



September 2020

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Chair Talk from Eric Wiertelak



It's hard to imagine that it is already Fall semester 2020, but then again, so much of 2020 defies the imagination. On behalf of all of us here in the Psychology Department, all the best to each of you, your families and friends in these troubling times.

And yet, even in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic and all else that is happening in society here and around the world, we can find some comfort in the routine of just getting back to classes, even if they are all starting online. Coming up this

Fall, we have a number of online events in both modules 1 and 2, so watch your email for alerts and all the future issues of Psychobabble. But for now, read on to learn about our visiting faculty, mesmerizing students and more! And stay well.

Professor Cari Gillen O'Neel Awarded a Grant from SPSSI

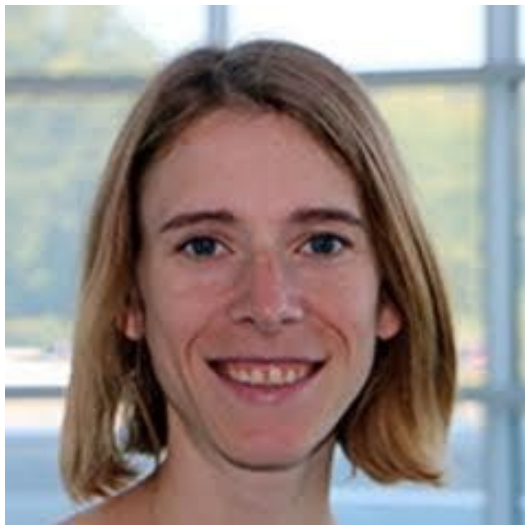
Cari Gillen O'Neel has been awarded a grant from the Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues (SPSSI) to fund her research project titled, "From Philando Castile to George Floyd: A Longitudinal Examination of Minnesota Parents' Ethnic Racial Socialization and Their Children's Racial Attitudes." For this project, Gillen O'Neel will follow up with a group of parents she interviewed in 2018 about how they socialize their children about race. This study will allow her to examine how the past two years and the death of George Floyd in particular have changed these parents' racial socialization goals and practices. Congratulations Cari!

Become a Psych Leader or Nominate a Classmate

We are eager for nominations for this year's psych club leaders. Leaders play an incredibly important role in the department. They build community in the department by helping out with a variety of events. Ideally, leaders generate ideas for new activities that other students would find engaging and informative, and they inspire other students to get involved in the life of the department. We expect that serving as a Psych Club leader will typically take about 2 hours a week, although your time commitment will vary from week to week.

Please consider nominating yourself or someone else to this important role. Please send names to Joan Ostrove by the end of day, Tuesday, September 8. We will contact all students who are nominated to make sure they're interested in the commitment. The decision about next year's psych leaders is made by faculty and staff. Thanks for your consideration!

Visiting Faculty



Madeline Harms

Madeline Harms is a developmental psychologist interested in understanding how our early life experiences affect the ways in which we learn and make decisions. She completed her B.A. at Wellesley College and her PhD at the University of Minnesota's Institute of Child Development. She also completed post-doctoral training at the University of Madison-Wisconsin, where she published several articles examining the effects of early life stress on adolescent learning. Her current research examines how children and adolescents explore their environments and think about risks and rewards. Madeline will teach Developmental Psychology, Introduction to Psychology, and a seminar on early life adversity. She also enjoys

running, hiking, and bicycling.



Piercarlo Valdesolo

I am a social psychologist studying how emotions influence thoughts and behavior. I am excited to be visiting Macalester for the year from Claremont McKenna College where I am currently an Associate Professor and chair of the psychology department. At Macalester I will be teaching Social Psychology, seminars in Emotion and Meaning Making, and the Directed Research course. I grew up in Boston, but after spending almost 10 years in Southern California, my wife and I realized we missed the feeling of slipping on black ice in the morning, and we wanted to make sure our three kids know that January isn't supposed to be 70 degrees. When I'm not professing, I have an unpaid internship as a chauffeur for my children. But I also enjoy cooking, playing soccer and squash,

watching Boston sports teams and trying desperately to sever the last of my connections to social media. I'm looking forward to joining the department.

Mesmerizing Minor - Avik Bosshardt

Favorite Movie: Knives Out

Favorite Book: The Martian

Favorite place to eat in the Twin Cities: Revival

What do you do when you are not studying? Board games! Catan, Ticket to Ride, and Avalon are some of my favorites.

Where did you grow up? Boca Raton, Florida

Interesting fact about your hometown: It's home to a lot of really cool parks and nature preserves, including a huge Japanese garden and a turtle sanctuary.

Tell us something about your family: We have a book which contains our entire family tree going back almost two hundred years.

Tell us something that you are pleased with or proud of about yourself: I'm really pleased with everything I've managed to accomplish during my socially distant summer. Though it was often difficult to find the motivation, I managed to stay pretty active and learned how to cook some halfway decent food.



Welcome New Psychology Majors & Minors



Mae Sullivan '23 Washington, DC



Mordechai Tinney '24 Milwaukee, WI

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