

Psychology & Law Open House

**John Jay College of Criminal Justice
The Graduate Center
The City University of New York (CUNY)**

November 4th, 2025



PROGRAM STRUCTURE

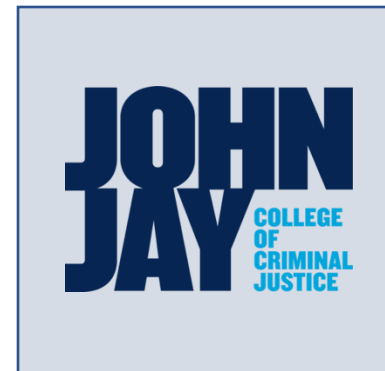
University:



Psychology PhD:



Psychology Training Areas:



Psychology & Law

Clinical
Psychology

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

- General Program and Curriculum Requirements
 - Completion of 60 credits
 - Complete the First Doctoral Examination
 - Equivalent to a MA thesis
 - Complete the Second Doctoral Examination
 - NSF-style grant or Psych Bulletin manuscript
 - Complete the Comprehensive Doctoral Activities
 - Submit a first-authored manuscript for publication
 - Present a poster or paper at a conference
 - Attend two conferences (one of which is APLS)
 - Teach at least one post-secondary course
 - Complete the Third Doctoral Examination (i.e., Dissertation)
 - Dissertation proposal as well



ODDS AND ENDS

- Dual Specialization with Basic and Applied Social Psychology
 - Still 60 credits but few, if any, degrees of freedom
 - Same milestones (but second conference must be SPSP)
 - Apply during your first year
- Mentoring
 - Primary & Secondary
 - Flexible mentoring style
- Tuition & Stipend
 - All students admit will have their tuition covered and receive a stipend of roughly \$30K (and access to low-cost health insurance)
- Incoming former MA students
 - Successfully defended MA thesis can be defended at John Jay and count as one's First Doc
 - Some credits can transfer but must be approved and usually only 6-9 credits



ODDS AND ENDS

- Housing
 - Non-international students must have NYS residency within a year
 - Be sure to have your name on one of the residency documents (e.g., utilities, lease, etc.)
- International students need to have or obtain a social security card
- Full-time attendance: No external employment

Link to Program Information: <https://jjaypsylaw.commons.gc.cuny.edu>



UP NEXT!

Faculty Introductions:





DR. DERYN STRANGE

ACCEPTING:

- PRIMARY STUDENT(S)
- SECONDARY STUDENT(S)

STUDENTS



Kris Anderson



Natalie Tesfamicael

GENERAL TOPIC(S) OF RESEARCH

The legal implications of Memory Distortion (with BWCs, historical abuse cases)

EXEMPLAR CURRENT PROJECT

Research Question: Does expert testimony in historical memory cases help or hurt jurors understanding of memory processes?

Does the role people adopt when viewing body worn camera footage effect their memory for what they saw?



Sean Bennett



McKenna Cameron



Indira

NEXT UP... DR. MARK FONDACARO



DR. MARK FONDACARO

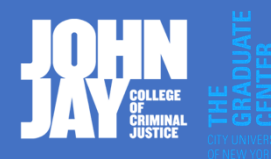
ACCEPTING:



PRIMARY STUDENT(S)



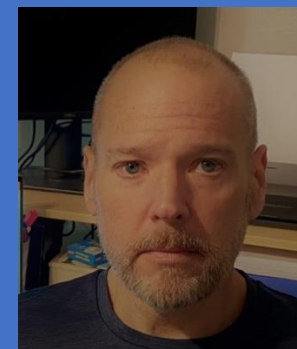
SECONDARY STUDENT(S)



STUDENTS

GENERAL TOPIC(S) OF RESEARCH

- Criminal Responsibility and Non-Retributive Responses to Crime
- Evidence-Informed Transformation of the Criminal Legal System
- Paradoxical Promise of Plea Bargaining in a Non-Retributive Criminal Legal System
- Gun Safety, Red Flag Laws, and the Assessment & Management of Risk



Sean Bennett

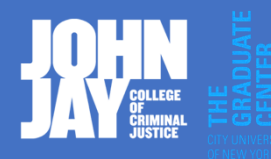
EXEMPLAR CURRENT PROJECT

Research Question: Examining similarities and differences in how social, psychological & neurobiological factors influence risk for offending among juveniles and adults.

NEXT UP... DR. MARGARET KOVERA



DR. MARGARET BULL KOVERA



ACCEPTING:



PRIMARY STUDENT(S)



SECONDARY STUDENT(S)

GENERAL TOPIC(S) OF RESEARCH

Social influences on eyewitness behavior. Legal decision-making (including pleas).
Racial and other disparities in what constitutes reasonable suspicion.

EXEMPLAR CURRENT PROJECT

Typically experimental simulations of situations (old-school style social psychology impact experiments)

Research Question: (*new grant*) whether there are racial differences in the amount of evidence that police have before putting suspects at risk of misidentification.

STUDENTS



Alexis Hardy



Jennifer M. Jones



Ellie Aronson



Jaleel King



Lillian Philips



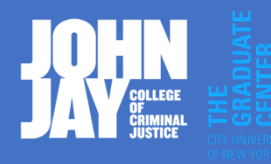
Jay Carty



NEXT UP... DR. KELLY MCWILLIAMS



DR. KELLY MCWILLIAMS



ACCEPTING:

- PRIMARY STUDENT(S)
- SECONDARY STUDENT(S)

STUDENTS



Ellie Aronson



McKenna Cameron

GENERAL TOPIC(S) OF RESEARCH

Child forensic interviewing; Child testimony; Children's memory development



Daniel Gordon



Jay Carty

EXEMPLAR CURRENT PROJECT

Research Question: Examining how children are questioned about sequence in the legal setting; whether these questions are developmentally appropriate (i.e., will they increase likelihood of biased or incorrect responses); and whether adults perceive children's sequencing tendencies negatively (i.e., do they undermine credibility)



Maria Jose

NEXT UP... DR. JACQUELINE KATZMAN



DR. JACQUELINE KATZMAN

ACCEPTING:



PRIMARY STUDENT(S)



SECONDARY STUDENT(S)



STUDENTS



Stacie Keck



Jaleel King



Natalie Tesfamicael



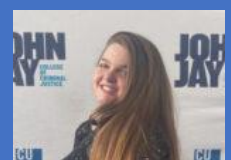
Daniel Gordon



McKenna Cameron



Maria Jose Cespedes



GENERAL TOPIC(S) OF RESEARCH

Eyewitness Procedures; Racial disparities in the legal system; Police decision making

EXEMPLAR CURRENT PROJECT

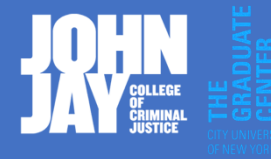
Discern whether lineup constructors exposed to information about the witness' low reliability produce more suspect-biased photo arrays than lineup constructors without this contextual information.

Examine whether officers place Black suspects in lineups with less evidence

NEXT UP...DR. STEVEN PENROD



DR. STEVEN PENROD



ACCEPTING:



PRIMARY STUDENT(S)



SECONDARY STUDENTS(S)

STUDENTS WITH PROJECTS



Stacie Keck



Dan Gordoni



Tirza
Ben Ari

GENERAL TOPIC(S) OF RESEARCH

Eyewitness Performance (array fairness); jury consolidation;

EXEMPLAR PROJECTS

Research Questions: Is matching fillers to witness descriptions as fair as matching fillers to suspect appearance? Can fair arrays be constructed using face-matching software? What is the effect on array fairness of collecting basic perp descriptors vs. pressing witnesses for additional descriptive info? Can AI construct fair arrays?

NEXT UP... DR. MARIA HARTW



DR. MARIA HARTWIG

ACCEPTING:



PRIMARY STUDENT(S)



SECONDARY STUDENT(S)

GENERAL TOPIC(S) OF RESEARCH

Deception, deception detection; interviewing and interrogation

EXEMPLAR CURRENT PROJECT

Research Question: Examining epistemic vice and virtue in police officers, in order to assess their receptiveness to science in general and evidence-based interrogation techniques in particular.

Q & A

FIND OUT MORE ABOUT OUR FACULTY AND STUDENTS ON OUR WEBSITE:



<https://jjaypsylaw.commons.gc.cuny.edu>