

Psychology Research Labs

2025 – 2026

<https://www.rit.edu/liberalarts/departments/psychology>

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NTID deaf x lab
NTID Perception, Language & Attention in Youth (PLAY) Lab

RIT Psychology Research Labs 2025–2026

RIT Attention, Cognition, and Emotion Lab

Lab Director: Dr. Tina Sutton (tmsgsh@rit.edu)

Location: EAS-2380

Dr. Sutton is the Lab Director for the Attention, Cognition, and Emotion Lab. Her research program focuses on the representation of emotion words within and across languages. Dr. Sutton has examined how emotion words capture and hold attention in many paradigms. Recently, she has also investigated the processing of emotional images and faces. In the past year, undergraduates in the lab have also examined the science of learning. Projects focusing on the science of learning have examined assessable and accessible learning techniques and the relationship between note-taking strategies and exam performance.

RIT Child Study Center

Lab Director: Dr. Stephanie Godleski (saggsh@rit.edu)

Location: EAS-2339

Dr. Godleski's lab studies developmental pathways to risk and resilience, especially within early development from pregnancy to early childhood. In particular, they investigate how parent and family influences (e.g., parental substance use, discipline, etc.) impact social and emotional development - such as externalizing behavioral problems in childhood (e.g., aggression). They also develop and assess prevention and intervention programs for pregnancy and early childhood.

RIT CLaSP - Computational Linguistics and Speech Processing Lab

Lab Director: Dr. Cecilia (Cissi) O. Alm (coagla@rit.edu)

Location: LBR-A220

Alm directs the Computational Linguistics and Speech Processing (CLaSP) Lab at RIT, dedicated to human-centered computational linguistics and cognitive science research with text, speech, dialogue, and multimodal data in high-impact domains. Current research in the lab centers on human-centered AI for affective computing, linguistic or multimodal sensing, multimodal dialogue, or the roles of humans in AI systems such as in interactive and resource-efficient machine learning. CLaSP (<https://www.rit.edu/clasp/>) provides research opportunities for undergraduate and graduate students and hosts a student research discussion series. Resources include multiple desktop or laptop workstations, a Pupil Labs mobile eye-tracker, Shimmer3 sensors for monitoring galvanic skin response and pulse, a WhisperRoom sound booth, EGG and speech nasality sensors, portable acoustic walls for sound capture in flexible environments, TASCAM sound recording equipment and field recorders, high-quality microphones for speech and singing voice capture (head-worn, clip-on, free-standing), Bang & Olufsen headphones for speech perception work, speech analysis and natural language processing and visualization tools, webcams and peripherals, Amazon Echo Dots, and a

suite of shared iMotions sensing software modules for capturing and analyzing (1) mobile eye-tracking, (2) facial expression recognition, and (3) GSR and pulse.

RIT Cognitive Engineering and Engineering Psychology Lab

Lab Director: Dr. Esa Rantanen (emrgsh@rit.edu)

Location: EAS-2353

Engineering Psychology is a discipline that aims to improve socio-technical systems by considering how human operators interact with technologies, environments, and other operators in particular contexts. Engineering Psychology studies human capabilities and limitations and directly or indirectly impacts the design of technologies that operators use. While Engineering Psychology is primarily concerned with basic research and understanding of human behavior, Cognitive Engineering has a more applied focus as a multidisciplinary endeavor concerned with the analysis, design, and evaluation of complex systems of people and technology. Past projects undertaken in this lab include analysis of an incident reporting system in a large general hospital and its impact on patient safety and the overall safety culture in the healthcare organization, and development of novel data visualization systems for electric power control room operators. Future directions for research in this lab lie in the domain of cybersecurity.

RIT Comparative Cognition and Perception Lab

Lab Director: Dr. Caroline DeLong (cmdgsh@rit.edu)

Location: EAS-2348

The Comparative Cognition & Perception Lab (CCP Lab) conducts research in animal cognition and perception. Research is conducted in a number of facilities. The CCP Lab at RIT is located in the Eastman building and currently houses goldfish tanks. The CCP Lab works in collaboration with the Seneca Park Zoo in Rochester NY to study a variety of species (e.g., olive baboons, Bornean orangutans, North American river otters). The CCP Lab also collaborates with research partners in Florida, California, and Hawaii to study bottlenose dolphins. CCP Lab members test human subjects in comparative studies designed to gain insight into cues and strategies used by animals in cognitive tasks and to discover similarities in cognitive and perception between humans and non-human animals. Research topics include visual and auditory object perception, tool use, problem solving, memory, and number perception. We are currently collaborating with Carnegie Mellon University on the Primate Portal Project (<https://www.theprimateportal.org>), which includes baboon research as well as K-12 STEM education outreach. We are part of a big team science effort to study multiple species of otters in facilities across the country called ManyOtters (<https://manyotters.github.io>). There are opportunities for volunteer and paid research assistant positions during the academic year and the summer (as well as opportunities to earn course credit in the lab). Please see: www.rit.edu/delonglab/

RIT Developmental Psychopathology and Serious Mental Illness Lab

PI: Dr. Lindsay Schenkel (lschgsh@rit.edu)

Location: EAS-2340

Research in this laboratory focuses on developmental psychopathology and the role of social cognition in the clinical expression of serious mental illness. Specifically, we study individuals with mood and psychotic disorders, and the extent to which they have difficulties understanding social cues and interacting with others. Our research also examines the relationships between early traumatic experiences and later clinical outcomes and social-cognitive impairments. Research assistants typically help with data collection and entry for studies that involve both college students and pediatric populations.

RIT Health and Addictions Research Center

Dr. Joe Baschnagel (jsbgsh@rit.edu); **Dr. Stephanie Godleski** (saggsh@rit.edu); **Dr. Dustin Haraden** (dxhgsh@rit.edu); **Dr. Rebecca Houston** (rjhgss@rit.edu); **Dr. Marjorie Prokosch** (mlpgsh@rit.edu)

Location: EAS-2339

The Health and Addictions Research Center (HARC) consists of a group of RIT faculty whose research focuses on health and addictive behaviors. The faculty have expertise in behavioral research methodology, psychophysiological measurements, eye-tracking, advanced statistical techniques, and various empirically supported treatments related to health behavior, addiction, and other psychological disorders. Students looking to gain experience working on health and addiction related projects can talk to any of the affiliated faculty about helping with their HARC related projects. www.rit.edu/harc

RIT L2Code Lab

Lab Director: Dr. Hakyung Sung (hkskla@rit.edu)

Location: TBD

The L2Code Lab is dedicated to the construction, annotation, and computational analysis of second language (L2) corpora. We focus on coding L2 language (primarily through linguistic annotation) and decoding patterns of language use through NLP-based analysis. For example, we fine-tune large language models on L2 texts annotated for theoretically motivated language patterns. We also computationally examine how L2 users produce and vary in their use of these patterns. While the lab's current focus is on L2 production data, its data-driven and empirical methodologies are adaptable to a wide range of language research involving computational analysis.

RIT Meaning, Language, and Cognition Laboratory

Lab Director: Dr. Lilia Rissman (lrrgsh@rit.edu)

Location: EAS-3381

The MLC Lab investigates how people conceptualize the world, how we express our thoughts through language, and how the relationship between language and cognition may (or may not) vary depending on each person's linguistic and cultural background. For example, do people think that plants and animals can act intentionally in the same way that humans can, and do thoughts about intention differ depending on one's language? The lab addresses these questions by conducting behavioral experiments with adults across a range of different languages and analyzing the language that people produce in everyday life. The capacity to make meaning is fundamental to human life — in the MLC lab, we seek a deeper understanding of what meanings are shared across all people, and what are constructed based on a person's individual traits and experiences.

RIT Mood Across Life Transitions (MALT) Lab

Lab Director: Dr. Christian Bean (cabgla@rit.edu)

Location: TBD

Research in the MALT Lab at RIT focuses on ways to improve our ability to predict who is most likely to develop depression and anxiety during major life transitions (e.g., starting university, pregnancy, new parenthood). As such, participants in lab studies typically include first-year undergraduates, pregnant persons, and parents who have recently welcomed a new child. There is a strong methodological emphasis on using smartphones to collect data on thoughts, feelings, and behaviors in everyday life.

RIT Neurobehavioral Laboratory

Lab Director: Dr. Rebecca Houston (rjhgss@rit.edu)

Location: EAS-2339

The RIT Neurobehavioral Laboratory focuses on psychophysiological and neuropsychological correlates of psychopathology (e.g., addictive behaviors, impulsivity, aggression) and neurological conditions (e.g., head injury, dementia). The main methodologies used in the lab include EEG and event-related brain potentials (ERPs), heart rate variability, and neuropsychological assessments. Dr. Houston has also had students develop projects related to impulsivity and trauma, cognitive reserve, emotion regulation and personality disorders, attentional bias and cognitive control in cannabis users, and neurocognitive correlates of behavioral addictions such as internet gaming.

RIT PADME Lab (Psychopathology, Adolescence, Development, Methodology, Evaluation)

Lab Director: Dr. Dustin Haraden (dxhgsh@rit.edu)

Location: EAS-3378

Dr. Haraden's lab examines the role of circadian rhythms and puberty as risk for internalizing psychopathology (e.g., depression and anxiety). Additionally, they seek to further investigate how various constructs related to mental health are measured (e.g., self-report, interview, objective) and the impact that they may have upon the conclusions that can be made. In particular, they ask questions such as "Is measuring depression with a questionnaire the same as an interview format?" and "How do these measurements change over time and is that change meaningful?". They also assess the dissemination and implementation of various evidence-based practices for treating youth psychopathology. Dr. Haraden also has a special interest in various statistical techniques and using R.

RIT Perception & Acquisition of Words (PAW) Lab

Lab Director: Dr. Allison Fitch (ahfgsh@rit.edu)

Location: ROS-2151

Dr. Fitch's lab focuses on the relationship between language acquisition (especially word learning) and visual attention. We use eye-tracking, behavioral experiments, and observational methods to explore how early experiences with language shape attentional skills and vice versa. We study infants, children, and adults; we focus primarily on the acquisition of English and ASL.

RIT Risk & Resilience Lab

Lab Director: Dr. Margaret Manges (mxmgla@rit.edu)

Location: TBD

The Risk & Resilience lab focuses on understanding high-risk outcomes, such as substance use, sexual violence, and suicide among LGBTQ+ youth and young adults, as well as those experiencing emerging serious mental illness. This work centers on how these risks disproportionately affect marginalized communities and aims to elevate the voices and experiences of individuals directly impacted by these challenges. As we begin this work, we are committed to designing and evaluating interventions that are inclusive, culturally responsive, and informed by the lived experiences of our participants. Through this process, we seek to understand the complexities of mental health and build evidence-based approaches that can support resilience and reduce harm for vulnerable youth. Our goal is to create a foundation for long-term, transformative research that not only addresses immediate risks but also empowers young people to shape the future of mental health care in meaningful ways.

RIT SCAPE Lab (Social Cognition Across People & Environments)

Lab Director: Dr. Marjorie Prokosch (mlpgsh@rit.edu)

Location: EAS-2356

SCAPE Lab at RIT examines how aspects of our environments (e.g., social, physical, or built factors) impact people's perception and decision-making. We are especially interested in the ways that people attend to, interpret, and react to threats to health and safety. We are primarily a Social Psychology lab but are interdisciplinary friendly: covering topics relevant to Health, Politics, Climate Change, and Disaster Mitigation.

RIT Social, Methods, Evolution, and Legal Laboratory

Lab Director: Dr. John Edlund (jeegsh@rit.edu)

Location: EAS-2356

The Social, Methods, Evolution, and Legal Laboratory is exploring issues related to interconnected areas of psychology. In the SMELL, we explore how methodological issues impact psychological research. We also explore how social psychological phenomena impact evolutionary psychology and forensic psychology.

RIT Visual Plasticity and Translational Neuroscience Lab

Lab Director: Dr. Marcello Maniglia (mmagla@rit.edu)

Location: TBD

Research in this lab focuses on visual perception and neural plasticity in both healthy and clinical populations, in particular individuals with central vision loss due to macular degeneration. Key research directions include developing effective perceptual learning paradigms to maximize training benefits, investigating compensatory mechanisms following sensory impairment, and promoting accessibility to visual assessments through cross-platform applications. His work employs a range of methodologies such as psychophysics, non-invasive brain stimulation, eye tracking, and simulated scotoma paradigms to study adaptation to central vision loss and to evaluate rehabilitative interventions.

Affiliated NTID Research Labs

NTID deaf x lab

Lab Director: Matt Dye, Ph.D. (matt.dye@rit.edu)

Location: Rosica Hall 1140

Part of the NTID SPaCE Research Center, this lab is directed by Dr. Dye - a cognitive psychologist and psycholinguist who conducts research into how being deaf or using a visual language like ASL changes cognition. Dr. Dye is especially interested in visual attention and visual learning in deaf children and adults. The lab uses behavioral approaches alongside eye tracking and EEG to study how visual attention is altered in deaf people. Dr. Dye is available to supervise senior projects, often has paid hourly research positions in his lab, and regularly offers paid summer research opportunities (including the option to do a co-op in the lab.)

NTID Perception, Language & Attention in Youth (PLAY) Lab

Lab Director: Rain Bosworth, Ph.D. (Rain.Bosworth@rit.edu)

Location: Rochester School for the Deaf (RSD) and Rosica Hall, NTID

Dr. Bosworth directs the newly established PLAY Lab, physically located at the Rochester School for the Deaf (RSD), situated within the heart of downtown Rochester. We also have on-campus laboratory space in Rosica Hall at the SPaCE Center at NTID. The Lab's aim is to study early development of visual perception and attention in deaf and hearing infants and children, using cognitive, behavioral, and eye-tracking studies. We examine how early sensory experiences shape visual, cognitive, and language abilities later in life. For example, our research involves studying healthy premature infants, to determine whether their "additional" postnatal experience, as a result of being born early, accelerates their visual development. We also study how deafness and sign language experience impacts visual abilities. Currently studies are being done to uncover how infants recognize the difference between sign language and other non-language body actions like gestures, and how young deaf children navigate digital picture books with dynamic ASL videos. Students would be involved in designing infant studies, testing infants, analyzing data, and presenting at conferences. The laboratory is accepting inquiries for summer research internships.

About the Department of Psychology

The Department of Psychology offers coursework and programs that help you develop skills for your future career and lifelong learning, including critical thinking and professional communication. The department offers opportunities to join cutting-edge research and programs that are advancing study in a host of fields. We provide an environment where faculty and student collaborative research thrives, expanding the knowledge of behavior, cognition, perception, and other key areas. Faculty in the Department of Psychology are teachers and scholars who work to advance the science of psychology and help you apply that science to your chosen career field.

Learn more

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