron D. Hassall (MacEwan University), *Interactions between narrative structure, reward, and memory: An EEG study*
- 11 Austen Smith, Azaan Ahmad, Turner DeCorby (University of Regina), *How you park your car matters: Preferences for left or right-facing vehicles*
- 12 Alireza Taheritorbati, Jane O'Connor, Tel Sillito, Keva Klamer, Shaylyn Kress, Niayesh Allahdad, Jordyn Musial, Jared Rollingson, Joshua Craig, Mary-Lou Gregoire, Chelsea Ekstrand (University of Lethbridge), *Theta-gamma phase-amplitude coupling during naturalistic memory encoding: A comparison of live and 2D experiences*
- 13 N. Skofenko, H. Kraus, D. A. Hayward (University of Alberta), *Disrupting the doomscroll: Does a discontinuous flow of short-form video content affect attention?*
- 14 Niayesh Allahdad, Keva Klamer, Shaylyn Kress, Alireza Taheritorbati, Joshua Craig, Jane O'Connor, Sabrina Werner, Jared Rollingson, Rylee Wevers, Taylor Casement, Chelsea Ekstrand (University of Lethbridge), *Beyond closeness: Neural synchrony in couples and roommates during naturalistic movie viewing*
- 15 Caslor, Gracie, Taikh, Alexander, Laskosky, Jennifer (Concordia University of Edmonton), *Comparing text difficulty of graded reading materials using LLM perplexity scores.*

- 16 Ava Momeni, Madeleine Evora, Karanvir Gill, Todd Woodward (University of British Columbia), *Cognitive modes involved during theory of mind: A Human Connectome Project fMRI study*
- 17 A. M. El Rifai, C. Tellier, B. J. Dyson (University of Alberta), *False alarms: 'Near-losses' in dice rolls predict erroneous perception of subsequent losses*
- 18 Jessica A. Leverett, Mackenzie J. Mrazik, Craig S. Chapman (University of Alberta), *Self movement awareness during in-person and online goal directed reaching*
- 19 Rachele Playford, Cheryl Heidl, Alexander Taikh (Concordia University of Edmonton), *Influence of compound autocompleting distractors on typing words embedded in pseudo-compounds*
- 20 Andréa Johnson, Peter Hurd, Trevor Hamilton (University of Alberta), *Selective breeding reveals stable anxiety-like traits in adult zebrafish and early morphological divergence in larvae*
- 21 Kennedy McClung, Virginia Shaw, Fangfang Li (University of Lethbridge), *The visual side of language: Children's eye-gaze to the face during speech modifications*
- 22 Madison Mrazik, Ethan Hagen, Andréa Johnson, Trevor J. Hamilton (MacEwan University), *Decision making in larval zebrafish (danio rerio): development of a novel assay to test drug preference*
- 23 Olivia G. E. Piché, Scott W. Semenyina (MacEwan University), *Female use of sexual coaxing and coercion: motivations, sociosexuality, and dark traits*
- 24 Katelyn Tourigny, Marla Mickleborough (University of Saskatchewan), *Prevalence of circadian chronotypes in individuals with and without migraine: Preliminary pre-screening data*
- 25 Aaron Bishop, Cameron Hassall (MacEwan University), *Closing in: Proximity shapes how the brain processes reward*
- 26 Sophia H. N. Tran, Myra A. Fernandes (University of Waterloo), *Reinstating a visual percept enhances memory more than generating novel representations*
- 27 Chris A. Clark, Kara Kazeli, Julia W. Y. Kam (University of Calgary), *Thoughts in nature: How natural environments shape freely moving thought*
- 28 Abigail Oloriz, Cameron D. Hassall (MacEwan University), *The silence of the RewPs: Examining how learnability influences reward responses.*
- 29 Emmanuel Odera (University of Alberta), Mia Collins (Trent University), Katharine Bailey (University of Alberta), Nancie Im-Bolter (Trent University), *Language interrupted: A scoping review of language and reading in infantile spasms*
- 30 Ziad Kadoura, Amirhossein Shafaghat Ardebili, Gaurav Bansal, Jeremy B. Caplan (University of Alberta), *Objective versus subjective difficulty in backwards serial recall*
- 31 Angie Ajala, Daniela Aguilar Ramirez, Claudia Gonzalez (University of Alberta), *Modulating hand use in healthy adults through asymmetric wrist loading*
- 32 Yujie Zhao, Mae R. Pacificar, Hiba Farooqui, Dana A. Hayward (University of Alberta), *The influence of built environments on people's space preferences and attention distribution across studying, socializing, and relaxing activities*
- 33 Megan Loepelmann, Dana Hayward (University of Alberta), *Friend or foe: How communication goals influence attention to social gaze and motion signals*
- 34 Jelena Stojsic, Tru Kwong (Mount Royal University), *Anxious attachment and neuroticism subfacets in romantic relationships*
- 35 Madison E. Clements, Adesewa Adeyemi-King, Catherine N. M. Ortner (Thompson Rivers University), *Changing emotions, shaping memory: Effects of reappraisal, rumination, and avoidance on recall of a sad film*

- 36 Téa Schlegel, Malinda Desjarlais (Mount Royal University), *Too hot to handle: How human and virtual influencers impact women's cognitive performance*
- 37 Raiden Barnes, Shreeya Gone, Chelsey Kelly, Cyton Corsie, Kelsey Staff, Brian Duffels (Medicine Hat College), *Behavioural differences in attention as a function of emotion induction*
- 38 Zdravko Marjanovic (Concordia University of Edmonton), *Preparedness and plea timing shape donor judgments in natural disaster relief*
- 39 Nicole Hofmann, Robrecht van der Wel, Mateusz Wozniak, Janeen Loehr (University of Saskatchewan), *Do measures of joint agency converge? Comparing the influence of partners' task distribution on joint agency across three rating scales*
- 40 Brianne Hughes, Cass Foursha-Stevenson (Mount Royal University), *Comparing learning strategies in popular mobile-assisted language learning apps*
- 41 Derrick Bourassa (University of Winnipeg), *Children's orthographic knowledge*
- 42 William McCarty, Eric Legge, Kathleen Corrigan (MacEwan University), *Spatial ability and executive function in musicians*
- 43 Julia Trieu, Cheryl Tetchentin (Mount Royal University), *Exploring the influence of red and blue environmental light on cognitive function*
- 44 Mackenna Cook, Cass Foursha-Stevenson (Mount Royal University), *From observation to action: The effect of embodied versus non-embodied actions on novel word-pair learning*
- 45 Zijian Zhang, Weimin Mou (University of Alberta), *Primary and secondary learning in spatial updating*
- 46 Yajing Zhang, Ben Dyson (University of Alberta), *Same game, different goals: Playing to win, to enjoy, or to build skill shapes gambling-like decisions in Greyjack*

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