

2023 HONOURS RESEARCH TOPICS AND SUPERVISION LIST

Note: Potential student projects are not limited to the ones listed here.

Prof Elizabeth Jones

Head, Department of Psychology

Staff Profile: www.monash.edu.my/jcsmhs/staff/academic/liz-jones

Is interested in supervising projects in social and organisational psychology. Key research areas listed below, but happy to consider projects in related areas relevant to my research expertise. I am currently undertaking a number of multi-country studies in some of these areas, which examine the role of culture.

Project 1: Stigma, particularly of health conditions, including mental health stigma

Project 2: Communication in healthcare, both between patients and health professionals, and interprofessional practice

Project 3: Organisational communication

Project 4: Workplace stress and wellbeing

Project 5: Life transitions, including the transition to university and graduation from university, and transition to parenthood

Assoc Prof Dr Shamsul Haque

Course Coordinator, Bachelor of Psychological Science (Honours) Programme

Staff Profile: www.monash.edu.my/jcsmhs/staff/academic/psychology/shamsul-haque

Project 1: Construction of autobiographical memories within the self-memory system

This project aims to explore how people construct memories of personal life experiences by accessing knowledge from the autobiographical knowledge structure. It also examines the role of conceptual self, which is an individual's self-image, personal beliefs and goals, in the memory construction process.

Project 2: Autobiographical memory, identity, and mental health

This project investigates how people suffering from mental illnesses construct their personal life experiences. As the self and personal identity are disturbed when people have mental disorders, we aim to see if that disturbed self and identity impacts the way they construct their life experiences

Project 3: Trauma, memory and mental health among forcefully displaced population

The number of forcefully displaced population, such as refugees and asylum seekers, is on the rise globally. These people often have many traumatic life experiences as they are the victims of forceful eviction from their ancestral homes and live in a foreign country where they experience extreme hardship

in their daily life. This project investigates how traumatic life experiences affect mental health and psychosocial functioning among this population.

Project 4: The roles of schema and script in the recall of event memories

Schema refers to a knowledge structure that is already in our memory system. However, a script is a pre-existing knowledge structure that is only relevant to the event sequences. This project investigates how experimentally generated schema influences the recall of event memories. It also explores the role of life scripts in the construction of personal life experiences.

Assoc Prof Dr Tam Cai Lian

Course Coordinator, Master of Professional Counselling Programme

Staff Profile: www.monash.edu.my/jcsmhs/staff/academic/psychology/tam-cai-lian

Project 1: The Effectiveness of CBT Therapy on Depression and Self- Esteem Among Adolescents

Project 2: The contributory factors in gambling behaviour amongst the adult population in Malaysia.

Project 3: The Predicted Factors of Parenting Styles, Emotion Regulation, Prosocial Behaviour on gambling

Project 4: Gambling and Delinquent Behaviours in Malaysian Adolescence: Does Emotion Regulation Help?

Assoc Prof Dr Keng Shian-Ling

Associate Professor/ Clinical Psychologist

Staff Profile: <https://www.monash.edu.my/jcsmhs/staff/academic/associate-professor-shian-ling-keng>

Interested in supervising projects in adult psychopathology and clinical psychology. Key areas of interest are listed below, though I am also open to supervising other projects relevant to these areas:

- Effects of brief mindfulness practice / mindfulness-based interventions on psychological health outcomes
- Mechanisms through which mindfulness training influences psychological and cognitive well-being
- Mindfulness and emotion regulation
- Correlates, etiology, and/or cross-cultural presentations of borderline personality disorder (BPD) and depression in an Asian context
- Effects of self-compassion training on psychological health outcomes
- Feasibility and adaptation of evidence-based psychological interventions (e.g., dialectical behavior therapy) in low resource contexts

Dr Vanlal Thanzami

Course Coordinator, Psychology Undergraduate Programmes

Staff Profile: www.monash.edu.my/jcsmhs/staff/academic/psychology/vanlal-thanzami

- Predictors of aggression and exploring different forms of aggression such as direct, indirect and displaced aggression; reactive and proactive aggression
- Exploring the relationship between need for revenge and personality factors associated with vengefulness, such as anger rumination – dissipation and trait forgiveness, and how they relate to different forms of aggression
- Cross-cultural variations in aggression with specific focus on cultural values, sex differences and conflict resolution tactics
- Evolutionary concepts in aggression: genetic-relatedness and violence (e.g. Cinderella effect) across cultures
- Intergenerational transmission of conflict tactics
- Intimate partner violence
- Honour-based violence
- Attribution of victim blame, perpetrator blame, and perpetrator punishment
- Psychopathy, narcissism and borderline personality disorder
- Cyber bullying - perpetration and victimisation
- Criminal computer behavior
- Exploring the psychological impact of the use of social networking sites and mobile technology

Dr Rachel Ting Sing Kiat

Senior Lecturer/ Clinical Psychologist

Staff Profile: www.monash.edu.my/jchs/staff/academic/psychology/rachel-ting-sing-kiat

Project 1: Healthcare utility among Orang Asli in Malaysia: This project has been funded by Ministry of Higher Education (MOHE) under FRGS scheme from 2021-2023. We are adopting a mixed-method approach to look at the factors that promote and hinder healthcare utility about Orang Asli in peninsular Malaysia. Students engaging in this project are expected to have fluent Bahasa Malay in facilitating data collection and fieldwork.

Project 2: Cultural identity among Chinese in Malaysia: This ongoing project has been started in 2020 to look at how different types of cultural identity among CIM inform their perception of discrimination and mental health outcomes. Students engaging in this project are expected to have fluent Chinese-Mandarin in facilitating data collection.

Project 3: COVID-19 Pandemic cognition and behaviors: This ongoing project has been started in 2020 since COVID-19 pandemic and now it has expanded into cross-cultural study in different countries. We are looking specifically at how culture factors inform their perception of stigma, mental health, and help-seeking behavior during pandemic. This is an online-survey approach with quantitative analysis. International students outside of Malaysia are welcome to replicate/contextualize this study in their own cultural context and languages.

More information regarding Dr Rachel's research papers could be found on her [ResearchGate profile](#).

Dr Adriana Ortega

Lecturer/ Organizational & Occupational Health Psychologist

Staff Profile: www.monash.edu.my/jcsmhs/staff/academic/psychology/adriana-ortega

Current Research Topics

I/O Psychology topics:

- Work Stress and mental and emotional health and wellbeing
 - personality, behaviour, attitudes, health and wellbeing
- Work environment, stress and work-life balance
- Diversity and inclusion at work
 - The glass cliff effect
 - The 'return' of the glass ceiling
 - Benevolent sexism/racism at work
 - Discrimination, violence & aggression at work.
- Workplace bullying, harassment, cyber incivility (WCI), Cyberloafing.

Health Psychology Topics

- Sexual & reproductive health/rights.
- Gender, race, ethnicity, health and wellbeing
 - Health behaviour
 - Managing Stress
 - Managing chronic illness (incl. managing pain)
 - Managing mental health

Ongoing Research

Project 1: Work related Stress, psychological resources, work performance, work engagement.

Project 2: Work related stress, personality, coping effectiveness and employees' performance.

Project 3: Teleworking, psychological resources, work performance, work engagement and burnout

Related areas of research: Positive Psychology, Organizational Psychology, Community Psychology, Occupational health & wellbeing (this includes psychological health & safety, stress, coping & wellbeing).

Groups of interest: Working population (including young adults, women, minority groups) Perennials, Gamers, People living with chronic/invisible illness.

Dr Lee Soon Li

Lecturer

Staff Profile: www.monash.edu.my/jcsmhs/staff/academic/dr-lee-soon-li

My research areas include cyberpsychology and individual differences. I am interested in the relationships of technological addiction and indicators of psychological well-being. A good example is the notion of “Facebook depression”, that prolonged Facebook use induces depression. I am also interested in how individual differences, which include human personality (e.g. the Big Five, the dark triad) and cultural orientations (e.g. self-construal), increase users’ susceptibility to technological addiction. I am open to research projects that include any of these research areas.

Dr Lee Ji Kwan

Lecturer/ Clinical Psychologist

Staff Profile: <https://monash.edu.my/jcsmhs/staff/academic/dr-lee-ji-kwan>

- Non-pharmacological methods for acute and chronic pain management
- Clinical hypnosis for depression, anxiety, pain, and sleep
- Digital therapeutics for mental health and chronic illness management
- Lifestyle modification interventions
- Psychometric adaptation and validation

Dr Loy See Mey

Lecturer

Staff Profile: <https://monash.edu.my/jcsmhs/staff/academic/dr-loy-see-mey>

Interested in supervising projects related to individuals’ adverse experience in the early stage of life and their subsequent development in terms of well-being and opportunities throughout their lifetime.

Topics of investigation include, but are not limited to:

- Mechanisms underpinning the association between Childhood Maltreatment and Treatment Motivation among Drug Addicts.
- Type of childhood maltreatment and the Adults' Substance Use Behavior
- Children's exposure to Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) and Lifelong Health

Dr Khadeeja Munawar

Lecturer

Staff Profile: <https://monash.edu.my/jcsmhs/staff/academic/dr-khadeeja-munawar>

I am interested exploring the research projects revolving around:

- Investigating facilitators and barriers to seeking mental health services and improving consultation
- Exploring and enhancing mental health literacy
- Culturally/religiously modified Cognitive Behaviour Therapy
- Acceptance and Commitment Therapy for adolescents and adults
- Self-distancing and psychological distance among individuals with mood and/or anxiety disorders

Dr Azimeh Jafari Sadr

Lecturer

Staff Profile: <https://monash.edu.my/jcsmhs/staff/academic/dr-azimeh-jafari-sadr>

I am interested in working on child and adolescent psychology, parenting and mother-child interaction projects. Specific areas of interest are as follows, although I am open to collaborating with any research area:

Effects of a mindful parenting practice on the mental well-being of children.

The impact of reading children's storybooks on their emergent literacy and mental health.

The result of work-related stress on parents' mental health and well-being and how mindfulness may help to decrease it

Ms Loheswary Arumugam

Lecturer / Clinical Psychologist

Interested in working on topics related to forensic & clinical psychology:

- Eyewitness Memory in children, adolescent, adults, old age
- Interrogation technique in children, adults, adolescents, special need population
- Special needs children and reliability and validity as an eyewitness
- Trauma and impact on eyewitness
- Impact of semantic memory on eyewitness statement and accuracy

- False memory
- Criminal Profiling
- Clinical diagnosis and crime

Dr Goh Pei Hwa

Lecturer/ Social Psychologist

Project 1: Interpersonal perceptions and metaperceptions

Metaperception can be defined as a person's (the perceiver) perception of how others view him or her. For example, when interacting with another person, you may form hypotheses not only about the other person's behavior (interpersonal perception), but also about the other person's perception of your own behavior (interpersonal metaperception). Being able to accurately infer the way another person perceives your behavior is one complex albeit functional skill, which may help smoothen interpersonal interactions.

In my own work on metaperceptions of sexual interest, I have found some preliminary evidence suggesting differences in men and women's approximations of each other's estimations of sexual interest from potential mates. It would therefore be interesting to further examine this in the current project, and also explore the roles of situational or dispositional factors in addition to gender effects. Moreover, metaperception can be studied in two forms: (1) metaperception of own behavior, where the perceiver estimates how others perceive his or her *own* behavior, and (2) metaperception of other's behavior, where the perceiver estimates how others perceive a *third person's* behavior.

An experimental approach will be adopted for this project.

Project 2: Self-esteem and mate value

Just as people have an inherent need to belong, which drives them to pursue social connections, people have a basic need to reproduce, which drives them to seek sexual connections with potential mates. According to Leary and Baumeister (2000), self-esteem operates as an internal gauge of one's perceived previous, present, and future successes in satisfying one's belongingness needs. However, Kirkpatrick and Ellis (2001, 2006) have suggested that self-esteem can be attuned to one's self-perceived mate value.

Using perception of sexual interest as a currency for self-perceived mate value, as perception of acceptance does for self-perceived social or relational value, I am interested in investigating the function of self-esteem as a gauge of mate value.

A combination of daily diary and experimental approaches will be adopted for this project.

Project 3: Technofence on well-being and/or relationship functioning

This project is a collaboration between research groups from several nations, namely Switzerland, U.S.A., Italy, and Malaysia. The general goal of this project is to investigate the impact of technology use (e.g. social media, online gaming) on general well-being, day-to-day functioning, as well as broader relationship outcomes (e.g. relationship satisfaction, commitment) in couples who are in an intimate relationship. Apart from day-to-day experiences, data on personality and individual differences will also be obtained.

A daily diary approach will be adopted for this project.

Other research projects and themes (some of which I am currently examining) that I would be interested in supervising include:

- disentangling the directionality problem: do perceptions inform own interest or does own interest inform perceptions of sexual interest from others?
- extending intimate relationship models to understanding how humans relate to nature, and how these relate to pro-environmental behaviours
- sexuality and wellbeing among Malaysians
- relationship experiences and dating practices in Malaysia