



TCU's EXPERIMENTAL PSYCHOLOGIST



Faculty Thoughts: Anna Petursdottir

Our world has turned a bit upside down since the last issue of the TCU Experimental Psychologist came out in February. The pandemic has brought unprecedented challenges to our students, faculty, and staff and affected us in myriad ways. Nevertheless, I hope this current issue finds you safe and healthy as we head into finals week. If you find you have extra time on your hands, I suggest you take a moment to think about how what you have learned in your psychology classes is relevant to understanding people's behavior in a pandemic – including behaviors that increase and decrease the spread of the virus – and the effects of disease threat and social

isolation on human behavior and well-being. I think you'll find there are many important insights into our situation to be gained from psychological science.

Some of you are graduating this spring and we wish you the best as you venture into the world as a TCU alumni. Perhaps we'll get to congratulate you in person at the belated commencement ceremony planned for August. The rest of you we can't wait to see in our classrooms again.

Publications

Arrowood, R.B., & Cox, C.R. (2020). *Terror management theory: A practical review of research and application*. Amsterdam: Brill Publishing. <https://brill.com/view/title/57391>

Centanni, T.M. (2020). Neural and genetic mechanisms of dyslexia. In G.P.D. Argyropoulos (Ed.), *Translational neuroscience of speech and language disorders*, (pp. 47-68). Springer International Publishing. <https://www.springer.com/gp/book/9783030356866>

Cox, C.R., Arrowood, R.B., & Swets, J.A. (2020). Of flesh and blood: Death, creatureliness, and incarnational ambivalence towards the divine. In C. Routledge, & K. E. Vail (Eds.), *The science of religion, spirituality, and existentialism* (pp. 387-403). New York: Elsevier Inc. <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/B9780128172049000287>

Thompson, J.B., Conrad, S.E., Torres, C., & Papini, M.R. (2020). Inescapable exposure to the Barnes maze increases preference for alcohol over water in rats: Implications for depression and anxiety. *Learning & Motivation*, 69, 101602. (<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.lmot.2019.101602>).

Conferences

Cox, C.R., Arrowood, R., & Swets, J. (2020). *The role of death concerns in police officers' well-being and defensiveness*. Society of Personality and Social Psychology, New Orleans, LA.

Petursdottir, A.I. (2020). *Bidirectional naming and instructional sequence effects*. Invited talk, Central Texas Autism Center Verbal Behavior Conference. Virtual format.

Awards and Milestones

Department of Psychology's Senior Scholars for 2020 are Lexie Bryant and Tori Short.

Tori Short is the 2020 Stephen G. Cole Scholar in Psychology.

Danica Knight was granted tenure.

Patrick Flynn was awarded Emeritus status.

Sarah Hill is a finalist in the John V. Roach Honors College 2020 Professor of the Year award.

Contracts

Lehman, W.E.K. (PI), Knight, K., Pankow, J., Muiruri, R., & Puri, S. (3/5/20). Contract awarded by Iowa state DOC to develop and test a "Mobile Application Design" for use with their criminal justice population. Amount: \$85,000.