LOUISE DILWORTH DAVIS
COLLEGE of SCIENCE & ENGINEERING
Department of Psychology

Experimental Psychologist Monthly Memo

November 2026 - Issue #150



NOVEMBER

INTRODUCING
DR. ANGELA PROCTOR

The Department of Psychology is pleased to welcome to our faculty, Dr. Angela Proctor! Dr. Proctor hold a BA in Psychology and a MS in Marriage & Family Therapy from Harding University as well as a PhD in Educational Psychology from East Texas A&M University (as well as Master's in PSY). She was born and raised in Texarkana, AR and has lived east of Dallas and in Houston before settling here in Ft. Worth.

This summer Dr. Proctor looks forward to teaching a course called TBRI Across Systems of Care, providing opportunities for students to interface with many professionals who lead Trauma-Informed Care in a wide variety of communities. She focuses on practical application of learning - pulling the seminal research for foundation and a then encouraging students to apply their learning in hands on assignments.

Dr. Proctor has dreamed of joining the Karyn Purvis Institute of Child Development before it was called the KPICD. She always knew she would be sharing the message and mission of Trust-Based Relational Intervention (TBRI) in whatever professional setting she was in. And now, she says, she gets to do it form the place it was created!



In her spare time, Dr. Proctor loves listening to music, being creative, and watching period movies or series!

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FACULTY NEWS

Dr. Javier Granados Samayoa

Dr. Javier Granados Samayoa presented at the Nutrition Translation GEM Forum, where role on the panel was providing an overview of the social psychology of misinformation and false beliefs. Although misinformation and false beliefs are popular topics in different health-related areas, there is less dedicated research focusing on the nutrition domain.

Dr. Qinxin Shi

Dr. Qinxin Shi recently received a $74,665.55 Leap Forward Grant as PI, awarded through TCU's new internal funding mechanism. Her project, "AI-Enabled Multimodal Passive Sensing for Early Detection of Mental Health Symptoms in Young Adults," addresses critical inequities in mental health care. This collaborative project brings together TCU faculty from Communication Studies and Computer Science, along with consultants from UC Irvine and the University of Minnesota.

PUBLICATIONS

Dr. Javier Granados Samayoa

Experts finally discover what prompts conspiracy theorists to act on their beliefs

Dr. Javier Granados Samayoa

Granados Samayoa, J. A., & Albarracín, D. (2026). Belief strength and the attitudinal and behavioural correlates of conspiracy beliefs. The British journal of social psychology, 65(3), e70104.

Dr. Uma Tauber

From Human Voices to AI: Research Empowers Dementia Caregivers
TCU NEWS

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STUDENT NEWS

Ariana Elsden - Michala Pollard

Ariana Elsden and Michala Pollard appeared in a TCU publication alongside Dr. Uma Tauber, covering the labs development of an artificial intelligence tool designed specifically for dementia caregivers. Rather than providing one-size-fits-all information, the system will personalize guidance based on each caregiver's situation, delivering trusted, evidence-based support whenever questions arise.

Rosemary Odem

Rosemary Odem, one of our alumni from the Class of 2023, has been named a 2026–2027 Children and Screens Impact Fellow, a highly competitive fellowship recognizing emerging leaders in research on children's health and well-being in the digital age.

Kaitlin Hinch

Under the mentorship of Dr. Naomi Ekas, our student Kaitlin Hinch presented at the Gatlinburg Conference, examining whether autistic adolescents' perceptions of security within their family and their perceptions of marital conflict were associated with internal and external emotional behaviors.

AWARDS

Bao Han Tran
Rising Star in Psychological Science

Abbie Heidenreich
Research Excellence in Psychological Science

Olivia Hundley
Psi Chi Travel Grant

Corinne Getzendanner
Psi Chi Travel Grant

Jesus Moreno
Psi Chi Travel Grant

Brooke Blakeney
Psi Chi Travel Grant

STUDENT NEWS

Riley Lewis

Under the mentorship of Dr. Naomi Ekas, our student Riley Lewis presented at the Gatlinburg Conference, investigating how adverse family environments affect mental health and behavior in autistic adolescents, with a focus on parental psychological inflexibility.

Linda Ortega

Under the mentorship of Dr. Naomi Ekas, our student Linda Ortega presented at the Gatlinburg Conference, showing when fathers have a harder time staying flexible and open with difficult emotions, adverse family environments are significantly associated with internalizing and externalizing symptoms in autistic adolescents.

Brooke Blakeney

Under the mentorship of Dr. Naomi Ekas, our student Brooke Blakeney presented at the Gatlinburg Conference, examining associations between autism-related characteristics in autistic adolescents, such as intelligence, social communication, restricted and repetitive behaviors, and daily living skills, and communication among family members.

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DEPARTMENT NEWS

KPICD Grant Funding

Our KPICD received a $1.8 million award from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Administration for Children and Families (ACF) to conduct a rigorous evaluation of the Trust-Based Relational Intervention® (TBRI®) Early Childhood Home Visiting Program for adoptive families.

Psi Chi Model Chapter Award

Our Psi Chi Chapter at TCU has been awarded this year's Model Chapter Award. With over 1,150 chapters across the nation, our chapter is one of only 45 to be awarded Model Chapter status this year, making this a prestigious and exciting achievement for the department!

IMPORTANT DATES

LAST DAY OF CLASS
December 9th



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GRADUATE STUDENT HIGHLIGHT

TALIA CHACHKES



Want to learn more about our Psychology Graduate Program?

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or

Contact our program director **Dr. Uma Tauber** at uma.tauber@tcu.edu

What research are you most excited to be working on?

I am most excited to be working on an NIH funded study looking at race-based discrimination and inflammation. I am specifically interested in how pro-inflammatory cytokine levels vary from pre and post exposure to a race-based social stressor.

What drew you to psychology?

In undergrad, I took a human sexuality class and learned about evolutionary psychology for the first time. I thought it was so interesting how evolutionary theory could be used to help explain human behavior. I then joined an Evo Psych lab as a research assistant, and was hooked ever since!

If you could star in any movie or TV show, which would you choose?

H2O or Barbie Fairytopia: Mermaidia to live out my childhood dream of becoming a mermaid.

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FACULTY MEMBER HIGHLIGHT

Javier Granados Samayoa



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What research are you most excited to be working on?

Currently, I am most excited about my work on misinformation bypassing, which is a method for combating misinformation that focuses on introducing alternative beliefs that have the opposite conclusion relative to misinformation rather than directly challenging it. So, for example, instead of refuting misinformation about genetically modified foods, the bypassing approach would prescribe highlighting their benefits for addressing hunger around the world. Some of my prior has suggested that bypassing can better combat the effects of misinformation on people's attitudes and intentions.

What drew you to psychology?

I would say it was two things that drew me to psychology. First, I always curious about what is going on in people's heads. Second, I like problem-solving. Social psychology gave me the knowledge to understand how people think and the tools to develop psychological interventions that try to solve societal- and individual-level problems.

If your life had a permanent theme song that played whenever you walked into a room, what would it be?

The Final Countdown by Europe like GOB from Arrested Development.