Keynote Speakers

Professor David Balota
Department of Psychology
University of Washington in St. Louis

Research Interests:

David Balota is a Professor of Cognitive Psychology and Neurology at Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri, USA. In his experimental research, Balota works on issues related to visual word recognition, semantic memory, priming on implicit memory tests, and attention systems that modulate performance within each of these domains. He investigates these phenomena within young adults, older adults, and individuals who have dementing illnesses such as senile dementia of the Alzheimer’s type. Balota’s recent research has aimed at examining the role of breakdowns in attentional control on memory performance as behavioral markers of early stage Alzheimer’s disease. David received his BA from the University of Missouri at St. Louis, and his MA and PhD from the University of South Carolina. He is the former Chair and a current Governing Board Member of the Psychonomic Society, and a Fellow of the American Psychological Association, the American Psychological Society, the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and the Midwestern Psychological Association.
Associate Professor Amanda Barnier  
ARC Centre of Excellence in Cognition and its Disorders (CCD)  
Department of Cognitive Science  
Macquarie University

Research Interests:

Amanda Barnier is an Associate Professor and Australian Research Council (ARC) Future Fellow (2013-2016) at Macquarie University. Amanda began her career at Macquarie University, graduating with a BA (Hons) in Psychology. She received her PhD in Psychology at the University of New South Wales, and engaged in postdoctoral work at the University of California, Berkeley. Amanda has earned an international reputation for her research in the fields of autobiographical memory, social memory, hypnosis and hypnotic phenomena. Working with her interdisciplinary team of cognitive psychologists, philosophers and neuropsychologists at Macquarie and beyond, Amanda's current research explores relationships among individual memory, individual memory in small groups, and small group “collective memory”. She is measuring the costs and benefits of remembering alone vs. together and focusing on when and how remembering with a long-term partner helps memory, especially as we age. Her work has been recognised by Early Career Awards from the Australian Psychological Society and the American Psychological Association, as well as a Young Tall Poppy Award from the Australian Institute of Political Science and the Australian Skeptics Eureka Prize for Critical Thinking, one of Australia's most significant science prizes. Amanda was also a founding Co-Editor of the academic journal Memory Studies.
Associate Professor Janet Duchek  
Department of Psychology  
University of Washington in St. Louis

Research Interests

Janet Duchek is an Associate Professor of Cognitive Psychology at Washington University in St. Louis. Professor Duchek’s research focuses on cognitive mechanisms that underlie the attention and memory deficits seen in healthy aging and early stage dementia of the Alzheimer type (DAT). Recent studies indicate that the Alzheimer’s disease process may be present in the brain for years before the appearance of clinical symptoms, underscoring the need to reliably identify more specific changes that could serve as antecedent markers for DAT. Episodic memory loss has long been considered the primary marker for the first clinical manifestation of the disease. However, professor Duchek and others have been accumulating evidence documenting clear changes in components of attention in both healthy aging and early-stage DAT. In a large-scale longitudinal study, she and her lab are examining a set of cognitive tasks that target attentional selection, executive control, and attentional control contributions to memory performance to determine whether they are predictive of the early onset and progression of Alzheimer’s disease. Janet received her BA at the University of Missouri at St. Louis, and her MA and PhD at the University of South Carolina. She is a Fellow of the American Psychological Association (Division 3).
Professor Michael Fine  
Department of Sociology  
Macquarie University

Research Interests

Michael Fine is Adjunct Professor in the Department of Sociology at Macquarie University, Sydney and former Head of Department. He has researched, published and taught in the fields of social policy, ageing, care and human services for over thirty years and is currently involved in research on the outcomes of community care with a number of the most important case management organizations in NSW. He was Vice-President of RC11 (the Research Committee on Ageing) of the International Sociological Association (ISA) from 2002-2006, and a member of the executive from 1998-2010. He is a Fellow of the Australian Association of Gerontology and was and former state President (NSW), and Chair of the Scientific Committee for the AAG Annual Conference in 2006 and 2013. He is currently a member of the NSW Ministerial Advisory Committee on Ageing, editorial advisor to a number of international journals, nominated as an International Expert for the Australian Research Council and recipient of regular national and international invitations as a speaker, researcher and advisor. His book, *A Caring Society? Care and the Dilemmas of Human Service in the Twenty-First Century*, was published internationally by Palgrave/MacMillan in 2007.
**Research Interests**

Michelle Meade is an Associate Professor of Psychology at Montana State University. Michelle’s research interests lie in the intersection of cognitive and social processes as they relate to human memory. She is interested in the malleability of memory and factors that lead to memory errors as well as factors that improve memory. Recently she has begun to explore the effect of age on memory and to examine the role of collaboration in improving older adults’ memory. Michelle received her BA at Grinnell College, and her MA and PhD from Washington University in St. Louis. Michelle is a 2013 recipient of the prestigious Fulbright Scholarship and hopes to spend her time at Macquarie exploring ways in which training older adults to rely on others for memory cues can act as a practical strategy that may benefit memory performance in healthy older adults as well as older adults suffering from memory debilitating diseases, such as Alzheimer's disease.
Professor Elaine Reese  
Department of Psychology  
University of Otago

Research Interests

Elaine Reese is a Professor of Psychology at the University of Otago, New Zealand. Elaine is interested in the way that parents shape their children’s learning and development through their talk. Whether they are talking to children as they play, telling or reading them stories, or talking to them about the past or future, parents’ conversation matters for children’s development. Reese received her B.A. from Trinity University in San Antonio, and her M.A. and Ph.D. in Developmental Psychology from Emory University in Atlanta under the supervision of Dr. Robyn Fivush. She started as a lecturer in Psychology at the University of Otago in Dunedin, New Zealand in 1993. She also worked as an Associate Professor at Clark University in Worcester, Massachusetts from 2001-2004, but returned to Dunedin to continue her post at University of Otago from 2005. Elaine is the incoming Editor of the Journal of Cognition and Development, and she is the Education Domain Leader of the Growing Up in New Zealand study at the University of Auckland.