



University of Southern California

Department of Psychology | Vol 6.2

Inside/Outside

Spotlight on Dr. Carol Prescott's Lab

Carol Prescott joined the Psychology Department in 2005. Previously she was at the Virginia Institute of Psychiatric and Behavioral Genetics at the Medical College of Virginia in Richmond VA. She studies genetic and environmental contributions to individual differences in substance use, psychopathology, and cognition, as well as methodological issues related to the study of individual differences. As Carol points out: "This covers a large portion of psychology, and students working with me study all kinds of topics."

Current projects include: the relation of stress, anxiety and health in old age (Lewina Lee), campus interventions to reduce electricity use (Nicole Vega-Sintov), cognitive mediation of stress-related drinking (Kelly Young-Wolff), treatment outcomes of homeless substance abusers (Elizabeth Chereji), and gender and ethnic differences in smoking (Nitika Gupta).

CogGENE: Carol currently has a grant from NIH (with Co-PI Jack McArdle) to collect DNA samples from participants in the Intergenerational Studies (IGS), originated at U.C. Berkeley in the 1920s. The samples will be genotyped and combined with early health information, family records, and cognitive test results to study gene x environment influ-

ences on cognitive trajectories throughout the lifespan. Kristen Fong is the Project Specialist for the CogGene study.



Prescott Lab (from Left to Right)-Elizabeth Chereji, Nicole Vega-Sintov, Dr. Carol Prescott, Kristen Fong, Kelly Young-Wolff and Nitika Gupta.

USC Psychology Department Honors Student is HARVARD BOUND!



Daniel Paris, Psychology Department Honors student, (advisor, Dr. Karen Hennigan), smiles happily upon learning of his acceptance into the Accelerated Masters in Prevention Science and Practice Program in Counseling Psychology in the Department of Education at Harvard. Daniel was also recently selected to be the College Flag and Banner Bearer at Commencement 2011. Daniel said "I grew up never even thinking I would graduate from College."

Did You Know?

- **Dr. Antonio Damasio** along with the Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra Westside Connections will partner for an evening of music and discussion based on the video by Drs Antonio and Hanna Damasio “Self Comes to Mind” on March 24 at 7pm. More information at www.laco.org.
- **Daniel Paris**, Psychology Honors Student (advisor, Dr. Karen Hennigan) appears in a video in the USC College Connections 2011.1.26, titled “Why I chose USC College” <http://college.usc.edu/videos/undergraduate/242/why-i-chose-usc-college-daniel-paris/>
- **Jacqueline Tilley** (advisors Drs. JoAnn Farver and Stan Huey, Jr.) has been selected for a Western Psychological Association Foundation Student Scholarship Award. The award was based on her first author paper titled, “Exploring the Achievement/Adjustment Paradox in British-Chinese University Students.”
- **Dr. Steven Lopez** had been awarded a grant from The Foundation of Psychocultural Research titled, “Psychology, Culture Neuroscience and the course of Psychosis”
- **Dr. Mary Helen Immordino-Yang** was identified as a "rising star" by the Association for Psychological Science (APS) for her early career contributions. Her profile and research will be featured in the APS Observer.
- **Dr. Steven Lopez** is the 2011 recipient of the Stanley Sue Award for Distinguished Contributions to Diversity in Clinical Psychology.
- **Kelly Young-Wolff** (advisor Dr Carol Prescott) received a travel grant from the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, NIH to present her dissertation research “Alcoholism and Stress: A Framework for Future Treatment Strategies” in Volterra, Italy.
- **Daryaneh Badaly** (advisor, Dr. David Schwartz), **John Keefe** (advisor, Dr. Steven Lopez), **Charisse Corsbie-Massay** (advisor, Dr. Stephen Read) and **Uta Maeda** (advisor, Dr. Biing-Jiun Shen) have all been awarded a Provost’s PhD Fellow Travel Grants.
- **Taona Chithambo** (advisor, Dr. Stanley Huey) received an EDGE travel grant to attend a conference in Canada.

Have You Read Anything Good Lately?

- Andel, R., Crowe, M., Feychting, M., Pedersen, N.L., Fratiglioni, L. Johansson, B., & Gatz, M. (2010). Work-related exposure to extremely low frequency magnetic fields and dementia: Results from the population-based Study of Dementia in Swedish Twins. *Journals of Gerontology: Medical Sciences*, 65, 1220-1227.
- Lavond, D.G, Wikgren, J., Nokia, M.S. (2010). Inside the Thompson laboratory during the “cerebellar years” and the continuing cerebellar story. *Neurobiology of Learning and Memory*, 95 (2), p.114, Feb 2011, doi:10.1016/j.nlm.2010.11.001
- Xue, G., Lu, Z.L., Levin, I.P., & Bechara, A. (2011). An fMRI study of risk-taking following wins and losses: implications for the gambler's fallacy. *Human Brain Mapping*, 32(2), 271–281.
- Shapiro, A., Lu, Z.L., Huang, C.B., Knight, E. & Ennis, R. (2010) Transitions between central and peripheral vision creates spatial/temporal distortions: a new hypothesis concerning the perceived break of the curveball. *PLoS ONE*, 5(10):e13296
- Huang, C. B., Zhou, J., Zhou, Y., & Lu, Z.L. (2010) Contrast and phase combination in binocular vision. *PLoS ONE*, 5 (12):315075
- Xue, G., Dong, Q., Chen, C., Lu, Z.L., Mumford, J., Poldrack, R., & Mei, L. (2010). Greater neural pattern similarity across repetitions is associated with better later memory. *Science*, 330 (6000):97-101.
- Lu, Z.L., Li, X., Tjan, B.S., Doshier, B.A., & Chu, W. (2011) . Attention extracts signal in external noise: a bold fMRI study. *J Cognitive Neuroscience*, 23(5):1148-1159

NEWS and EVENTS

The USC Clinical Science program recently received accreditation from PCSAS (Psychological Clinical Science Accreditation System). The USC program was one of the first six programs to receive this accreditation. PCSAS was created in December 2007 to promote superior science-centered education and training in clinical psychology, to increase the quality and quantity of clinical scientists contributing to the advancement of public health, and to enhance the scientific knowledge base for mental and behavioral health care.



Chinese Delegation Visits Psychology Department



On January, 25, 2011, the department was visited by a distinguished delegation of Chinese scholars from the School of Sciences at Renmin University of China, Beijing (ranked No. 5 among all the universities in China).

Renmin University has just established a new psychology department in 2009 based on a research center for social psychology which has been existing for more than 8 years. The visitors met with USC faculty, postdocs and graduate students to learn about our labs and to discuss future exchanges. Thank you to everyone who participated.

The visitors, shown here with Professor Irving Biederman, included:

Yan Dong, Ph.D (Institute of Psychology, CAS), Associate Professor, psychological testing and statistics
Bob Guowei Liu, administrative manager of the department
Cai Xing, Ph.D (Brandeis U.), Assistant Professor, decision making and emotion
Cong-hui Liu, Ph.D (Beijing Normal), Assistant Professor, cognitive and experimental psychology
Deng-hao Zhang, Ph.D. (Peking U.) Assistant Professor, personality psychology

Also pictured are Xioakun Xu and Mark Lescroart from Dr. Biederman's lab.



**PSYCHOLOGY DEPARTMENT
 WEDNESDAY MORNING COFFEE
 ROOM SGM 501**

**PLEASE DROP BY
 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM**

GASP NEWS!

If you are interested in being involved in GASP events you are encouraged to show up and join in the fun!

Have an idea for GASP programming? Email Rachel-
rachel.beattie@gmail.com

REMEMBER to Check the Department Website Calendar for more details

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