



Durham  
University

# **MSc Developmental Psychopathology & MA Research Methods (Developmental Psychology)**

## **Academic Taster Session**

Presented by Dr Keren MacLennan  
June 2024

# Session Outline

- Introduction
  - Aim of the programmes
  - About the programmes
  - Careers
- Academic Taster
- Q&A



# Aim of our Programmes

- Provide advanced training in the area of atypical development
  - Learn from experts
  - In-depth knowledge and understanding of developmental psychology and psychopathology
  - Advanced Research Training
- Relevant for careers in clinical, educational psychology or research

# Why do students choose our programmes?

- Survey from previous students:
  - Desire for applied career (clinical/educational)
  - Desire to do research in this area
  - Desire to work with children/vulnerable groups in a broad sense
  - General interest in the area (No particular plans for after Masters)
  - Reputation of the Department of Psychology and of the University
  - Excellent education from experts

# What can I expect from this course?

- What class size can I expect?
  - Class size ~25-30
  - Mix of Home and International students (~30-40%)
- How will I be taught?
  - Lectures, seminars, tutorials, workshops, practicals
  - Research-led education
- How will I be assessed?
  - Essays, Reports, Posters, Oral Presentations, Group work, Literature review, Dissertation, Exams

# Course Structure: MSc Developmental

*Successful completion of MSc – 180 credits*

PSYC41430	Current Issues in Developmental Psychology & Psychopathology	30 credits
PSYC41215	Advanced Developmental Psychology Review	15 credits
PSYC40315	Research Design in Child & Clinical Psychology	15 credits

*Core Developmental Modules – 60 credits*

*Shared with other MSc courses in department*

PSYC42415	Stats. for Psych. & Behav. Sci.	15 credits
PSYC42315	Adv. Stats. for Psych. & Behav. Sci	15 credits
PSYC42230	Critical Research Practice	30 credits

*Advanced Research Training – 60 credits*

PSYC50260	Dissertation	60 credits
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*Dissertation – 60 credits*

# Course Structure: MARM

*Successful completion of MARM – 180 credits*

PSYC41430	Current Issues in Developmental Psychology & Psychopathology	30 credits
PSYC41215	Advanced Developmental Psychology Review	15 credits
PSYC40315	Research Design in Child & Clinical Psychology	15 credits

*Core Developmental Modules – 60 credits*

SOCI59515	Interdisciplinary Perspectives and Practices Across Social Research	15 credits
SOCI58815	Qualitative Methods and Analysis	15 credits
SGIA49915	Quantitative Methods and Analysis	15 credits
PSYC42315	Adv. Stats. for Psych. & Behav. Sci	15 credits

*Advanced Research Training – 60 credits*

PSYC50260	Dissertation	60 credits
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*Dissertation – 60 credits*

*Shared with other MSc courses in department*

# ADPR & Research Design

- Advanced Developmental Psychology Review
  - In-depth literature review on core topics with specialist staff
  - Developing writing and reviewing skills
- Research Design in Child and Clinical Psychology
  - How should we explore topics in typical/atypical development?
  - Assessment tools (interviews, scales) and research methods



# Current Issues in Developmental Psychology & Psychopathology

- Details coming up for this taster session...

# Dissertation

- Highlight of the programme
- Runs throughout the year – Submission September 2021
- Typically work with a supervisor in a pair – depth and complexity
- Range of cutting-edge topics

# Dissertation

## Psychological distress and positive gain in mothers of children with autism, with or without other children with neurodevelopmental disorders.

Stanford, C.E. and Hastings, R.P. and Riby, D.M. and Archer, H.J. and Page, S.E. and Cebula, K. (2020) 'Psychological distress and positive gain in mothers of children with autism, with or without other children with neurodevelopmental disorders.', *International journal of developmental disabilities*.

J Autism Dev Disord  
DOI 10.1007/s10803-017-3357-0

ORIGINAL PAPER

## Anxiety in Williams Syndrome: The Role of Social Behaviour, Executive Functions and Change Over Time

Elise Ng-Cordell<sup>1,3</sup> · Mary Hanley<sup>1,2,4</sup> · Alyssa Kelly<sup>1</sup> · Deborah M. Riby<sup>1,4</sup>

 frontiers  
in Psychology

ORIGINAL RESEARCH  
published: 30 July 2019  
doi: 10.3389/fpsyg.2019.01665



## Developmental Science

PAPER

## Does culture shape face perception in autism? Cross-cultural evidence of the own-race advantage from the UK and Japan

Mary Hanley, Deborah M. Riby , Michael-John Derges, Anna Douligeri, Zackary Philyaw, Takahiro Ikeda, Yukifumi Monden, Hideo Shimoizumi, Takanori Yamagata, Masahiro Hirai  
... See fewer authors 

First published: 25 January 2020 | <https://doi.org/10.1111/desc.12942>

## Imaginary Companions, Inner Speech, and Auditory Verbal Hallucinations: What Are the Relations?

Charles Fernyhough<sup>1\*</sup>, Ashley Watson<sup>1</sup>, Marco Bernini<sup>2</sup>, Peter Moseley<sup>1,3</sup> and Ben Alderson-Day<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Department of Psychology, Durham University, Durham, United Kingdom, <sup>2</sup>Department of English Studies, Durham University, Durham, United Kingdom, <sup>3</sup>School of Psychology, University of Central Lancashire, Preston, United Kingdom

# Be ambitious. Be you.

## Employability

- Assistant Psychologist
- Teaching/TA
- PhD positions
- Learning/SEN support worker
- Mental health support worker
- Research Assistant Positions
- Child Protection



# **Taster: Current Issues in Developmental Psychology & Psychopathology**

Terms 1 and 2 (30 Credits)

# Current Issues in Developmental Psychology & Psychopathology

## Term 1: Typical development

- Topics covered may include:
  - Cognitive development, fetal development, executive functions, sleep, language, creativity
  - Workshop: using standardised assessments (e.g. language, intelligence)

## Term 2: Different developmental pathways

- Topics covered may include:
  - Autism, Williams Syndrome, Developmental Language Disorder, ADHD, Psychosis, Affective Disorders, Older Adults
  - Workshop: clinical skills

# Learning Outcomes

## Subject-specific Knowledge:

- Understand key theories of cognition and behaviour within the fields of 'typical' and 'atypical' developmental psychology
- Understand research / methodological issues and challenges in the fields of 'typical' and 'atypical' developmental psychology
- Understand the relevance of 'classic' studies and their impact upon modern research issues within the fields of 'typical' and 'atypical' developmental psychology
- Within the field of 'atypical' developmental psychology, evaluate the applied / intervention implications of differences of cognition and behaviour

# Learning Outcomes

## Subject-specific Skills:

- Develop an understanding of the links between developmental psychology and developmental psychopathology ('typical' and 'atypical' development)
- Develop critical thinking abilities concerning research methodologies used in the fields of 'typical' and 'atypical' developmental psychology

## Key Skills:

- Good written communication skills
- Good oral communication skills
- Develop the ability to learn independently within broad guidelines



# Teaching formats

## Lectures

- A lecture will be delivered on a different issue in developmental psychology and/or psychopathology and developmental conditions as per the weekly schedule outlined below.

## Interactive work including workshops

- The interactive element of the sessions/workshops will include a variety of learning activities to engage student learners in different ways. For example, the module may include discussion of a pre-specified paper (e.g. in teaching week 1), group debate, discussion of critical methodological issues, hands-on experience with assessments used in this field of research.

# Assessment

## Formative Assessments

- 2000 word paper introduction (due in term 1).

## Summative Assessments

- 2500 word extended essay. This essay question allows you to choose topics from across the module to focus on.
- 2 hour examination in May/June exam period. This will be an essay-based exam where students will be required to answer two essay questions within two hours. Students must answer one question from Part A (term 1 topics) AND one question from Part B (term 2 topics).

# Topics

Teachweek	Syllabus week	Date	LECTURE	2022-23	Activity	Deadline
1	12	Thurs 5 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Introduction to Current Issues in Dev Psychology and Psychopathology	K MacLennan	Lecture	
2	13	Thurs 12 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Cognitive Development	A Matjeko	Lecture	
3	14	Mon 16 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Executive Function	B Alderson-Day	Lecture	
4	15	Thurs 26 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Pre-natal Development	N Reissland	Lecture	
5	16	Thurs 2 <sup>nd</sup> Nov	Pregnancy, Stress & Depression	N Reissland	Lecture	
6	17	Thurs 9 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Sleep and Early Development	S Forbes	Lecture	
7	18	Thurs 16 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Developmental Cognitive Neuroscience & Adversity	S Forbes	Lecture	
8	19	Thurs 23 <sup>rd</sup> Nov	Innovation & Creativity	B Rawlings	Lecture	Formative essay due
9	20	Thurs 30 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Language Development	Z Clay	Lecture	
10	21	Thurs 7 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Workshop – cognitive, behavioural and mental health assessments	K MacLennan	Workshop	

# Topics

Teachweek	Syllabus week	Date	LECTURE	2022-23	Activity	Deadline
11	26	Thurs 11 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Introduction to the study of developmental conditions and ADHD	K MacLennan	Lecture	
12	27	Thurs 18 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Williams Syndrome	D Riby	Lecture	
13	28	<b>Fri</b> 26 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Psychosis & Schizophrenia	B Alderson-Day	Lecture	
14	29	Thurs 1 <sup>st</sup> Feb	Developmental Cognitive Neuroscience Insights into Autism	H Lee Masson	Lecture	
15	30	<b>Fri</b> 9 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Affective Disorders	B Alderson-Day	Lecture	
16	31	Thurs 15 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Autism	K MacLennan	Lecture	
17	32	<b>Fri</b> 23 <sup>rd</sup> Feb	Clinical Skills	B Alderson-Day w/ Dr Steph Common (DClinPsy)	Workshop	
18	33	<b>Fri</b> 1 <sup>st</sup> Mar	Deafness	B Alderson-Day	Lecture	
19	34	Thurs 7 <sup>th</sup> Mar	Sensory differences	K MacLennan	Lecture	
20	35	Thurs 14 <sup>th</sup> Mar	Clinical Experience of Ageing	Dr Oliver Bekarma, (DClinPsy) Hosted by K MacLennan	Lecture	Summative essay due

# Questions?