

THE UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY
GRADUATE TRAINING IN SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY

Overview

The graduate training program in social psychology accepts students only for the doctoral degree. The main goal of the program is produce PhD graduates who are thoroughly competent in the substantive content and the methods of social psychology so that they are well established as researchers. The program offers students many opportunities to choose to do research in a broad set of areas in social psychology, excellent methodological training, substantial faculty attention and mentoring, training and experience at teaching, and five years of financial support in a friendly and exciting research environment.

In addition to rigorous methods courses and topical seminars in social psychology, students broaden the intellectual context of their work by taking three graduate courses outside the social division, either in the Psychology Department or in other relevant departments at the university.

Students are assigned a primary advisor initially based on common interests, but may choose another advisor at any time. They are also assigned a secondary advisor, and, in consultation with their advisors, select members of their master's thesis and dissertation committees. Students are encouraged to do research with more than one faculty member. Student involvement in research begins immediately and increases as skills and expertise grow. As a UConn graduate student in social psychology, you will interact with other graduate students informally and in various lab group meetings. You will have the opportunity to present your research to the social division (faculty and graduate students) yearly to get substantive and methodological feedback and to gain practice giving professional talks. Students will also have the opportunity to observe several faculty members doing undergraduate teaching. You can also attend talks by social psychologists from outside the university many times each semester. Opportunities to teach courses are available after passing the comprehensive examination and completing the master's degree.

Research conducted within the social division encompasses a broad range of areas, including attitudes, identity, ideology, social cognition, stereotyping and self-stereotyping, interpersonal perception, language use, close relationships, emotions, motivation, stigma, objectification, discrimination (both personal and institutional), health behavior, norm change, social affordances, and gender. This breadth avails student's

substantial choice and the opportunity to combine disparate research traditions into fruitful new avenues of research. Graduate course work includes a required seminar in social psychology, two research methods courses, two graduate statistics courses, and breadth within social psychology from each of three areas. Students may choose courses within those areas.

Facilities and Resources

Students are assigned shared offices and have access to networked computers equipped with statistical software, data collection software, and basic programs. The university library is across from the Psychology Building (W. A. Bousfield). For research, students have access to laboratory space including a number of individual cubicles equipped with computers, small and large group research rooms and relevant equipment. For field research, faculty members have established cooperative arrangements with community agencies and suburban and urban schools, and with other universities. They also have arrangements with the Office of Residential Life, Medical School, and Dental School, with community based organizations, and the State Department of Public Health. The Center for Health, Intervention, and Prevention (CHIP) is located within the social psychology program but has separate office and laboratory space in Ryan Refectory (2006 Hillside Road, U-1248, Storrs, CT 06269-1248; see <http://www.chip.uconn.edu>).

Detailed Description of the Social Psychology Program

Students are assigned a primary advisor and secondary advisor when they enter the program. In their second year, students select an advisory committee, which includes a major advisor and an associate advisor from the student's major area, as well as an associate advisor from outside the student's major area. Members of the advisory committee are chosen by the student, and can be changed if the student desires, in agreement with the faculty members. Each student, along with his or her advisor and later his or her advisory committee, constructs an individualized program of study compatible with the student's interests. While considerable flexibility may be exercised in designing the program of study, the following area and departmental requirements must be met for the M.A. and the Ph.D. degrees.

Research Requirement. Students are required to engage in research during each semester of their graduate career. To fulfill this requirement, each student should register for Psychology 300 or Psychology 304 with one of the social faculty each semester. It is expected that the student will first gain experience participating in research under the supervision of a faculty member. It is expected that, later, students will develop individual programs of research with faculty serving as catalysts, resources, and collaborators rather than as supervisors.

Teaching Opportunities. Although students are not required to gain teaching experience, they are strongly advised to take advantage of the teaching opportunities that are available. These opportunities include (1) teaching assistantships in introductory psychology courses, and (2) teaching assistantships in intermediate and

advanced undergraduate courses. In addition, students may arrange to teach an entire section of a course of their interest under faculty supervision. Teaching opportunities are also available at other local universities and colleges, and at branch campuses of the University of Connecticut. Note, however, that students are not allowed to accept external jobs, including teaching jobs, without the permission of their advisor and the division head.

Specific Requirements for the M.A. Degree. Earning a master’s degree is required of all students in the social psychology program. To attain the M.A., a total of 15 credits including Psychology 337, 342, and 348 is required, in addition to 9 credits of GRAD 395 (Master’s Research), a written master’s thesis and its defense. The program requires completion of a master’s project by the end of the 2nd year of study. Although a prospectus meeting is optional, it is encouraged so that the committee can provide timely guidance. This meeting ought to take place by the end of the 1st year of study. Students defend their thesis in a colloquium in which they give a presentation and then answer questions. The defense date is set so that it occurs prior to the end of the 2nd academic year, which occurs in May.

Specific Requirements for the Ph.D. Degree. To obtain the Ph.D., a total of 20-24 credits *beyond* the Master’s are required including:

1. Fulfillment of the social area breadth requirement - accomplished by enrolling in at least one course from each of the three areas below, and from three different members of the social faculty:

THE SOCIAL PERSON (TAKE AT LEAST ONE)		
340	Emotions (Motivation)	Buck
346	Methods in Social Cognition	Agocha
346	Self	Quinn
372	Attitude Organization and Change	Johnson
380	Person Perception	Kenny
386	Social Cognition	Pratto
THE PERSON AND OTHERS (TAKE AT LEAST ONE)		
346	Small Groups	Kenny
346	Stereotyping and Prejudice	Pratto
346	Stigma	Quinn
371	Interpersonal Relations	Kenny
THE SOCIAL PERSON AND SOCIAL CONTEXT (TAKE AT LEAST ONE)		
301	AIDS Seminar	Kalichman
343	Intergroup Relations	Pratto
344	Psychology of Women and Gender	Crawford
346	Health Psychology	Fisher/Kalichman
346	Theory Building in Social Psychology	Johnson/ Baron

2. Fulfillment of Professional Development Course in 3rd or 4th year. The program offers a professional development seminar for advanced social psychology students, offered roughly every other year.
3. Fulfillment of the departmental quantitative requirement – accomplished by completing Statistics 242 and Statistics 379 or their equivalent.
4. Fulfillment of the departmental breadth requirement - accomplished by completing either three graduate courses (nine credits) in psychology *outside* the Social Psychology Division, or three graduate courses from the Departments of Anthropology, Biology, Linguistics, Sociology, Statistics, or the School of Business. One elective statistics course (e.g., meta-analysis; causal modeling) can count toward the requirement. Courses from other departments may be substituted with permission from the Coordinator of Graduate Studies (Farina). Breadth courses must be taken from three different instructors.
5. Passing the Ph.D. Comprehensive Examination consisting of a general exam on social psychology.
6. Completion of a Doctoral Dissertation including an oral defense.

Note on Language Requirement: The Department of Psychology does *not* require students to fulfill a language requirement. Rather, completion of STAT 242Q and Psych 379 or their equivalent substitutes satisfies this Graduate School requirement.

Evaluation of Student Progress. In addition to receiving a grade report on course work each semester from the University, the student will receive a written evaluation of his or her progress in the social program (and, if relevant, teaching evaluations) after each semester from his or her advisor or division head on behalf of the social area faculty. The purpose of this letter will be to evaluate student progress and to prioritize appropriate development agendas.

Guidelines for Progress Toward the Ph.D.

Below is an outline that contains a set of objectives and suggested courses for a four- to five-year plan of study toward the Ph.D. degree, which, in the view of the faculty, represents “reasonable progress.” Students are often able to move at a faster pace, and are encouraged to do so.

FIRST YEAR: *The primary objectives of the first year in the doctoral program are to:*

1. Develop familiarity with the literature in social psychology and related disciplines.
2. Develop basic knowledge and skills necessary to conduct research.

3. Develop knowledge of the current literature of social psychology.
4. Conduct research under supervision of at least one faculty member.
5. Develop Master's research idea and (optional but encouraged) hold prospectus meeting

Suggested Courses:

First Semester: STAT 242 – Statistics
 PSYC 304 – Individual Research Experience
 PSYC 342 – Experimental Social Psychology
 PSYC 304 – 1 credit for social psychology brown bag (weekly presentations)

Second Semester: PSYC 348 – Field Research Methods*
 PSYC 304 – Individual Research Experience
 PSYC 337 – Advanced Social Psychology*
 ### – Breadth Requirements Seminar in Social Psychology
 STAT 379 – Advanced Statistics
 PSYC 304 – 1 credit for social brown bag

* *These courses are offered every other year, so students will take one of them during the second year.*

Students who have completed a Master's degree elsewhere may submit a Master's thesis to the social psychology division head upon acceptance to the program, but no later than the second semester of graduate study in this department. If approved by the faculty, a Master's need not be completed at the University of Connecticut. Such students should consult with the division head concerning appropriate course substitutions.

SECOND YEAR: *The primary objectives of the second year in the doctoral program are to:*

1. Refine and extend knowledge and skills necessary to conduct research.
2. Extend knowledge of current literature of social psychology.
3. Expand responsibilities and leadership in guided research.
4. Complete independent research, including the Master's defense.
5. Identify research area of most interest to student.

The master's program should be completed by the end of the fourth semester in this department. The requirements for completion of the Master's program are as follows:

1. Constitute an Advisory Committee – consisting of three or more members, including a major and an associate advisor from the Social Psychology Division, and an associate advisor not from the Social Division. Students should notify the Graduate School if their outside committee member is not a UConn faculty member.
2. Master's Plan of Study – to be filed with the Graduate School and including:
 - a. 15 credits of course work to include Psychology 337, 342, and 348 and 9 credits of GRAD 395
 - b. M.A. thesis and oral defense

Suggested Courses:

First Semester: PSYC 304 – Independent Research in Social Psychology
GRAD 395 – Master's Thesis Research
– Social Breadth Requirement
PSYC 304 – 1 credit for social brown bag

Second Semester: PSYC 337 – Advanced Social Psychology
– Social Breadth Requirement
GRAD 395 – Master's Thesis Research
GRAD 399 – Thesis Preparation
PSYC 304 – 1 credit for social brown bag

THIRD YEAR: *On passing the qualifying exam, the student is formally admitted to the Ph.D. program. The requirements for completion of this program are as follows:*

1. Advisory Committee – consists of three or more members, to include a major and an associate advisor from the Social Psychology Division, and an associate advisor outside the social division. Faculty members from other departments and other institutions with appropriate credentials may also serve on Ph.D. committees.
2. Ph.D. Plan of Study – to be filed with the Graduate School and including:
 - a. 15 credits of GRAD 495 or 496 (Dissertation Research).
 - b. 20-24 credits of course work beyond the Master's, including:

- 1) Breadth Requirement – three courses in the Psychology Department outside the Social Psychology Division. Three from the departments of Anthropology, Biology, Linguistics, Sociology, Statistics or the Business School or another course approved by the Director for Graduate Studies and the Student Advisory Committee.
 - 2) Quantitative Methods Requirement – STAT 242 and STAT 379.
 - 3) PSYC 346 Professional Development.
3. No later than the 5th semester after beginning graduate study, all students must take a written, closed-book comprehensive examination in social psychology or qualifying examination, which will be given each year in August. Those who fail the examination are required to take it the following academic year and receive a passing grade in order to remain in the program. Students may take the examination only twice.
 4. Doctoral dissertation and oral defense.

The primary objectives of the third year in the Doctoral program are:

1. Demonstrate competence in social psychology and in one's major area of concentration within social psychology.
2. Refine research skills and develop an independent research program.
3. Obtain independent teaching experience.
4. Extend knowledge of current social psychology literature.

Suggested Courses:

First Semester: PSYC 304 – Individual Research in Social Psychology
 PSYC 346 – Professional Development (take once)
 PSYC #### – Advanced Social Psychology Seminar
 #### – Departmental Breadth Requirement
 ** – Pass General Competency Examination

Second Semester: PSYC 304 – Individual Research in Social Psychology
 PSYC #### – Advanced Social Psychology Seminar
 #### – Teaching Practicum if desired
 #### – Departmental Breadth Requirement

FOURTH YEAR & FIFTH YEAR: *The fourth and fifth years are devoted entirely to the development of individual research programs and the requisite professional skills to*

communicate one's research and to teach. Although seminars may be taken for credit or audited, students are encouraged to devote their full time to the dissertation and other research.

Suggested Courses:

Both Semesters: PSYC 346 – Professional Development (take once)
GRAD 495 or GRAD 496 – Dissertation Research
– Departmental Breadth Requirement

List of Courses Offered by the Social Psychology Division

The following courses are currently offered, although every course is not taught each year:

GRAD 395 – Master's Thesis Research
304 – Graduate research, all faculty**
337 – Advanced Social Psychology (Spring), Johnson, Marsh
340 – Emotions (Motivation), Buck
342 – Experimental Social Psychology* (Fall), Pratto
343 – Intergroup Relations, Pratto
344 – Psychology of Women and Gender, Crawford
345 – Applied Social Psychology** (Fall or Spring), Fisher, Lowe, Johnson
346 – Current Topics in Social Psychology** (Fall or Spring), Staff
346 – Social Psychology of Language, Crawford
346 – Social Psychology of Women's Bodies
346 – Health Psychology, Fisher, Johnson
346 – Self, Quinn
346 – Small Groups, Kenny
346 – Professional Development, Quinn
346 – Prejudice and Discrimination, Pratto
348 – Field Research Methods* (Spring), Kenny
349 – Causal Modeling in Social Psychology (Fall), Kenny
371 – Interpersonal Relations (Fall), Kenny
372 – Attitude Organization and Change (Fall), Johnson
380 – Person Perception, Kenny
386 – Social Cognition, Pratto
420 – Meta-Analysis: Theory and Practice, Johnson
GRAD 495 or GRAD 496 – Doctoral Dissertation Research

* *Required for the M.A. degree*

** *May be taken more than once and from different faculty members*

Applying for Admission to the Ph.D. Program in Social Psychology

Prospective students must complete (1) the application form for admission to the graduate school, and (2) the financial aid forms (including the FAFSA for need-based

aid), and submit them along with an application fee of \$55 for applying on-line, and \$75 for applying by mail. **Applying on-line is strongly encouraged.** In addition, applicants are asked to submit three letters of recommendation and to have their GRE scores (verbal, quantitative, analytical writing, & psychology subject test) sent to the University of Connecticut. Application forms may be obtained from the The University of Connecticut Graduate School, 438 Whitney Road, Ext., Unit 1006, Storrs, CT 06269. Application procedures are described in more detail in *The University of Connecticut Graduate Catalog*, which may be obtained from the Graduate School Admissions Office. Application materials should be received by **December 15**. Late applicants should inquire with the division head whether their application will receive full consideration.

Criteria for Selection of Incoming Graduate Students

While most students enter with a B.A. or B.S. degree, qualified students with an M.A. or M.S. in Psychology may also apply. Incoming students are selected on the basis of GRE scores, undergraduate grades, research experience, and letters of recommendation. Preference in admissions is given to students who have research interests that coincide with those of the faculty. Further, because we feel that successful graduate students display a strong research commitment, conceptual originality, efficiency of performance, and an ability to communicate effectively with others, an attempt is made to select students who have demonstrated these qualities. **It is recommended that, prior to applying, prospective applicants contact individual faculty members to see whether they have openings in their research groups for new students.**

Stipends for Graduate Students in Social Psychology

All graduate students in Social Psychology receive significant financial awards for up to five years (four years in the case of students entering with a Master's degree). *Typically students earn \$15,000 to \$17,000 per year* from teaching and research assistantships and sometimes from fellowships. Assistantships are available to incoming and continuing students in increments of 5 hours/week. At the 10 hours/week rate, stipends for the 2007-2008 9-month academic year range from \$9,408 for first-year graduate students to \$11,006 for those who have completed all requirements for the Ph.D. degree except for the dissertation. These awards are often augmented with fellowships, work-study, research assistantships or other funds, with students working no more than 20 hours per week. Graduate assistantships of at least 10 hours per week also include exceptional health insurance benefits and tuition waivers.

Outstanding students are also placed in competition for University Fellowships. University Fellowships ranging to a maximum of \$8,000 are available. A limited number of Summer Fellowships are awarded to social psychology students as well.

For further financial assistance please see the Graduate school website at www.grad.uconn.edu.

Connecticut residents are advised to apply for Connecticut State Scholarships at the time they apply for admission. In addition, Work-Study funds and student loans are available to qualified students through the Financial Aid Office.

Fees

All full-time students (9 or more credits), regardless of whether they are or are not awarded an assistantship, are required to pay six individual University Fees each semester: (1) a General University Fee of \$522.00, (2) an Infrastructure Maintenance Fee of \$180.00, (3) a Graduate Matriculation Fee of \$42.00, (4) a Student Activity Fee of \$13.00, (5) a Transit Fee of \$35.00, and (6) a Student Union Building Fee of \$13.00. Tuition ranges from \$4,221.00 (full-time, in-state) to \$10,962 (full-time, out-of-state) per semester, which is waived for all students with graduate research or teaching assistantships. [All fees based on 2007-2008 Graduate Tuition and Fees schedule.]

Research Activities of the Social Psychology Faculty

(For more information about social psychology faculty, please visit the department web site at <http://web.uconn.edu/psychology/>, the program website at <http://socialpsych.uconn.edu> OR visit the additional web sites that may be listed by some faculty names.)

V. Bede Agocha (University of Missouri, 2001). Joint appointment: African-American Studies. His research interests are in four main areas: mechanisms of bias & prejudice, information processing & psychophysiology of decision-making, psychosocial mechanisms of health & risk behavior (e.g., role of alcohol in HIV-related risk taking), and methodological issues in behavioral research.

Mary Crawford (University of Delaware, 1975) Her interests are in the psychology of women and gender. She focuses on three areas: gender, language, and communication; social processes that maintain gender roles and status inequalities in interaction; and the social construction of gender differences in cognitive performance. Her methodological interests include discourse analysis.

Jeffrey D. Fisher (Purdue University, 1975); <http://www.chip.uconn.edu/> His interests encompass health psychology, and more specifically on promoting health behavior. A major emphasis in this area has been on HIV risk behavior change. Dr. Fisher has worked in several other areas as well. The focus of his research on prosocial behavior has been on recipients' reactions to aid. In environmental psychology, Dr. Fisher's research has been directed to personal space, crowding, and nonverbal behavior. Another focus includes people's reactions to change in others.

Blair T. Johnson (Purdue University, 1988), Division Head. His research centers on social influence: How one person might—or might not—change another person. More specifically, these interests center on the nature of attitudes, applying theoretical principles about attitudes and behavior to HIV prevention, and in

developing scholarly tools for research synthesis of empirical studies, also known as meta-analysis.

Seth C. Kalichman (University of South Carolina, 1990). He focuses his research in health psychology, particularly regarding psychological issues of chronic illness. He currently devotes all of his research time to behavioral and social aspects of AIDS. His research includes studies of theoretical predictors of HIV-AIDS risk behavior, interventions to prevent the spread of HIV, mental health coping among people living with HIV-AIDS, and improving HIV-AIDS medical treatment adherence. He has written four books about AIDS, two of which are published by the American Psychological Association.

Kerry L. Marsh (Ohio State University, 1991). Regional campus at Hartford. She studies the role of motivation in social cognition and persuasion, with a recent emphasis on the role of these processes in HIV/AIDS prevention (implicit attitudes and sexual risk behavior, meta-analysis of HIV interventions). In addition, she studies interpersonal coordination and social affordances from an ecological perspective.

David A. Kenny (Northwestern University, 1978); <http://davidakenny.net/kenny.htm>. His interests are in three main areas: Models of interpersonal perception and interaction, interpersonal attraction, and methodology (including unit of analysis, quasi-experimental designs, and structural equation modeling). He recently completed a book on regression toward the mean, and has written several other books and articles on statistical analysis for the social sciences.

Charles A. Lowe (Carnegie-Mellon University, 1971) Department Head (**no longer accepting doctoral students**). His main interest is person perception, particularly in the development, extension and application of attribution theory. His research has investigated basic attribution processes and the application of attribution principles to attraction, helping behavior, self-other differences, and social development. In addition, Dr. Lowe has done research and consulting in consumer and social/organizational psychology.

Felicia Pratto (New York University, 1988). Co-author of the book *Social Dominance*, her central research interests concern power and social inequality, examining prejudice and discrimination that determine inter-group relations. She has studied sex stereotyping, automatic evaluation and preconscious processing, the relationship between political attitudes and group prejudices, gender differences in political roles and social attitudes, and attention biases toward negative information, and is currently researching social category norms and exploitation in communal relationships.

Diane M. Quinn (University of Michigan, 1999). She is interested in how being a member of a stigmatized or stereotyped group affects self-related cognitions, behavior, and affect. She has been particularly focused on issues related to gender stereotypes and the stigma of overweight. In addition, she is interested in how ideologies affect judgments of the self and others.

Faculty with Interests Relevant to Social Psychology

Anthropology

Francoise Dussart	Gender and identity; indigenous cultures
Jim Boster	Social cognition
Roy D'Andrade	Social anthropology, social relations
Penn Handwerker	Power, health, social relations
Richard Wilson	Political & legal anthropology, human rights, political violence
Richard Sosis	Behavioral ecology, evolution of cooperation
Sally McBrearty	Human evolution

Communication Sciences

Ross Buck	Human motivation and emotion, communication of emotion, nonverbal behavior
Mark Hamilton	Belief systems, attitudes, and persuasion
Diana Rios	Gender, audience research, media stereotypes
Leslie B. Snyder	Social marketing, culture
Arthur Van Lear	Interpersonal communication

Family Studies

Thomas Blank	Gerontology
Anita Garey	Family and social systems
Ronald Sabattelli	Family systems

Medical School

Howard Tennen	Health psychology
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Psychology

Janet Barnes-Farrell	Age stereotypes, performance appraisal
Vicki Magley	Sexual harassment
Steven Mellor	Organizational psychology
Crystal Park	Stress, coping, and adaptation; effects of coping on physical, health and psychological well-being; stress-related growth
Michelle Williams	Ethnic identity, abuse, alcoholism

Philosophy

Anne Hiskes	Philosophy of science
Margaret Gilbert	Philosophy of social science
Austen Clark	Philosophy of mind
Thomas Bontly	Philosophy of mind and philosophy of science
Diana Tietjens Meyers	Feminist theory, ethics
Susan Anderson	Self, applied ethics, critical reasoning

Sociology

Mary Bernstein	Social movement theory, sexuality
Nancy Naples	Feminist theory, sociology of gender
Kay Ratcliff	Women's health issues
Arnold Dashefsky	Judaic studies, minority relations
Simon Cheng	Race and ethnicity
James Defronzo	Social psychology
Noel Cazenave	Racism
Bandana Purkayastha	Gender, Asian, immigration
David Weakliem	Public opinion
Bradley Wright	Social psychology, deviance
C. Wesley Younts	Social psychology, small groups

Political Science

Michael Morrell	Empathy, democratic processes
Kristin Kelly	Violence against women, women's health
Ernie Zirakzadeh	Terrorism, political theory, comparative politics

For more information about admission requirements and social faculty, please visit our department's web site at <http://web.uconn.edu/psychology/> and the program's website at <http://socialpsych.uconn.edu> OR call/e-mail our graduate admissions coordinator at (860) 486-2057, debra.vardon@uconn.edu.