



Cardiff University School of Psychology

Studentship Title:	School of Psychology
Research Area/ Project Title:	PhD studentship in Worldview Violation, Mindfulness and Arousal
Location:	School of Psychology, Cardiff University
Expected Start Date:	1 st October 2017
Duration:	3 Years
Deadline for Applications:	28 th February 2017

We are currently accepting applications to be considered for School of Psychology funding.

Description of Research Opportunity:

Our behaviors are guided by expectations for the world around us –*worldviews*, that are continually challenged by unexpected experiences and inconsistencies. Whether these experiences are threatening or rewarding (or both), they arouse a sense of anxious uncertainty that motivates us to repair, reaffirm or construct new worldviews. While this process is commonly described in social, cognitive and developmental psychology, the psychophysiological mechanisms underlying these behaviors are not well understood. This project will focus on three related questions: 1) How does inconsistency arousal motivate *worldview maintenance* behaviors? 2) Does an attentional state relevant to inconsistency detection –*mindfulness*– impact the response to worldview violations? 3) Do positive and negative worldview violations lead to distinct emotional and behavioral outcomes? To address these questions, I am looking to collaborate with an engaged and enthusiastic PhD student on an ongoing experimental research project. This project will combine optical motion tracking, measures of pupillary dilation and EEG to specify the relationship between inconsistency arousal and worldview defense, along with the impact of emotional valence and mindful attentional states. Prior experience with relevant methodological techniques will be an asset.

Award:

The studentship will commence in October 2017, and will cover your tuition fees (at UK/EU level) as well as a maintenance grant. In 2016-17 the maintenance grant for full-time students was £14,296 per annum. As well as tuition fees and a maintenance grant, you will receive a participant allowance

of £300 per annum, and conference funding (approx. £750 per annum). You will also receive a computer and office space. You will become a member of, and have access to courses offered by the University's Graduate College.

The successful candidate will have access to a wide range of state-of-the-art research facilities and resources, including the new Cardiff University Centre for Human Developmental Science and the new neuroimaging centre, CUBRIC.

Eligibility:

Full awards (fees plus maintenance stipend) are open to UK Nationals, and EU students who can satisfy UK residency requirements. To be eligible for the full award, EU Nationals must have been in the UK for at least 3 years prior to the start of the course for which they are seeking funding, including for the purposes of full-time education.

School studentship funding is highly competitive. In view of the limited number of awards and the very high standard of applications received, successful applicants are likely to have a very good first degree (a First or Upper Second class BSc Honours or equivalent).

Requirements:

Prospective students should have:

- a first class/good upper second degree (or international equivalent), or a distinction/merit at Masters level, in a relevant subject.
- prior, demonstrable research experience obtained during a bachelors, masters or internship project
- programming skills and experience with experimental presentation software (e.g., Inquisit, eprime)
- experience with current statistical software (e.g., 'R')
- the ability to apply themselves and gain facility with eye-tracking and EEG methodologies

For informal enquiries about the project, please contact Travis Proulx:

(sapt7@cardiff.ac.uk)

<https://scholar.google.co.uk/citations?user=Etbd0hsAAAAJ&hl=en>

<http://psych.cf.ac.uk/contactsandpeople/academics/proulxt.php>

How to apply:

You can apply online - consideration is automatic on applying for a PhD in Psychology, with an October 2017 start date (programme code RFPDPSYA). Please use our online application service at www.cf.ac.uk/regis/general/applyonline/index.html and specify in the funding section that you wish to be considered for school funding. Please specify that you are applying for this particular project.

General Information:

The School of Psychology is one of the largest and most successful in the UK (<http://www.cf.ac.uk/psych/>). The School's excellent standard of research and teaching has been recognised in every Research Assessment Exercise. It has its own brain-imaging centre (<http://www.cf.ac.uk/psych/cubric/>), enhancing the international-leading research in behavioural neuroscience, cognitive ergonomics, forensic, social and developmental psychology.

Cardiff is the youngest capital city in Europe and the fastest growing in the UK. It plays host to many national and international sporting events at the Millennium Stadium (<http://www.millenniumstadium.com/>). Culturally, the city is thriving, with the Wales Millennium Centre (<http://www.wmc.org.uk/>) in Cardiff Bay. Cardiff is in very close proximity to the beautiful Welsh countryside (<http://www.breconbeacons.org/>), has a two hour rail link to London and a (cheap) one hour air link to Paris and Amsterdam (<http://www.cardiffairportonline.com/>)

Please address any informal enquiries to:

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Phone:

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