

PSYCHOLOGY DEPARTMENT NEWSLETTER

ISSUE # 1, SPRING, 2005

UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI'I
AT MĀNOA



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Gartley Hall, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, 2005

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ALOHA KAKOU,

This is the first issue of the Psychology department newsletter. Our intent is to inform you about our research and teaching activities and recent accomplishments by faculty, students, and alumni. We hope also to introduce new members of our faculty and to describe other events relevant to the Psychology Department at UH. In each issue we will feature the interests and activities of 2-3 faculty members.



Construction of Gartley Hall, circa 1922

FEATURED FACULTY



Jason Schiffman, PhD

Dr. Jason Schiffman, a clinical psychologist working in the department of psychology at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, received his clinical degree from the University of Southern California in 2003, and began work here at UH in August, 2003. In this short time he has excelled in teaching, research, and making contributions to the department.

Dr. Schiffman's research investigates biological and social correlates and predictors of schizophrenia spectrum disorders. Specifically, Dr. Schiffman's current research interests include exploring pre-morbid signs of schizophrenia, and how knowledge of these signs can be applied to identify children and adolescents at high-risk for the disorder. Once high-risk adolescents are identified, Dr. Schiffman and his students hope in the future to provide these individuals and their families' a primary prevention strategy aimed at reducing the severity, or in some cases the likelihood, of eventual

adult schizophrenia. Additionally, Dr. Schiffman and his students are investigating the effects of psychosocial interventions for children and adolescents already suffering from schizophrenia spectrum disorders.

Dr. Schiffman is currently working with the Center for Cognitive Behavior Therapy on the Child and Adolescent Thought Disorder Program (CADTP), and the Child and Adolescent Stress and Anxiety Program (CASAP). His responsibilities include supervising practicum students working in the CBT program, and providing assessment, counseling, and mental health services to children referred to CBT. There are about 15 cases referred to the center by the DOE and DHS each month.

Dr. Schiffman is one of two scientists from the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa receiving a 2004 Young Investigator awards for research from The National Alliance for Research on Schizophrenia and Depression (NARSAD). NARSAD is providing funding to these researchers to study the course and correlates of schizophrenia. The Alliance is the largest donor-supported organization in the world devoted exclusively to funding scientific research on psychiatric disorders.

Dr. Schiffman's NARSAD grant proposes to identify 40 adolescents on an apparent trajectory towards schizophrenia. These adolescents will have symptoms and traits associated with a high risk for the future development of psychosis. Risk factors include psychotic-like symptoms, a family history of psychosis, and/or a recent worsening of functioning. Dr. Schiffman proposes following at-risk adolescents for one year to determine (and then refine) the accuracy of methods in predicting psychosis. The goal of this project is to predict individuals in Hawai'i destined to develop psychosis at a rate accurate enough to justify future efforts towards early intervention. This work will be done in conjunction with the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Division of the Department of Health.

In other recent research, Dr. Schiffman and colleagues examined videotaped behavior of 242 Danish children while they were eating lunch. The tapes were made in 1971 when the children were aged between 11 and 13 years.

In 1991, 30 to 33 years later, 26 of these children had developed schizophrenia or an associated psychotic disorder, 70 had developed another type of psychiatric illness and 146 had remained mentally healthy.

Reporting in the *American Journal of Psychiatry*, November 2004, Dr. Schiffman and colleagues indicated

that coding the brief videotaped footage of the children eating lunch suggested subtle neurological and social differences overall among individuals who went on to develop schizophrenia compared to those who did not.

Specifically, the children who later developed schizophrenia showed, on average, impaired social interaction in terms of not laughing, talking in a high pitch or initiating a new dialogue when another child is talking, compared with participants who did not develop a psychiatric disorder. In addition, boys who developed schizophrenia in adulthood showed a tendency towards movement deficits, such as involuntary arm and facial movements, including tics.

The researchers note that the impairments seen in these children who later developed schizophrenia appeared to be specific to schizophrenia, with differences observed between these individuals' behavior and that of children who went on to develop other psychiatric disorders.

"Overall, the observations for these standardized videotapes suggest differences between children who do and who do not develop schizophrenia in adulthood," and provide further support for a neural and developmental contribution to schizophrenia development, Dr Schiffman and team conclude.~



Ashley Maynard, PhD

Dr. Ashley Maynard has been an assistant professor at the University of Hawai'i at Manoa since 2001. Dr. Maynard received her PhD from UCLA in 1999, and worked at UCLA's Neuropsychiatric Institute in a postdoctoral position from 1999-2001. Because of the cross-cultural nature of her work, Dr. Maynard has learned

several languages, including Spanish, Tzotzil (Maya), French, and American Sign Language.

Dr. Maynard's research is broadly focused on the interplay of culture and human development. Her primary research interests are in the areas of sibling interactions, parent-child socialization, the impact of daily routines on development, and the ways that cultural environments provide social and material structures for learning. She uses both ethnographic and laboratory methods to examine developmental processes. Since 1995, Dr. Maynard has been working with Zinacantec Maya families in Chiapas, Mexico. She maintains a

longitudinal study of the relationship between socialization and sociocultural changes, such as increased schooling and the transition to a commercial economy. She finds that increases in schooling, especially for girls, are related to the ways that siblings interact and teach each other at home. Children represent and internalize a model of teaching they are exposed to at school, and they transfer it home to siblings. This finding is borne out also in a schooled population here in Hawaii. Dr. Maynard is currently preparing to broaden her research agenda to another unschooled population, girls in the temple town of Bangalore, India, where she will study the ways that representational abilities develop without the direct influence of school.

On the board of directors since 2003, Dr. Maynard has been recently appointed as treasurer of the *Jean Piaget Society: Society for the Study of Knowledge and Development*. The Society's aim is to provide an open forum, through symposia, books, their journal, and other publications, for the presentation and discussion of scholarly work on issues related to human knowledge and its development. The Society further encourages the application of advances in the understanding of development to education and other domains. These goals match up well with Dr. Maynard's interests. Recently, Dr. Maynard has published her first edited book with co-editor Mary I. Martini, *Learning in cultural context: Family, Peers, and School* (2005).



Dr. Maynard is also involved with the University of Hawai'i's Psi-Chi honor society, of which she has been a member since she was an undergraduate student in 1993. She has been advising the student-run society for the past three years, and views it as an important and rewarding aspect of her job. "It is an opportunity to build and provide a community for students," says Dr. Maynard. This year, UH students celebrated their 45th year participating in Psi-Chi. Dr. Maynard can often be found at Psi-Chi's social events and other functions.

As far as teaching and research are concerned, Dr. Maynard sees them as equally rewarding. With research, she feels that she is able to give back to the community and get involved in ways that she might not be able to without it. On teaching, Dr. Maynard loves seeing her students develop and appreciate child development, listens to their personal stories, and feels rewarded when she watches them during graduation. She couldn't do without one of the other. As Dr. Maynard put it, "This is just the best job for me."~

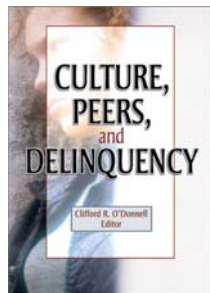


Clifford O'Donnell, PhD

Dr. O'Donnell, Professor of Psychology, serves as Director of the Community and Culture Psychology graduate program at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. He is a Fellow of the Society of Community Research and Action (APA Division 27), former Chair of the Council of Program Directors in Community Research and Action, a member of the Scientific Board of The Melissa Institute for the Prevention and Treatment of Violence, and an Executive Committee member of the Consortium for Children, Families, and Law. His interests are in juvenile delinquency, social networks, cultural compatibility, and programs for at-risk youths.

Recently, the American Psychological Association awarded the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa's Department of Psychology the 2004 Honorable Mention Award for Innovation in Graduate Education in Psychology. The award was one of three presented to psychology programs selected from more than 500 eligible graduate programs in the United States and Canada. The UH Manoa Psychology Department was honored for its Community and Culture graduate program, the only graduate program in the United States that systematically integrates community and cultural psychology into a single program. "In general, community psychology has not paid enough attention to cultural issues," says Clifford O'Donnell. "That's why our program projects require the use of methods and measures that are compatible with the culture of project participants."

Dr. O'Donnell's recent publications are on the topics of delinquency prevention, school violence, youth mentoring, and education and employment opportunities in community psychology. His most recent books are *Culture, Peers, and Delinquency* (2003) and *Culture and Context in Human Behavior Change: Theory, Research, and Applications* (2005). He received recognition from the Melissa Institute for his "Dedication and Support" in the prevention of violence (1998) and an Award from the Council of Program Directors in Community Research and Action for his "Outstanding Contributions to Training and Education in Community Research and Action" (2001). In 2004, he was elected President of the Society of Community Research and Action (APA Division 27) for 2004-2005.~



Alumni, update us of your activities at psycnews@hawaii.edu.

RECENT AWARDS & ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Abe Arkoff, PhD

College of Social Sciences Distinguished Retired Faculty Award & Top Honors from The American Society on Aging and the MetLife Foundation

R.J. Blanchard, PhD

President of the International Behavioral Neuroscience Society, 2003-2004

Community and Culture Program

Honorable Mention Award for Innovation in Graduate Education in Psychology, APA, 2004

David Crowell, PhD

UH Distinguished Retired Faculty Member. Since his retirement he has generated 3.5 million in grants, published 23 empirical articles & An Atlas of Infant Polysomnography (2003)

Louis Herman, PhD

Invited to give the 2004 Presidential Track address at the 2004 APA meeting in Honolulu on "Rational Behavior of Dolphins"

Debra Lieberman, PhD

Lancaster Social Sciences Dissertation Award, UCSB, 2002-2004

Paul Nachtigall, PhD (Graduate Affiliate)

President of the Society for Marine Mammalogy from June 2002 - June 2004.~

NEW TO THE DEPARTMENT

Edward Chronicle, PhD, University of Cambridge, England

Associate Professor and Graduate Chair, Cognition, 2003

Kentaro Hayashi, PhD, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Assistant Professor, Quantitative Psychology & Psychometrics, 2004

Debra Lieberman, PhD, University of California at Santa Barbara

Assistant Professor, Developmental & Social-Personality, 2003

Ashley Maynard, PhD, University of California at Los Angeles

Assistant Professor, Developmental & Community and Culture, 2001

Jason Schiffman, PhD, University of Southern California

Assistant Professor, Clinical Studies, 2003

Yiyuan Xu, PhD, University of Southern California

Assistant Professor, Developmental, 2004~

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