



Cardiff University  
School of Psychology

<b>Studentship Title:</b>	PhD studentship in the School of Psychology
<b>Research Area/ Project Title:</b>	The role of surprise and attention in the judgement of causality
<b>Location:</b>	School of Psychology
<b>Expected Start Date:</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> October 2017
<b>Duration:</b>	3 years
<b>Deadline for Application:</b>	28 <sup>th</sup> February 2017

**Description of Research Opportunity:**

Humans are very good at identifying the events that are responsible for causing a given outcome. According to a number of popular theories such causal learning occurs only if the outcome that follows an event is unexpected, or surprising. Despite the popularity of these theories, they are challenged by some recent, relatively simple experiments of ours, whose findings were opposite to that predicted by the theories. The PhD project will pursue this challenge to current theories in two ways. Additional experiments will be conducted in order to extend the empirical database of findings that contradict the theories and a new theoretical model of causal judgement will be developed. Rather than seeing causal judgements being driven by surprising outcomes, the new theory places more emphasis on the role of attention in understanding causal relationships. For more details contact [whitepa@cardiff.ac.uk](mailto:whitepa@cardiff.ac.uk) or [pearcejm@cardiff.ac.uk](mailto:pearcejm@cardiff.ac.uk)

**Award:**

The studentships 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, all School of Psychology students receive conference and participant money (approx. £2250 for the duration of the studentship). They also receive a computer and office space, additional funding for their research, and access to courses offered by the University's Doctoral Academy and become members of the University Doctoral Academy.

**Eligibility:**

Full awards (fees plus maintenance stipend) are open to UK Nationals, and EU students. International students will typically be eligible for a UK/EU equivalent award only. 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).

**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](http://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.

**Application deadline:** February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2017 with interviews (either in person or by Skype) being held in April/May.

**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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**For further information please contact:**

**Postgraduate Research Enquires**

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