RIT College of Liberal Arts
School of Psychology and Cognitive Science

Psychology Research Labs

2026 – 2027

https://www.rit.edu/liberalarts/school-psychology-and-cognitive-science

RIT Attention, Cognition, and Emotion Lab
RIT Child Study Center
RIT CLaSP – Computational Linguistics and Speech Processing Lab
RIT Cognitive Engineering and Engineering Psychology Lab
RIT Comparative Cognition and Perception (CCP) Lab
RIT Developmental Psychopathology and Serious Mental Illness Lab
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RIT Life Stress and Role Transitions (STAR) Lab
RIT Meaning, Language, and Cognition (MLC) Lab
RIT Neurobehavioral Lab
RIT PADME Lab (Psychopathology, Adolescence, Development, Methodology, Evaluation)
RIT Perception & Acquisition of Words (PAW) Lab
RIT Risk & Resilience Lab
RIT SCAPE Lab (Social Cognition Across People & Environments)
RIT Social, Methods, Evolution, and Legal Lab
RIT Visual Plasticity and Translational Neuroscience Lab
NTID deaf x lab
NTID Perception, Language & Attention in Youth (PLAY) Lab

Research Assistant Opportunities: *volunteer positions*, *paid positions,* and *co-ops* during the academic year and the summer (and opportunities to *earn course credit* in a lab during fall or spring semester).

Email the Lab Director of the lab you are interested in to explore your opportunities!

RIT Psychology Research Labs 2026–2027

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 on animal cognition and perception (www.rit.edu/delonglab/). 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. Research topics include visual and auditory object perception, tool use, problem solving, learning, 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 zoos and aquariums across the country called ManyOtters (https://manyotters.github.io).

RIT Developmental Psychopathology and Serious Mental Illness Lab
PI: Dr. Lindsay Schenkel (lssgsh@rit.edu)
Location: TBD

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. Christian Bean (cabgla@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 Life Stress and Role Transitions (STAR) Lab
Lab Director: Dr. Christian Bean (cabgla@rit.edu)
Location: EAS-2322

Research in the STAR 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 and wearable biosensors to explore how thoughts, feelings, behaviors, and physiological functioning contribute to psychological adjustment.

RIT Meaning, Language, and Cognition Laboratory
Lab Director: Dr. Lilia Rissman (lrrgsh@rit.edu)
Location: EAS-3381

The MLC Lab investigates how the relationship between language and thought varies (or not) depending on a person's language(s) and the culture they were raised in. We focus in particular on relationships between humans and the natural environment. For example, there is widespread cultural variability concerning whether plants are understood to act, communicate, and have inherent subjective worth — why do these differences occur, and what are the consequences of these differences for environmental sustainability? 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 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: EAS-2386

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 intersection of psychology and science more generally, medicine, and the human experience in the world. In the SMELL, one of the current focuses is how methodological issues (such as consent, advertising of studies, and the like) impact scientific research. In this domain we are also exploring research questions at the intersection of psychology, medicine, and nursing care. We also explore how social psychological phenomena impact evolutionary psychology (in particular in romantic relationships) and forensic psychology as it intersects with issues that impact the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Community. Beyond this, students in the lab explore many issues in the realm of social psychology, forensic psychology, evolutionary psychology, and I/O psychology.

RIT Visual Plasticity and Translational Neuroscience Lab
Lab Director: Dr. Marcello Maniglia (mmagla@rit.edu)
Location: EAS-2340

The Visual Plasticity and Translational Neuroscience Lab studies how the visual system adapts when sensory information changes. We investigate visual perception and brain plasticity in healthy adults and in individuals with central vision loss due to macular degeneration. Our research explores how people adapt to vision loss, how visual training can improve performance, and how we can develop more accessible tools for assessing and rehabilitating vision.

The lab uses a variety of approaches, including psychophysics, eye tracking, non-invasive brain stimulation, and simulated vision-loss paradigms. Undergraduate students may gain hands-on experience with behavioral experiments, data collection and analysis, eye-tracking technology, and computer- or tablet-based visual assessments. Through these projects, students can learn how research in perception and neuroscience can be applied to real-world problems in vision rehabilitation and accessibility.

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 School of Psychology and Cognitive Science

The School of Psychology and Cognitive Science offers coursework and programs that help you develop skills for your future career and lifelong learning, including critical thinking and professional communication. The school 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 School of Psychology and Cognitive Science 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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