Psychology Department Research Opportunities

Dr. Heather Butler
hbutler@csudh.edu
Phone: (310) 243-3462 Office: SBS G303
Research interests grounded in human cognition, including critical thinking and the reduction of cognitive bias in the legal system. The types of critical thinking work consists of the development of an education game that teaches the scientific reasoning, the validation of a critical thinking assessment, and the prediction of real life events (e.g. bankruptcy, cheating, and returning movie rentals late) based on critical thinking ability. She has a desire to prevent wrongful convictions. More specifically, the aspects of false confessions that make them so believable and ways to reduce cognitive bias associated with juror perceptions of forensic identification evidence. For more information please visit www.drheatherbutler.com.

Dr. Giacomo Bono
giakomob@gmail.com
Phone: (310) 243-3511 Office: SBS G307
Wellbeing, positive youth development, and qualities of social relationships that contribute to mental health, quality of life, and social development. As director of the Youth Gratitude Project, I am currently creating youth measures of gratitude, examining the development of gratitude, and testing the effects of a curriculum that promotes gratitude and purpose in students. I am also interested in parenting and educational practices linked to achievement, wellbeing, and thriving.

Dr. L. Mark Carrier
lcarrier@csudh.edu.edu
Phone: (310) 243-3499 Office: SBS G309, SBS B241A
Applied Cognition; Psychology and Technology; Cultural Effects on Thinking

Professor Steven Frieze
sfrieze@csudh.edu
Office: SAC 1117
Interpersonal interactions and intimacy; Cognitive dimensions of interpersonal interactions.
Dr. Erin Merz  
emerz@csudh.edu  
Phone: (310) 243-3512  
Office: SBS A333  
Broadly, research in this lab will focus on processes related to coping, adjustment, resilience, and quality of life in the context of health-related adversity. Other foci include social/cultural determinants of health and health promotion in underserved populations. Upcoming projects will examine mental and physical health among women at high genetic risk for breast cancer and well-being in patients with systemic sclerosis.

Dr. Maria Hurtado-Ortiz  
mhortiz@csudh.edu  
Phone: (310) 243-3508  
Office: SBS A331  
Areas of research include cultural and developmental influences on adolescents’ college planning behaviors, mothers’ childcare practices and ethnic health psychology. She is currently co-Principal Investigator of a National Institutes of Health funded project concerning Latinos at risk for type 2 diabetes.

Dr. Keisha Paxton  
kpaxton@csudh.edu  
Phone: (310) 243-3411  
Office: SBS A330  
Research interests include sexual risk behavior among African American youth and women, health promotion intervention development, minority and women’s mental health.

Dr. Larry Rosen  
lrosen@csudh.edu  
Phone: (310) 243-3427  
Office: SBS G311 & SBS B241A  
Psychological impact of technology: Focusing on Social networking activities, parenting, generational differences in values and media use, media multitasking and task switching in the classroom, video game playing, and the impact of electronic communication.
Dr. Silvia Santos
ssantos@csudh.edu
Phone: (310) 243-3475 Office: SBS A341
Research interests include the study of health (physiological and psychological) and culture as well as issues related to ethnic identity and psychological and academic adjustment. She is currently the co-Principal Investigator of a National Institutes of Health funded project concerning Latinos at risk for type 2 diabetes.

Dr. Carl Sneed
Chair of Psychology
csneed@csudh.edu
Phone: (310) 243-3463 Office: SBS A329
Work in adolescent health behavior and mental health for child and adolescent populations.

Dr. Tara Victor
tvictor@csudh.edu
Phone: (310) 243-3467 Office: SBS G305
Detection of malingering in neuropsychological assessment; Multicultural Neuropsychology.

Dr. Philip Vieira
pvieira@csudh.edu
Phone: (310) 243-3271 Office: SBS A341
Research projects: drug biosensor development for use in the central nervous system; individual differences in drug pharmacokinetics; sex-related difference in drug reward preference; epigenetics of drug addiction

Dr. Karen Wilson
kmason@csudh.edu
Phone: (310) 243-3642 Office: SBS A335
Current research projects include: psychological and neurocognitive functioning in college students with Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder, psychosocial functioning in children with developmental disorders, neurocognitive and psychosocial predictors of academic achievement and the effects of sleep deprivation on cognitive and psychological functioning.