Supervisor: Associate Professor Lee-Fay Low
Supervisor contact details: lee-fay.low@sydney.edu.au

Is there a specific project available: No (your name and research interest will be made available to students)

Do you have a broad research topic for students to consider: The lived experience of dementia - e.g. impact of the way the diagnosis is given
Why people with dementia don't get diagnosed
Stigma about dementia - in the general public, health professionals, and self-stigma
Restorative/rehabilitative approaches in residential aged care
Goal setting with older people

Project title:

Is this a project for students starting in 2017?

Research question:

Research topic: The lived experience of dementia - e.g. impact of the way the diagnosis is given
Why people with dementia don't get diagnosed
Stigma about dementia - in the general public, health professionals, and self-stigma
Restorative/rehabilitative approaches in residential aged care
Goal setting with older people

This project is appropriate for students in the following discipline(s):

- Bachelor of Health Sciences (Honours)

Research group type: Research Group based

University Profile: http://sydney.edu.au/health-sciences/about/people/profiles/lee-fay.low.php

Primary research interests: dementia
older people
aged care - residential and home based
qualitative and quantitative research

Name(s) of research team:

Aims and background

Proposed method of data collection:

Ethics approval needed? N/A

Ethics applied for?

Type of study:

Resources needed (all available):

Additional information:
Supervisor: Dr Margaret McGrath
Supervisor contact details: margaret.mcgrath@sydney.edu.au
Is there a specific project available: Yes
Do you have a broad research topic for students to consider Sexuality Post - Stroke

Validation of the Knowledge Comfort Attitudes and Approach to Sexuality Survey among Stroke Rehabilitation Professionals

Translation and Cross-Cultural Validation of Measures of Attitudes towards sexuality among health and rehabilitation professionals

Ageing and Obesity

Obesity among older people in residential care facilities - incidence; impact on care needs and quality of life

Project title:
Is this a project for students starting in 2017? Yes
Research question:
Research topic: Sexuality Post - Stroke

Validation of the Knowledge Comfort Attitudes and Approach to Sexuality Survey among Stroke Rehabilitation Professionals

Translation and Cross-Cultural Validation of Measures of Attitudes towards sexuality among health and rehabilitation professionals

Ageing and Obesity

Obesity among older people in residential care facilities - incidence; impact on care needs and quality of life

This project is appropriate for students in the following discipline(s):
- Bachelor of Health Sciences (Honours), Bachelor of Applied Science (Exercise and Sport Science) Honours, Bachelor of Applied Science (Physiotherapy) Honours, Bachelor of Applied Science (MRS) Diagnostic Radiography Honours, Bachelor of Applied Science (Speech Pathology) Honours, Bachelor of Applied Science (Exercise Physiology) Honours, Any discipline

Research group type: Research Group based
Primary research interests: Ageing - ageing in place; obesity among older people
Sexuality and disability
Name (s) of research team:
Aims and background

Proposed method of data collection:
Ethics approval needed? N/A
Ethics applied for?
Type of study:
Resources needed (all available):
Additional information:
**Supervisor:** Professor Anne Cusick  
**Supervisor contact details:** anne.cusick@sydney.edu.au  
**Is there a specific project available:** Yes  
**Do you have a broad research topic for students to consider**  
**Project title:** Emerging adulthood in Australia and other countries - validating two standardized surveys of perceptions of adulthood for 18-25 years  
**Is this a project for students starting in 2017?** Yes  
**Research question:** To date most research using the Inventory of the Dimensions of Emerging Adulthood (IDEA) and the Emerging Adulthood Survey has been done in North America and other English speaking countries with Anglo-Celtic traditions. Are these instruments cross-culturally appropriate?  

**Research topic:**  
This project is appropriate for students in the following discipline(s):  
- Bachelor of Health Sciences (Honours), Bachelor of Applied Science (Occupational Therapy) Honours, Any discipline  
**Research group type:** Discipline based  
**Primary research interests:** Emerging adults (people aged between 18-25 years)  
Function, activity and participation of people living with chronic conditions  
Professional socialization of allied health and health sciences  
**Name(s) of research team:** Anne Cusick  
(Colleagues from another university will also be involved)  
**Aims and background**  
OPTION ONE This study will build on bi-lingual skills of honours student/s to pilot and if possible validate these two instruments in other languages - either in language-based populations living here in Australia or other countries (for example the country of origin of the student).  

OPTION TWO This study will build on the cultural context and networks of honours student/s to pilot and if possible validate these two instruments with young people who consider themselves to be observant Muslims - either in populations living here in Australia or other countries (for example the country of origin of the student).  

**Proposed method of data collection:** OPTION ONE The student will identify the second language that is proposed - he/she needs to be fluent in it. Permission will be sought from instrument authors to conduct a cross cultural validation study in that language. The instrument will be translated-back translated using
a professional translation company; the student and bi-lingual contacts will verify/ test out the translated instrument. Data will be collected from young adults 18-25 who can read that language. Data will be analyzed using descriptive and inferential statistics to validate the instruments; relationships in the data will be explored.

OPTION TWO A couple of previous studies have applied these two instruments in Muslim populations. One was conducted by the supervisor and a colleague in Pakistan. We found that some items had to be changed because they were deemed culturally offensive or illegal in Pakistan, but that the amended survey was sensitive and cross culturally appropriate. We also found that indicators of perceived adulthood were different between Pakistan-dwelling young people and data from Western countries such as North America - but only on a couple of items. To date little research has been done using these instruments on Muslim populations living in diverse Western communities. This study will explore item content, will validate the survey in the Western context with Muslim young people, will the goal being to explore whether and how the survey can be sensitively used in a culturally diverse population that may include young Muslims. Data will be analysed using descriptive and inferential statistics to validate the instruments; relationships in the data will be explored.

Ethics approval needed? Yes
Ethics applied for? No
Type of study: Quantitative
Resources needed (all available): OPTION ONE: The student/s must be fluent in reading and writing another language. Ideally this will be a language where previous cross cultural validation of these instruments has not been done before.

OPTION TWO: It is important for the credibility and sensitivity of this study that the honours student identifies as Muslim and has existing networks and contacts that can commence the snowball recruitment method for participation (which will be anonymous)

Additional information: BOTH OPTIONS: This project can be flexibly implemented. Data collection can occur remotely, but if students happen to be traveling they may be able to overlap data collection activities with the visit. Students can also use their bi-lingual or cultural networks here in Australia.

It would be ideal if a range of different young people could be targeted - not just university students - because it will be differences in the sample itself that will make study results more useful. This is because we already know that education, class, employment, parenthood etc directly influence the result on these
surveys. So the greater the diversity of your networks to refer the survey to, the better.

Anne Cusick has done cross cultural projects involving samples from Pakistan, Libya, Greece and she regularly visits family in Malaysia. As soon as Anne knows which student is doing what project and thus what language or community connections you bring, she can develop up the Ethics applications to make sure these are approved long before you need to start collecting data. This project can be flexible to fit in with your timelines. It will be busy and hard work but will be really interesting, will make very good use of your language and/or cultural/ community experience and will be sure to have an impact in global literature when finished.
Supervisor: Professor Mark Onslow
Supervisor contact details: mark.onslow@sydney.edu.au

Is there a specific project available: Yes
Do you have a broad research topic for students to consider
Project title: Variation of stuttering severity during a single day
Is this a project for students starting in 2017? Yes

Research question: Does a ten minute speech sample reflect the stuttering of pre-school children during a single day?

Research topic:
This project is appropriate for students in the following discipline(s):
  · Bachelor of Applied Science (Speech Pathology) Honours

Research group type: Research Group based

University Profile: http://sydney.edu.au/health-sciences/asrc/about_us/director.shtml

Primary research interests: Stuttering

Name(s) of research team: Australian Stuttering Research Centre

Aims and background
Measurement is critical to treatment and research with stuttering pre-schoolers. This project determines how well a ten minute speech sample validly measures a child's stuttering severity during an entire day.

Proposed method of data collection: Recordings of seven pre-school stuttering children are available at present, and a protocol for obtaining such recordings has been developed. The project collects three more recordings and analyses the entire data set of ten recordings.

Ethics approval needed? Yes

Ethics applied for? Yes

Type of study: Quantitative

Resources needed (all available):

Additional information:
Variation of stuttering severity during a single day
Supervisor: Professor Anne Cusick

Supervisor contact details: anne.cusick@sydney.edu.au

Is there a specific project available: Yes

Do you have a broad research topic for students to consider

Project title: Have occupational therapy research student values changed in 20 years?

Is this a project for students starting in 2017? Yes

Research question: The values of occupational therapy students were surveyed in the 1990s, and the 2000s using a standardized assessment survey. They prioritized helping people and contributing to society as well as material success. Do occupational therapy students in 2017-2018 have similar values? How might this affect their career goals and aspirations

Research topic:

This project is appropriate for students in the following discipline(s):

- Bachelor of Health Sciences (Honours), Bachelor of Applied Science (Occupational Therapy) Honours, Any discipline

Research group type: Discipline based

University Profile: http://sydney.edu.au/health-sciences/about/people/profiles/anne.cusick.php

Primary research interests: Emerging adults (18-25 years)

Allied Health

Professional and inter-professional Identity formation

Factors affecting preparation for professional roles

Function, activity and participation for people with complex and chronic conditions.

Name(s) of research team: Anne Cusick

There will be occupational therapy academic collaborators at other participating institutions

The occupational therapy researchers involved in the 1990s and 2000s data collection will be recognized as part of the team

Aims and background

To survey occupational therapy UG and PG students using the Rockeach Values Survey and compare findings with previous survey results from the 2000s and the 1990s to see if there has been cohort change over time.

To ask students in the 2017-2018 cohort what their career goals and aspirations are.

Proposed method of data collection: Two existing data sets of previously collected values and demographic survey data will be collated, ‘cleaned’ and used. Descriptive statistics from these previous studies will be used and updated.

A new data set will be generated using a demographic and Rockeach Values Survey - this will replicate
what was done in the previous two surveys.
The three cohorts will be compared.
A questionnaire will also ask student career goals and aspirations.

Ethics approval needed? Yes
Ethics applied for? No

Type of study: Quantitative

Resources needed (all available): This project will suit someone who is interested in surveys and in learning more about statistics. No interviews are involved. Literature review will be limited to background regarding values of young adults also known as emerging adults (people who are between 18 and 25 years of age) and what is known about the values held by occupational therapy students

Additional information: I have worked for many years with honours students. This project can be flexibly implemented so may suit someone who is juggling responsibilities and roles but who is confident with numbers and likes describing and comparing characteristics of samples. It does not matter if you are not an occupational therapist because the Values Survey is used with many different populations - in this study we are just focusing on OTs.
Supervisor: Dr. Kieron Rooney

Supervisor contact details: kieron.rooney@sydney.edu.au

Is there a specific project available: Yes

Do you have a broad research topic for students to consider

Project title: Development of an in-patient fitness assessment for patients seeking treatment for substance use disorder

Is this a project for students starting in 2017? Yes

Research question: This is a descriptive study that seeks to assess the baseline fitness of patients undergoing treatment for substance use disorder at Concord Hospital

Research topic: This project is appropriate for students in the following discipline(s):

- Bachelor of Applied Science (Exercise and Sport Science) Honours, Bachelor of Applied Science (Exercise Physiology) Honours

Research group type: Discipline based

University Profile: http://sydney.edu.au/health-sciences/about/people/profiles/kieron.rooney.php

Primary research interests: Habitual Diet and Fuel Partitoning

Regulators of Maximal Fat oxidation during exercise

Metabolic and Behavioural effects of excess sugar consumption and capacity to recover during sugar withdrawal

Name (s) of research team: Dr. Kieron Rooney

Dr. Jonathan Freeston

Dr. Bridin Murnion

Dr. Jonathan Brett

Ms Wendy Kerley

Ms. Kia Roberts

Ms. Johanna Castle

Aims and background

The in-patient addiction treatment wards at Concord Repatriation General Hospital propose to deliver an integrated life skills program comprised of exercise, nutrition, mental health promotion and vocational and recreational activity modules. However, there is currently no data available on the current levels of fitness of treatment seekers upon which to design an exercise program. As such, this project will be the first of its kind at CRGH in aid of testing the acceptability and feasibility of performing exercise testing and program design for this specialist population.
Proposed method of data collection: This project will be almost entirely conducted at Concord Hospital. The student that takes on this project will be primarily based on the addiction treatment wards and will be responsible for the conduct of baseline fitness tests on patients undergoing treatment. This will predominantly take place early after admission. Secondary outcomes may include a re-assessment of fitness following treatment on the award. The data obtained from this study will inform future projects that seek to design exercise based programs that act as adjuncts to current usual care treatments.

Ethics approval needed? Yes
Ethics applied for? No
Type of study: Quantitative
Resources needed (all available):
Additional information:
Faculty of Health Sciences
Mondays and Wednesdays, (Typically Cumberland Campus)
Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays
(Typically Camperdown Campus)
The University of Sydney
NSW 2006 Australia

Dr. Kieron Rooney
T
E kieron.rooney@sydney.edu.au
sydney.edu.au
A current cultural shift consists of decreased acceptance of added sugars in foods and drinks. Their replacement with either water or drinks sweetened with low calorie sweeteners such as saccharin, aspartame or stevia is commonly advised. The rationale for such advice is that removal of added sugars should result in a reduction in total energy intake. As a consequence, weight is lost and metabolic state improved.

The scientific basis for such advice – that metabolic health may be improved by the simple removal of sugar drinks or their replacement with low calorie sweeteners – is inconclusive. Worryingly, there is evidence from both human and small animal studies suggesting that consumption of such sweeteners may have the counter-intuitive effect of increasing energy intake and potentially inducing metabolic damage (such as impaired glucose tolerance) (Suez et al 2014; Fagherazzi et al 2013). In fact some studies have reported co-ingestion of artificial sweeteners to alter the glucose and insulin response to a standard glucose tolerance test (Pepino 2015).
**Proposed method of data collection:** The specific approach can be discussed and refined with the team, but in general the plan currently will be to recruit between 10-20 participants to undergo a number of acute meal challenges in a counter-balanced, randomised cross-over design. Prior to consumption of the meal participants will consume either a water control or non-nutritive sweetened primer. During the meal, fingerprick blood samples will be assessed for blood glucose and potentially insulin response, as well as whole body fuel oxidation. Various anthropometric measures will also be assessed as covariates in analysis. This project will most likely be completed on Cumberland Campus with the possibility of some testing taking place on Camperdown Campus.

**Ethics approval needed?** Yes

**Ethics applied for?** No

**Type of study:** Quantitative

**Resources needed (all available):** Students intending on completing this project will be trained in the skills required to collect all data including metabolic cart analysis of expired gases, finger prick blood collection and basic anthropometry.

**Additional information:**
Supervisor: Dr Zoe McKeough

Supervisor contact details: zoe.mckeough@sydney.edu.au

Is there a specific project available: No (your name and research interest will be made available to students)

Do you have a broad research topic for students to consider Research on the effects of rehabilitation in chronic lung disease including examination of sedentary behaviour and physical activity in people with COPD. We have various projects including the examination of long-term Tai Chi exercise, behavioural interventions to improve sedentary behaviour and relationships of objective and subjective measures of activity.

Project title:

Is this a project for students starting in 2017?

Research question:

Research topic: Research on the effects of rehabilitation in chronic lung disease including examination of sedentary behaviour and physical activity in people with COPD. We have various projects including the examination of long-term Tai Chi exercise, behavioural interventions to improve sedentary behaviour and relationships of objective and subjective measures of activity.

This project is appropriate for students in the following discipline(s):

- Bachelor of Applied Science (Physiotherapy) Honours

Research group type: Discipline based

University Profile: http://sydney.edu.au/health-sciences/about/people/profiles/zoe.mckeough.php

Primary research interests: Cardiopulmonary physiotherapy

Rehabilitation for people with respiratory disease

Name (s) of research team:

Aims and background

Proposed method of data collection:

Ethics approval needed? No

Ethics applied for?

Type of study:

Resources needed (all available):

Additional information: If you undertake an honours project with me - you will be introduced to the cardiopulmonary physiotherapy research team and have an opportunity to work closely with other hons students who are working with other cardiopulmonary physiotherapy academics.
Supervisor: Dr Zakia Hossain
Supervisor contact details: zakia.hossain@sydney.edu.au
Is there a specific project available: Yes
Do you have a broad research topic for students to consider Research in breast cancer, in particular women from Australian Aboriginal, Non-English speaking background women's health, Diabetes
Project title: Improving breast cancer screening among Australian Aboriginal women
Is this a project for students starting in 2017? Yes
Research question: 1. What factors affect Australian Aboriginal women's decision in breast cancer screening practices?
2. What are the barriers in utilization of clinical breast examination and breast self examination among the study population?
3. To what extent culture play significant role in the utilization of breast screening practices among these women?

Research topic: Research in breast cancer, in particular women from Australian Aboriginal, Non-English speaking background women's health, Diabetes
This project is appropriate for students in the following discipline(s):
· Bachelor of Health Sciences (Honours), Any discipline
Research group type: Research Group based
University Profile: http://sydney.edu.au/health-sciences/about/people/profiles/zakia.hossain.php
Primary research interests: Chronic disease- Breast cancer, Diabetes
Cross-cultural issues in health
migrant and socially disadvantaged groups
Asia Pacific region
Name (s) of research team: Dr Zakia Hossain
Professor Patrick Brennan
Dr Martin Mackey

Aims and background
"Whilst survival rates for women diagnosed with breast cancer have improved considerably since the 1980s, research shows that survival is lower in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women diagnosed with breast cancer than in the general population. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women are much less likely to participate in breast screening than women in the general population"(Australian Government, 2016: 1)
The purpose of this study is to document the breast cancer screening both BSE (Breast self examination) and CBE (clinical breast Examination) and Mammography practices of a community sample of Australian Aboriginal women (AAW) living in Sydney Metropolitan area.

**Proposed method of data collection:** Indigenous women aged 35 years or over living in Sydney Metropolitan Area for more than one year will be recruited as eligible participants of the study. A total sample of 100 Australian Aboriginal women (AAW) will be recruited using convenience sample for the purpose of the study. The study will examine AAW’s knowledge and ever practice of breast self-exam (BSE); clinical breast examination including mammography and ultrasound. It will also examine barriers in utilization of BSE and CBE among the participants. Mixed methods will be utilised. Data will collected on participants’ socio-demographic background, access to and utilisation of health care services and health insurance status. A total N=100 will be recruited for the quantitative study and four focus group discussion will be carried out each consisting of 6-8 participants for the qualitative study.

**Ethics approval needed?** No

**Ethics applied for?** No

**Type of study:** Mixed methods

**Resources needed (all available):** Data will be collected from the external location including Aboriginal health Centers;

Space needs: On-campus work including data analysis can be conducted in computer lab (B112).

Budget: Funds available for the standard Honours project (app. $500) should suffice.

**Additional information:** A very similar project is been running for last four years on breast cancer screening practices among Non-English speaking women living in Sydney Metropolitan area. I have extensive experience on study women's health related research. Previously supervised student on Australian Aboriginal health related topic.
Supervisor: Doctor Zakia Hossain
Supervisor contact details: zakia.hossain@sydney.edu.au
Is there a specific project available: Yes
Do you have a broad research topic for students to consider Research in breast cancer, teenage reproductive health
Project title: Ethnic differences in breast cancer knowledge and screening practices among women living in Sydney
Is this a project for students starting in 2017? Yes
Research question: Research Question(s) and/or hypothesis:

1. What factors influence migrant women’s decision to carry out breast screening?
2. Is there any difference in the use of clinical breast examination among CALD-women?
3. Is ethnicity an important factor in determining breast screening practices?
4. What are the barriers in utilization of clinical breast examination, breast self examination and mammogram among the CALD-women?
5. To what extent religious and cultural values play significant role in the utilization of breast screening services among these women?
6. What are the barriers of utilisation in use of health care services among these women?

Research topic: Research in breast cancer, teenage reproductive health
This project is appropriate for students in the following discipline(s):
- Bachelor of Health Sciences (Honours), Bachelor of Applied Science (Exercise and Sport Science) Honours, Bachelor of Applied Science (Occupational Therapy) Honours, Bachelor of Applied Science (Physiotherapy) Honours, Bachelor of Applied Science (MRS) Diagnostic Radiography Honours

Research group type: Discipline based
University Profile: http://sydney.edu.au/health-sciences/about/people/profiles/zakia.hossain.php
Primary research interests: Chronic disease and disability, women's health, ethnicity, cross-cultural issues,
Name(s) of research team: Dr Ann Poulos, Dr Sarah Lewis

Aims and background
Ethnic differences in survival of breast cancer were reported in the USA study (Hunter 2000). Limited evidence suggests that people from NESB have lower than average rates of population in cancer screening in Australia (Weber, Banks, Smith, O’connell and Sitas, 2009). In New South Wales, 31 one per cent populations aged 45 years or older in 2006 were born outside Australia (ABS, 2006). However, little is known about the breast cancer screening practices among women from diverse ethnic groups
living in Sydney Metropolitan Area.

The aims of this study is to: 1. document the breast cancer screening including BSE (Breast self examination) and CBE (clinical breast Examination) and mammogram among women from culturally and linguistically diverse groups (CALD-women) living in Sydney Metropolitan area; 2. examine the impact of beliefs and cultural values on health care behavior of CALD women living in Sydney metropolitan area, particularly with regard to breast cancer screening;

**Proposed method of data collection:** A quantitative method will be used for the purpose of the study. CALD women aged 35 years or over living in SMA for more than one year will be recruited as eligible participants of the study. The study will examine CALD women’s knowledge and ever practice of breast self-exam (BSE); clinical breast examination and mammogram, It will also examine barriers in utilization of BSE, CBE and Mammogram among the participants. Survey will cover participants’ socio-demographic background, migration status, access to and utilisation of health care services and health insurance status, breast cancer knowledge, breast screening practices and utilisation of health care services.

**Study Design:** Cross-sectional study.

**Outcome measures:** Breast cancer screening practices.

**Criteria for inclusion:** CALD women aged 35 years or over living in Sydney Metropolitan area.

Source of subjects, method of recruitment, method of model validation: Migrant Resource centers; snowball sampling, and recruitment via flyers etc.

**Ethics approval needed?** No

**Ethics applied for?** Yes

**Type of study:** Quantitative

**Resources needed (all available):** none

**Additional information:** Project has got ethics clearance from the University of Sydney Human Research Ethics committee.
**Supervisor:** Dr Yu-Wei Chen

**Supervisor contact details:** yu-wei.chen@sydney.edu.au

**Is there a specific project available:** Yes

**Do you have a broad research topic for students to consider** Research in children with autism regarding their quality of social life

**Project title:** Quality of life and social participation of children with autism spectrum disorder: An experience sampling study

**Is this a project for students starting in 2017?** Yes

**Research question:** What is the relationship between everyday social participation and health-related quality of life in children with autism spectrum disorder (ASD)?

**Research topic:** Research in children with autism regarding their quality of social life

**This project is appropriate for students in the following discipline(s):**
- Bachelor of Applied Science (Occupational Therapy) Honours

**Research group type:** Discipline based


**Primary research interests:** Quality of social life in disability
- Ecological momentary assessment
- Paediatric occupational therapy

**Name (s) of research team:** Dr Yu-Wei Chen
- Prof Anita Bundy
- Dr Sarah Wilkes-Gillan

**Aims and background**

Meaningful social experiences promote mental health. We learned from previous work with adults with ASD that, they enjoy interacting with others; social interactions provoke anxiety and take their toll. Little is known about how similar the experiences of children with ASD are to those of adults. In addition, whether the everyday social participation influences health-related quality of life requires investigation. This project will advance knowledge regarding factors influencing quality of life and develop intervention addressing their needs and challenges in social participation.

**Proposed method of data collection:** The study is a part of a larger project which investigates everyday social participation and mental health of children with autism spectrum disorder compared with typically developing peers. The student who involves in this study will recruit 10 children with a formal diagnosis of ASD and 10 without disabilities. All the children will be aged between 10 and 12 years. Experience sampling method, an ecological momentary assessment, will be used to collect the data regarding time use in everyday life. The data will be incorporated in to the larger project and then analysed to answer the research questions.

**Ethics approval needed?** Yes
Ethics applied for? Yes

Type of study: Quantitative

Resources needed (all available):

Additional information: The larger project which investigates everyday social participation and mental health of children with autism spectrum disorder compared with typically developing peers has started in 2016. The project team includes researcher at the University of Sydney (Dr Chen, Prof Bundy) and Australian Catholic University (Dr Wilkes-Gillan). Dr Chen will be the primary supervisor. All the team members have profound experiences working with children with autism spectrum disorders.
**Supervisor:** Dr Tatjana Seizova-Cajic  
**Supervisor contact details:** tatjana.seizova-cajic@sydney.edu.au  
**Is there a specific project available:** Yes  
**Do you have a broad research topic for students to consider** Although specific projects are available, students are welcome to propose their own ideas concerning human senses (perception).  
**Project title:** Plasticity in somatosensory maps  
**Is this a project for students starting in 2017?** Yes  
**Research question:** Can short-term stimulation change perception of position on the skin of the hand?  
**Research topic:** Although specific projects are available, students are welcome to propose their own ideas concerning human senses (perception).  
**This project is appropriate for students in the following discipline(s):**  
- Bachelor of Health Sciences (Honours), Bachelor of Applied Science (Exercise and Sport Science) Honours, Bachelor of Applied Science (Occupational Therapy) Honours, Bachelor of Applied Science (Physiotherapy) Honours, Bachelor of Applied Science (Exercise Physiology) Honours  
**Research group type:** Discipline based  
**Primary research interests:** human senses; touch; proprioception; multisensory integration  
**Name (s) of research team:**  
**Aims and background**  
**BACKGROUND:**  
Plasticity in the nervous system can refer to functional or structural changes triggered by changes in external environment, learning experience or peripheral damage to the nerves. Contrary to assumptions that changes in the cortical network circuits are possible only during crucial periods of development, we now know that a fundamental feature of the brain is its capacity for plasticity, even in adults. One of the brain areas that is highly plastic is the primary somatosensory cortex. Our study investigates plasticity in conscious perception based on the processing in this part of the brain. We use short-term exposure ('learning') to motion patterns across the skin to influence WHERE on the skin we perceive the touch.  
**AIM:** We want to determine whether patterns of motion across the hand in which two patches of skin are always presented 'in reverse' will influence subsequent perception of their position.  
**SIGNIFICANCE:** This is basic research that contributes to the thorough understanding of the sense of touch. Knowledge of sensory systems allows us to treat or substitute sensory impairments, create virtual reality systems and mimic human senses in machines.
Proposed method of data collection: This is behavioural research conducted on healthy volunteers in a laboratory setting (sample size: 10-15). The method is experimental and participants' verbal reports indicating what they perceive are used as the outcome measure. This is quantitative research and statistics is used for data analysis. Summaries of qualitative data are also included in research reports.

Ethics approval needed? Yes
Ethics applied for? Yes
Type of study: Quantitative
Resources needed (all available): This research is conducted in the Touch, Proprioception and Vision laboratory at the Faculty of Health Sciences.

A stimulating glove to be used in this study is being developed by an Honours student in engineering (2016-17); pilot study can be done with the equipment that is already available.

Additional information: This project would likely best suit students with basic understanding of, and interest in neuroscience.
Supervisor: Dr Tatjana Seizova-Cajic
Supervisor contact details: tatjana.seizova-cajic@sydney.edu.au
Is there a specific project available: Yes
Do you have a broad research topic for students to consider Students interested in human senses (conscious perception) and factors that determine why we perceive things the way we do.
Project title: Perception of self-touch
Is this a project for students starting in 2017? Yes
Research question: Perceived self-touch and its relationship with perceived posture
Research topic: Students interested in human senses (conscious perception) and factors that determine why we perceive things the way we do.
This project is appropriate for students in the following discipline(s):
· Bachelor of Health Sciences (Honours), Bachelor of Applied Science (Exercise and Sport Science) Honours, Bachelor of Applied Science (Occupational Therapy) Honours, Bachelor of Applied Science (Physiotherapy) Honours
Research group type: Discipline based
University Profile: http://sydney.edu.au/health-sciences/about/people/profiles/tatjana.seizova-cajic.php
Primary research interests: human senses; touch; proprioception; multisensory integration
Name(s) of research team:
Aims and background
BACKGROUND: One of the most common forms of tactile stimulation we receive every day is self-touch, for example when the fingers on our two hands touch each other. There is no effort in this, but the process resulting in the feeling that we are touching our own body is more complicated than it seems. It depends on the precise timing of different sensory inputs and on our prior experience. Experience of self-touch is related to other seemingly simple experiences, including limb ownership (the feeling that our limbs are really ours, denied by some people with brain injury) and agency (the feeling that our actions are initiated by us and not by some external agent, which may be distorted in some people who therefore feel that ‘external force’ or ‘aliens’ move their limbs of apply other kinds of stimulation to their body).

Common experience of self-touch may create a bias to perceive as self-touch even those stimuli that do NOT represent self-touch -- in other words, to have an illusion of self-touch. Our previous research shows that such a bias exists: a prolonged touch of someone else’s hand may result in an ILLUSORY percept that our own hands are touching each other.

AIM: The objective of the present study is to explore the conditions under which this illusion develops and when it breaks down. Specifically, we want to determine whether symmetry in hand configurations affects the illusion and how far apart hands need to be for the illusion to break down.
SIGNIFICANCE: This is basic research that contributes to the thorough understanding of sensory mechanisms. Knowledge of sensory systems allows us to treat or substitute sensory impairments, create virtual reality systems and mimic human senses in machines.

**Proposed method of data collection:** This is behavioural research conducted on healthy volunteers in a laboratory setting (sample size: 10-15). The method is experimental and participants verbal reports indicating what they perceive are used as the outcome measure. This is quantitative research and statistics is used for data analysis. Summaries of qualitative data are also included in research reports.

An interested student would contribute to development of study design, collect data and help with simple aspects of data analysis.

**Ethics approval needed?** Yes  
**Ethics applied for?** Yes  
**Type of study:** Quantitative  
**Resources needed (all available):** This research is conducted in the Touch, Proprioception and Vision laboratory at the Faculty of Health Sciences.  
**Additional information:** Students with basic understanding of neuroscience would have an advantage.
Supervisor: Dr Natalie Allen
Supervisor contact details: natalie.allen@sydney.edu.au

Is there a specific project available: No (your name and research interest will be made available to students)

Do you have a broad research topic for students to consider: Research in exercise interventions for people with PD, particularly in the areas of pain management and falls prevention. Open to student suggestions

Project title:

Is this a project for students starting in 2017?

Research question:

Research topic: Research in exercise interventions for people with PD, particularly in the areas of pain management and falls prevention. Open to student suggestions

This project is appropriate for students in the following discipline(s):
- Bachelor of Applied Science (Physiotherapy) Honours

Research group type: Discipline based

University Profile: http://sydney.edu.au/health-sciences/about/people/profiles/natalie.allen.php

Primary research interests: Exercise interventions for people with Parkinson's disease - descriptive studies, randomised controlled trials, systematic reviews

Name (s) of research team:

Aims and background

Proposed method of data collection:

Ethics approval needed? N/A

Ethics applied for?

Type of study:

Resources needed (all available):

Additional information:
Supervisor: Dr Meryl Lovarini
Supervisor contact details: meryl.lovarini@sydney.edu.au

Is there a specific project available: Yes

Do you have a broad research topic for students to consider: This project will focus on the use of virtual technologies in residential aged care.

Project title: The use of virtual technologies in residential aged care settings for improving health, participation and quality of life.

Is this a project for students starting in 2017? Yes

Research question: To be discussed with the student.

Research topic: This project will focus on the use of virtual technologies in residential aged care.

This project is appropriate for students in the following discipline(s):

· Bachelor of Applied Science (Occupational Therapy) Honours

Research group type: Discipline based


Primary research interests: Technology use by occupational therapists and their clients to enhance health outcomes.

Name(s) of research team: Dr Meryl Lovarini
Dr Sanet du Toit

Aims and background

To be discussed with the student.

Proposed method of data collection: Scoping review methodology.

Ethics approval needed? No

Ethics applied for? N/A

Type of study: Mixed methods

Resources needed (all available): Nil specific at this stage.

Additional information: I am happy to meet with interested students to discuss this project opportunity.
Supervisor: Dr Merrolee Penman

Supervisor contact details: merrolee.penman@sydney.edu.au

Is there a specific project available: Yes

Do you have a broad research topic for students to consider: Evaluating simulated learning from supervisor/student perspectives

Project title: Using conversational and content analysis to shed light on what happens during group supervision in simulated placements/fieldwork.

Is this a project for students starting in 2017? Yes

Research question: Our broad research question is:

What are the characteristics of the interactions between SIM facilitators/educators and students in group supervision?

Research topic: Evaluating simulated learning from supervisor/student perspectives

This project is appropriate for students in the following discipline(s):

- Bachelor of Applied Science (Occupational Therapy) Honours, Bachelor of Applied Science (Speech Pathology) Honours

Research group type: Research Group based

University Profile: http://sydney.edu.au/health-sciences/about/people/profiles/merrolee.penman.php

Primary research interests: clinical education
clinical reasoning
simulation

Name(s) of research team: Dr Jennie Brentnall
Dr Merrolee Penman
Robyn Johnson
Dr Belinda Kenny

Aims and background

Adoption of simulation as preparation for clinical education/fieldwork placements is increasingly becoming part of allied health student curricula. At the University of Sydney, simulation has been a core component of undergraduate and masters curricula since 2014 for occupational therapy and for speech pathology since 2016. Alongside the implementation, academics across both disciplines have introduced a stream of research aimed at investigating both processes used to enabling quality student learning, and the outcomes achieved.

This study will be part of the stream investigating the processes used to enable quality student learning,
in particular the debriefing that follows client encounters in simulation. Debriefing is known to be a
essential part of simulation with current research focusing primarily on the content and impact on student
learning. However, there is very little that focuses on the interactions occurring between
facilitator/educator and students and how this dynamic might influence student outcomes.

In 2017/18, both occupational therapy and speech pathology disciplines will schedule simulation as part
of the curriculum. The team sees an opportunity for both a speech pathology student and occupational
therapy student to work in a collaborative team with the researchers to complete a conversational and
content analysis of student groups of both disciplines. Equally one or other component (i.e.
conversational or content analysis) could be completed by one student according to their discipline.

**Proposed method of data collection:** This study will follow a mixed methodology using videos/voice
recordings of debriefs following a simulated learning experience. Each discipline has multiple students
groups engaged in multiple simulated client encounters from which the sampling will be determined
based on the research design. For example, you might take recordings of 20 minute debriefing sessions
at 2 to 3 points across the simulated placement, for 2 - 4 groups of students. Analysis will follow
conventions for conversational analysis of the interactions, and thematic analysis of the content.

**Ethics approval needed?** Yes

**Ethics applied for?** No

**Type of study:** Mixed methods

**Resources needed (all available):** no specific requirements

**Additional information:** The team sees an opportunity for both a speech pathology student and
occupational therapy student to work in a collaborative team with supervisors from both disciplines. The
research team is drawn from WIL Academics who work together across a range of projects on day to day
basis. Interprofessional learning is one of our key values. Team members are experienced in the use of
mixed methods, content analysis, conversational analysis and in collaborative supervision.
Supervisor: Dr Kate Thomson
Supervisor contact details: kate.thomson@sydney.edu.au

Is there a specific project available: Yes
Do you have a broad research topic for students to consider? Investigate the use of discussion boards for learning, for example, do they facilitate reflection?
I have broad interests and I'm very open to negotiating a topic with students

Project title:
Is this a project for students starting in 2017? Yes

Research question:
Research topic: Investigate the use of discussion boards for learning, for example, do they facilitate reflection?
I have broad interests and I'm very open to negotiating a topic with students

This project is appropriate for students in the following discipline(s):
- Any discipline

Research group type: Research Group based

University Profile: http://sydney.edu.au/health-sciences/about/people/profiles/kate.thomson.php

Primary research interests: Informal learning
Scholarship of teaching and learning
Student feedback and quality improvement
Work integrated learning
Higher education

Name (s) of research team:

Aims and background

Proposed method of data collection:

Ethics approval needed? Yes
Ethics applied for? No

Type of study: Mixed methods

Resources needed (all available):

Additional information:
**Supervisor:** Dr Kate Edwards  
**Supervisor contact details:** kate.edwards@sydney.edu.au  
**Is there a specific project available:** Yes  
**Do you have a broad research topic for students to consider**  
**Project title:** Yoga as a prophylactic for stress: examination of effects for protection from cardiovascular disease  
**Is this a project for students starting in 2017?** Yes  
**Research question:** Does a single session of Yoga change the responses to stress in a population at-risk for CVD?  
**Research topic:**  
This project is appropriate for students in the following discipline(s):  
- Bachelor of Health Sciences (Honours), Bachelor of Applied Science (Exercise and Sport Science) Honours, Bachelor of Applied Science (Exercise Physiology) Honours  
**Research group type:** Discipline based  
**Primary research interests:** Exercise immunology, stress physiology  
**Name(s) of research team:** Dr Kate Edwards, Dr Melody Ding,  
**Aims and background**  
Yoga is a mind-body practice which is often used to reduce stress in modern life. The way that yoga reduces stress isn’t well understood, and it’s important to unravel the effect so that the best recommendations for use are possible. We recently found that young healthy adults showed a reduced stress response to a maths task if they completed a yoga session immediately beforehand. This project plans to explore if this immediate anti-stress effect of yoga can work in populations who are at risk of cardiovascular disease (e.g. have high blood pressure) or during times of very high stress (e.g. during exams for students).  
**Proposed method of data collection:** Randomised crossover trial in participants (N=24) with elevated blood pressure (SBP130-150mmHg, DBP 80-100mmHg, High-normal and Grade 1 hypertension), without any other CVD risk factor (according to ACSM guidelines). On the first day of testing, participants will be randomly assigned to complete either the control condition (watching TV) or the Yoga session (delivered by CIB). All subjects will be their own control, hence those who have watched TV during the first day of experiment will participate in Yoga on the second day of experiment, and vice-versa. Study trials will be separated by a minimum of 48 hours and all trials will be completed during the afternoon to control for the known diurnal variation in cortisol. During each day of testing, participants will first rest for 15 minutes before undergoing the assigned condition (control or Yoga). After the 30-minute task, participants will undergo a math task to induce stress reactivity and, afterwards, will recover from the task during 30 minutes. Measurements of cardiovascular reactivity will be measured throughout the period (heart rate,
heart rate variability, blood pressure); in addition salivary samples will be taken at intervals to assess the hypothalamic-pituitary adrenal (HPA) response (cortisol) and salivary pH as a marker of sympathetic and parasympathetic balance. In addition to demographic and trait psychological measures, participants will give self-reported mood and state cognitive, somatic anxiety and self-confidence assessments pre and post stress tasks.

**Ethics approval needed?** Yes

**Ethics applied for?** No

**Type of study:** Quantitative

**Resources needed (all available):**

**Additional information:**
**Supervisor:** Dr Belinda Kenny  
**Supervisor contact details:** belinda.kenny@sydney.edu.au  
**Is there a specific project available:** Yes  
**Do you have a broad research topic for students to consider** Our research team is interested in exploring interdisciplinary practice during clinical placements. The Work Integrated Learning team, will subsequently offer student placements to University of Sydney. This topic is well suited to interdisciplinary, peer learning opportunities and the scope of the project may be adapted for students from one or more disciplines. Interested students are encouraged to contact the research team for further information.  
**Project title:** Interprofessional Learning Resources: Do they add value to students’ informal learning opportunities?  
**Is this a project for students starting in 2017?** Yes  
**Research question:** What is the nature of students’ IPL learning experiences when they engage in structured IPL activities during clinical placements? What positive IPL outcomes are associated with the use of structured IPL resources during clinical placements?  
**Research topic:** Our research team is interested in exploring interdisciplinary practice during clinical placements. The Work Integrated Learning team, will subsequently offer student placements to University of Sydney. This topic is well suited to interdisciplinary, peer learning opportunities and the scope of the project may be adapted for students from one or more disciplines. Interested students are encouraged to contact the research team for further information.  
**This project is appropriate for students in the following discipline(s):**  
- Any discipline  
**Research group type:** Research Group based  
**Primary research interests:** Ethical and clinical reasoning  
Clinical education  
Interdisciplinary practice  
Communication and swallowing disorders in adults  
**Name(s) of research team:** Belinda Kenny  
Gillian Nisbet  
Robyn Johnson

Aims and background
Interprofessional learning (IPL) on placement gives students an experiential basis for developing skills for collaborative, client centred care in the professional workplace. Typically, IPL learning occurs informally when students observe or interact with professionals who are managing clients the students are treating. A recent study by Zhao, Nagarayan & Nisbett, 2015 indicated that students perceive such IPL activities lead to improved insights into the roles and responsibilities of team members and more effective communication skills.

This project aims to evaluate an innovative IPL resource package developed to provide students and clinical educators with tools to enhance informal interprofessional learning opportunities that naturally occur in health care workplaces. The Interprofessional Learning Resources for Students and their Supervisors for use in Placement Settings resource provides five structured IPL activities graded from less difficult (observation) to more difficult (communication). The resources were informed by IPL competencies and developed in collaboration with educators and students. During this study, the resources will be applied in clinical education settings to investigate students’ perceived benefits of the resources and suggestions for further development.

Proposed method of data collection: A qualitative descriptive research approach will be used to evaluate the application of IPL resources during clinical placements. Purposive sampling will recruit students who are allocated clinical placements from external sites that are collaborating in Capacity Development Facilitation with Work Integrated Learning, the University of Sydney. IPL resources will be introduced during student tutorials. Following completion of the IPL activities, students who agreed to participate in the study will attend a focus group to explore their learning experiences. Focus group data will be transcribed and thematically analysed to reflect students’ perceptions of the effectiveness of the tools in facilitating learning opportunities, confidence and skills in IPL. Findings will support the continuing development of IPL resources for students.

Ethics approval needed? Yes
Ethics applied for? No
Type of study: Qualitative
Resources needed (all available):
Additional information: We are an interdisciplinary project team with experience supervising Higher Degree Research and honours students and research interests in IPL.
**Supervisor:** Dr Belinda Kenny  
**Supervisor contact details:** belinda.kenny@sydney.edu.au

**Is there a specific project available:** Yes

**Do you have a broad research topic for students to consider** Our research team is interested in exploring the outcomes of interdisciplinary clinical education workshops. In particular, we wish to understand to what extent clinical educators who attend our workshops apply key workshop concepts consistent with quality learning experiences for students. A single project has been proposed but this topic is well suited to peer learning opportunities. Our interdisciplinary team of supervisors could support more than one student working together on related projects exploring different aspects of quality outcomes in clinical education. Interested students are encouraged to contact the research team for further information.

**Project title:** Educating our Educators: Quality outcomes from interdisciplinary clinical education workshops.

**Is this a project for students starting in 2017?** Yes

**Research question:** What are the outcomes of participation in interdisciplinary clinical education outcomes?

Individual research projects may address one or more of the following questions:

1) What do clinical educators learn when they attend interdisciplinary workshops? For example, what do participants identify as key take-home strategies recorded after completing the workshop, and do they implement these strategies in the following months.

2) What are the enablers and barriers to workshop participants applying what they learned in the workshop to their clinical settings? For example, the implementation of peer learning and/or interdisciplinary learning opportunities for students in different clinical settings.

3) How has workshop participation changed clinical educators’ management of student placements? For example, how does the clinical educator plan, manage and evaluate the quality of student placements at his/her site?

**Research topic:** Our research team is interested in exploring the outcomes of interdisciplinary clinical education workshops. In particular, we wish to understand to what extent clinical educators who attend our workshops apply key workshop concepts consistent with quality learning experiences for students. A single project has been proposed but this topic is well suited to peer learning opportunities. Our interdisciplinary team of supervisors could support more than one student working together on related projects exploring different aspects of quality outcomes in clinical education. Interested students are encouraged to contact the research team for further information.

**This project is appropriate for students in the following discipline(s):**

- Any discipline
Research group type: Research Group based


**Primary research interests:** Ethical and clinical reasoning
Clinical education
Communication and swallowing disorders in adults
Interdisciplinary practice

**Name (s) of research team:** Belinda Kenny
Madelyn Nicole
Jennie Brentnall
Kate Thomson

**Aims and background**
Through clinical and fieldwork placements students develop the competent skills and attributes necessary for working in diverse health care settings. Students’ learning occurs under the guidance of clinical educators at external sites. Hence, students’ learning is impacted by the nature of experiences provided by clinical educators. To facilitate quality of clinical education experiences, the Work Integrated Learning (WIL) team provide regular interdisciplinary clinical education workshops. These workshops provide participants with knowledge of evidence based approaches to clinical education and opportunities to discuss, practice and reflect upon skills they may apply in future placements. The workshops are well-subscribed and have received high participant post-workshop satisfaction ratings. However, the translation of workshop learning to quality student placement experiences has received limited empirical attention. This project aims to explore the learning clinical educators who attend interdisciplinary clinical education workshops apply in their own workplaces in the following months.

**Proposed method of data collection:** The project aim and research questions will be addressed using a mixed methods or qualitative descriptive research approach (the team have experience in both and the selection will be guided by the questions of the interested student/s). Interdisciplinary health care professionals will be invited to participate in the study when they register to attend a WIL clinical education workshop. Workshops are conducted at least twice per semester with approx. 40-80 participants enrolled in each workshop. Participants vary in their personal demographics, clinical and clinical education experience, and clinical setting features.

At the completion of the workshop, each participant completes a workshop evaluation including the identification of up to five concepts or strategies that they plan to apply during future clinical education placements. These data can be thematically analysed to provide short term quality outcomes. Follow-up
over a period of 3-6 months can then be designed according to the selected research questions (e.g., qualitative descriptive study with interviews and/or focus groups, action research study, evaluation study). Findings may be related to participant characteristics as relevant to the methodology (e.g., correlations in a mixed-methods study).

**Ethics approval needed?** Yes

**Ethics applied for?** No

**Type of study:** Mixed methods

**Resources needed (all available):**

**Additional information:** We are an interdisciplinary project team with experience supervising Higher Degree Research and honours students and research interests in quality clinical education. We have experience in a range of evaluation and research methodologies.
Supervisor: Dr Andy Smidt

Supervisor contact details: andy.smidt@sydney.edu.au

Is there a specific project available: Yes

Do you have a broad research topic for students to consider

Project title: Supporting young adults with sensory stimulatory behaviours to connect with others

Is this a project for students starting in 2017? Yes

Research question: Can provision of an individual sensory profile increase engagement and decrease challenging behaviour for students with severe intellectual disabilities?

Research topic:

This project is appropriate for students in the following discipline(s):

- Bachelor of Applied Science (Speech Pathology) Honours

Research group type: Discipline based

University Profile: http://sydney.edu.au/health-sciences/about/people/profiles/andy.smidt.php

Primary research interests: Adults and children with developmental disabilities

AAC

Challenging behaviour

Staff training

Name(s) of research team: Andy Smidt

Mark Carter (Macquarie University)

Jennifer Stephenson (Macquarie University)

Aims and background

See work by Karen Bunning for a description of ISE. Our intention is to create a personalised sensory profile for students, and train teachers and classroom assistants to use this with students to increase engagement and decrease challenging behaviour.

Proposed method of data collection: Single Subject Experimental design

Ethics approval needed? Yes

Ethics applied for? No

Type of study: Mixed methods

Resources needed (all available):

Additional information: This is an exciting new collaboration between Dr Andy Smidt who is a speech pathologist at Sydney university with Dr Mark Carter and Dr Jennifer Stephenson who are part of MUSEC at Macquarie University. Between us we have good relationships with a number of SSP (schools) and our aim is to trial this approach to collect data on what is already a valued intervention approach for young adults with complex needs.
Between us, we have a good deal of expertise and experience and we are excited to be bringing special needs teachers and speech pathologists together for this research. We have some idea about what we want to achieve but we are open to input and discussion with the student who takes on this project. We are able to take one or two students on this project for 2017-18.
Supervisor: Dr Andy Smidt
Supervisor contact details: andy.smidt@sydney.edu.au
Is there a specific project available: Yes
Do you have a broad research topic for students to consider: This project will look at using iPads in classrooms for students with severe intellectual disabilities. It will build on the work of Jennifer Stephenson (2016 paper) and will involve replicating this project with other students using a Single Subject Experimental design. This project will develop from discussions between the student and the supervisory team.

Project title:
Is this a project for students starting in 2017? Yes
Research question:
Research topic: This project will look at using iPads in classrooms for students with severe intellectual disabilities. It will build on the work of Jennifer Stephenson (2016 paper) and will involve replicating this project with other students using a Single Subject Experimental design. This project will develop from discussions between the student and the supervisory team.

This project is appropriate for students in the following discipline(s):
· Bachelor of Applied Science (Exercise Physiology) Honours

Research group type: Discipline based
University Profile: http://sydney.edu.au/health-sciences/about/people/profiles/andy.smidt.php
Primary research interests: Adults and children with developmental disabilities
AAC
Challenging behaviour
Staff training

Name(s) of research team: Dr Andy Smidt
Dr Mark Carter (Macquarie Uni)
Dr Jennifer Stephenson (Macquarie Uni)

Aims and background
See 2016 paper by Jennifer Stephenson "Using the Choiceboard CreatorTM app on an iPad© to teach choice making to a student with severe disabilities". The plan is to replicate this study with other students to provide more evidence than this single case study does.

Proposed method of data collection: Multiple baseline design.

Ethics approval needed? Yes
Ethics applied for? No
Type of study: Quantitative
Resources needed (all available):

Additional information: This is an exciting new collaboration between Dr Andy Smidt who is a speech pathologist at Sydney university with Dr Mark Carter and Dr Jennifer Stephenson who are part of MUSEC at Macquarie University. Between us we have good relationships with a number of SSP (schools) and our aim is to replicate the work of Stephenson.
Supervisor: Doctor Zakia Hossain

Supervisor contact details: zakia.hossain@sydney.edu.au

Is there a specific project available: Yes

Do you have a broad research topic for students to consider
Breast cancer, Chronic disease and disability
ethnicity and cross-cultural issues

Project title: Muslim migrant women's breast cancer screening project in Sydney

Is this a project for students starting in 2017? Yes

Research question: What factors influence a Muslim women’s decision to carry out breast screening?
Do the levels of clinical breast examination use and breast screening participation rates differ based on the level of Islamic practice among Muslim women?
What are the barriers in utilization of clinical breast examination, mammography and breast self examination among the study population?
To what extent does religion play the significant role in the use of breast screening practices among these women?
What ways are screening practices of Muslim women influenced by difficulties in understanding health material?

Research topic: Breast cancer,
Chronic disease and disability
ethnicity and cross-cultural issues

This project is appropriate for students in the following discipline(s):
· Bachelor of Health Sciences (Honours), Bachelor of Applied Science (Exercise and Sport Science) Honours, Bachelor of Applied Science (Occupational Therapy) Honours, Bachelor of Applied Science (MRS) Diagnostic Radiography Honours, Bachelor of Applied Science (Speech Pathology) Honours

Research group type: Research Group based

University Profile: http://sydney.edu.au/health-sciences/about/people/profiles/zakia.hossain.php

Primary research interests: Health sociology,
women's health,
breast cancer,
Chronic disease and disability (i.e, diabetes)
disadvantaged groups and health (indigenous health)
etnicity and cross-cultural issue in health
health service provision and utilisation

Name (s) of research team: Professor Patrick Brennan, Dr Martin Mackey, Dr Sarah Lewis
Aim is to examine breast screening knowledge and participation rates among the Muslim ethnic group living in Sydney Metropolitan Area. Breast screening practices include breast self-exam, clinical breast examination such as mammogram, ultrasound and fine needle biopsy.

Proposed method of data collection: This is a cross-sectional study based on quantitative method. Participants eligible for the study include Muslim – born women of ethnic background in the Sydney Metropolitan area, of age 35 -50. Converted Muslims are not included in this study. Women, who ever diagnosed with breast cancer and are undergoing treatment, are not included in this study.

Convenient sampling technique will be used in order to collect data from specific ethnic Muslim groups including Arabic, Middle East, African, Arabic, Bengali and Malaysian communities.

Ethics approval needed? No

Ethics applied for? Yes

Type of study: Quantitative

Resources needed (all available): None

Additional information: The current project is to collect more data and make a comparative analysis between Muslim women from different part of Asia, Middle East regions. This will provide understanding of religious and cultural variations in breast screening practices among the selected women.
**Supervisor:** Doctor Nicola Hancock  
**Supervisor contact details:** nicola.hancock@sydney.edu.au  
**Is there a specific project available:** Yes  
**Do you have a broad research topic for students to consider** Qualitative exploration of the critical elements of recovery for people living with and recovering from mental illness. Specific project focus will be negotiated with successful student.  
Will involve semi-structured interviews with people living with mental illness in the community.  
Thematic analysis of interview data.  
**Project title:**  
**Is this a project for students starting in 2017?** Yes  
**Research question:**  
**Research topic:** Qualitative exploration of the critical elements of recovery for people living with and recovering from mental illness. Specific project focus will be negotiated with successful student.  
Will involve semi-structured interviews with people living with mental illness in the community.  
Thematic analysis of interview data.  
**This project is appropriate for students in the following discipline(s):**  
- Bachelor of Applied Science (Occupational Therapy) Honours  
**Research group type:** Discipline based  
**Primary research interests:** Mental health recovery and recovery-oriented practice; mental health service evaluation; engaging mental health consumers in co-production research, qualitative methods  
**Name(s) of research team:**  
**Aims and background**  
**Proposed method of data collection:**  
**Ethics approval needed?** Yes  
**Ethics applied for?** No  
**Type of study:** Qualitative  
**Resources needed (all available):**  
**Additional information:** The mental health research team in the Discipline of Occupational Therapy are running a number of related projects. We would rather meet with students and discuss a match between their and our interests.
Supervisor: Doctor Merrolee Penman
Supervisor contact details: merrolee.penman@sydney.edu.au
Is there a specific project available: Yes

Do you have a broad research topic for students to consider: A comparison of how supervising occupational therapists use the electronic SPEF-R (fieldwork evaluation) versus the paper version. Research in this area will contribute to demonstrating the validity of the evaluation tool.

Project title:
Is this a project for students starting in 2017? No

Research question:
Research topic: A comparison of how supervising occupational therapists use the electronic SPEF-R (fieldwork evaluation) versus the paper version. Research in this area will contribute to demonstrating the validity of the evaluation tool.

This project is appropriate for students in the following discipline(s):
- Bachelor of Health Sciences (Honours), Bachelor of Applied Science (Occupational Therapy) Honours

Research group type: Discipline based

University Profile: http://sydney.edu.au/health-sciences/about/people/profiles/merrolee.penman.php

Primary research interests: I am interested in research in work integrated learning, reflective practice, metacognition in allied health, learning styles, self-directed learning

Name(s) of research team:

Aims and background

Proposed method of data collection:

Ethics approval needed? Yes

Ethics applied for? No

Type of study: Mixed methods

Resources needed (all available): No specific requirements required. Students will be able to access all files electronically

Additional information: The University of Sydney has used the paper version of the SPEF-R since its development. We plan to move to the eSPEF-R version in 2015 when licensing agreements have been made. Currently the ways in which therapists complete the SPEF-R can vary enormously. The SPEF-R provides an electronic comment bank that can be adjusted by the supervisor. We are interested in evaluating whether with the use of the eSPEF-R whether supervisors continue to provide similar
comments, or whether the quality of comments changes in some way. We are also interested in understanding how having electronic comment banks may aid supervisors in completing the SPEF-R.
Supervisor: Doctor Maree Milross and Doctor Tiffany Dwyer

Supervisor contact details: maree.milross@sydney.edu.au and tiffany.dwyer@sydney.edu.au

Is there a specific project available: Yes

Do you have a broad research topic for students to consider investigations into a new quality of life questionnaire in adults with non-cystic fibrosis bronchiectasis - validation, comparison to other questionnaires and clinical correlates, sensitivity to change

Project title: Investigations of the QOL-B (quality of life in bronchiectasis) in adults with non-cystic fibrosis bronchiectasis

Is this a project for students starting in 2017? Yes

Research question:

Research topic: investigations into a new quality of life questionnaire in adults with non-cystic fibrosis bronchiectasis - validation, comparison to other questionnaires and clinical correlates, sensitivity to change

This project is appropriate for students in the following discipline(s):

- Bachelor of Applied Science (Physiotherapy) Honours

Research group type: Research Group based


Primary research interests: respiratory medicine; exercise; airway clearance; cystic fibrosis and bronchiectasis; respiratory failure; non-invasive ventilation; hypertonic saline

Name(s) of research team: Clinical and Rehab Sciences

Aims and background

Proposed method of data collection:

Ethics approval needed? Yes

Ethics applied for? No

Type of study: Mixed methods

Resources needed (all available):

Additional information:
Supervisor: Doctor Kate Edwards

Supervisor contact details: kate.edwards@sydney.edu.au

Is there a specific project available: Yes

Do you have a broad research topic for students to consider

Project title: Exercise is medicine in multiple myeloma (MM)

Is this a project for students starting in 2017? No

Research question: Can an exercise intervention can improve prognosis in MM patients?

Research topic:

This project is appropriate for students in the following discipline(s):
· Bachelor of Applied Science (Exercise and Sport Science) Honours, Bachelor of Applied Science (Physiotherapy) Honours, Bachelor of Applied Science (Exercise Physiology) Honours

Research group type: Research Group based

University Profile: http://sydney.edu.au/health-sciences/about/people/profiles/kate.edwards.php

Primary research interests: Exercise immunology, stress physiology

Name(s) of research team: Michael Marthick, Dr John Cambell, Prof Doug Joshua

Aims and background

A common co-morbidity caused by MM and exacerbated by anti-MM therapy is profound immuno-suppression which gives rise to recurrent serious infections. Administration of influenza, pneumococcal and other vaccines is recommended, however, vaccine efficacy in MM is extremely poor, thus compounding infection risk in this patient group. A number of studies have demonstrated that exercise can be used as an adjuvant to the immune system. Using a human vaccination model, it was found that exercise may augment immune-competence and enhance vaccine responses. Such improvement may lead to a direct reduction in rates of rates of infection-associated hospital visits, infection-related deaths and infection-induced inflammation leading to MM tumour relapse.

Proposed method of data collection: MM (N=20) patients diagnosed at the Sydney Cancer Centre, Royal Prince Alfred Hospital (RPAH) will be recruited via referral to Exercise Physiology (Michael Marthick at the Chris O'Brien Lifehouse). Ex group participants will attend the Lifehouse EP unit for initial exercise induction and exercise capacity test, enabling personalised prescription. To ensure suitability and promote adherence, each participant will be given a program based on their cardiopulmonary fitness and exercise capacity for a period of 12 weeks. Patients will receive vaccinations (pneumococcus) after undertaking a supervised aerobic and resistance exercise session. Serum biomarkers of myeloma (IgG, IgA, IgM and serum FLC) will be assessed before during and after exercise intervention, and peak antibody responses will be measured in serum.

Ethics approval needed? Yes

Ethics applied for? No
Type of study: Quantitative
Resources needed (all available):
Additional information:
Supervisor: Doctor Kate Edwards

Supervisor contact details: kate.edwards@sydney.edu.au

Is there a specific project available: Yes

Do you have a broad research topic for students to consider Research in effects of exercise on immune function.

Relationships between stress behaviour and health.

Project title: Aerobic exercise during chemotherapy infusion

Is this a project for students starting in 2017? No

Research question: Can aerobic exercise be used by patients during chemotherapy infusion prior to surgical removal of tumour?

Research topic: Research in effects of exercise on immune function.

Relationships between stress behaviour and health.

This project is appropriate for students in the following discipline(s):

- Bachelor of Applied Science (Exercise and Sport Science) Honours, Bachelor of Applied Science (Physiotherapy) Honours, Bachelor of Applied Science (Exercise Physiology) Honours

Research group type: Research Group based

University Profile: http://sydney.edu.au/health-sciences/about/people/profiles/kate.edwards.php

Primary research interests: Exercise immunology, stress physiology

Name(s) of research team: Michael Marthick, Dr John Cambell, Prof Doug Joshua

Aims and background

Aerobic exercise has historically been used by dialysis patients during infusion and has been found to improve aerobic endurance, muscular strength, quality of life and dialysis efficiency. Recent animal and human data suggest that aerobic exercise during infusion may increase blood flow to a tumour, and therefore increase drug delivery to a tumour. In addition, exercise may attenuate the hypoxic tumour microenvironments that are associated with conventional anticancer treatment failures.

Proposed method of data collection: In this initial feasibility study it is proposed that ten neo-adjuvant chemotherapy patients complete stationary cycling at 40-70% VO2peak for 20-40 minutes (in a graded program) during infusion. Data collection will focus on exercise tolerability for patients during infusion, chemotherapy completion rate, and changes in aerobic fitness and fatigue during therapy. Patients will be referred to Michael Marthick, Exercise Physiologist at the Chris O'Brien Lifehouse.

Ethics approval needed? Yes

Ethics applied for? No

Type of study: Quantitative

Resources needed (all available):
Supervisor: Doctor Grace Spencer

Supervisor contact details: grace.spencer@sydney.edu.au

Is there a specific project available: No

Do you have a broad research topic for students to consider? Research on young people's health, health practices and health promotion

Project title:

Is this a project for students starting in 2017?

Research question:

Research topic: Research on young people’s health, health practices and health promotion

This project is appropriate for students in the following discipline(s):

- Any discipline

Research group type: Discipline based


Primary research interests: Health promotion

- Children and young people’s health
- Health practices and behaviours
- Empowerment
- Social determinants of health - gender, social position, socio-environment
- Qualitative research

Name(s) of research team:

Aims and background

Proposed method of data collection:

Ethics approval needed? N/A

Ethics applied for?

Type of study:

Resources needed (all available):

Additional information:
**Supervisor:** Doctor Alycia Fong Yan  
**Supervisor contact details:** alycia.fongyan@sydney.edu.au  
**Is there a specific project available:** Yes  
**Do you have a broad research topic for students to consider** Research integrating novel exercise delivery in chronic disease population but open to student suggestions  
**Project title:** Validation of musculoskeletal assessment tools  
**Is this a project for students starting in 2017?** No  
**Research question:** How many musculoskeletal assessment tools are available to assess lower limb function and core stability?  
  How valid are these assessment tools?  
  What are the normative values for different population groups?  
**Research topic:** Research integrating novel exercise delivery in chronic disease population but open to student suggestions  
**This project is appropriate for students in the following discipline(s):**  
  - Any discipline  
**Research group type:** Research Group based  
**Primary research interests:** Dance  
  Biomechanics  
  Musculoskeletal mechanics and injury prevention  
**Name(s) of research team:** Evangelos Pappas, Claire Hiller  
**Aims and background**  
Aim: To assess the validity of various musculoskeletal assessment tools for the lower limb and core stability.  
Specificity and validity of musculoskeletal assessment tools are important aspects to consider when selecting the right tool for a client. New or modified assessments have not been thoroughly investigated for use in different population groups, and clinicians need to reliably implement the assessment tools appropriately. The purpose of this project is to establish normative values across different population groups, investigate the construct validity, specificity, and accuracy of the tests.  
**Proposed method of data collection:**  
**Ethics approval needed?** Yes  
**Ethics applied for?** No  
**Type of study:** Quantitative  
**Resources needed (all available):**  
**Additional information:**
Supervisor: Doctor Alycia Fong Yan
Supervisor contact details: alycia.fongyan@sydney.edu.au
Is there a specific project available: Yes
Do you have a broad research topic for students to consider: Research integrating novel exercise delivery in chronic disease population but open to student suggestions
Project title: Validation of musculoskeletal assessment tools
Is this a project for students starting in 2017? No
Research question: How many musculoskeletal assessment tools are available to assess lower limb function and/ core stability?
  How valid are these assessment tools?
  What are the normative values for different population groups?
Research topic: Research integrating novel exercise delivery in chronic disease population but open to student suggestions
This project is appropriate for students in the following discipline(s):
  · Any discipline
Research group type: Research Group based
University Profile: http://sydney.edu.au/health-sciences/about/people/profiles/alycia.fongyan.php
Primary research interests: Dance
  Biomechanics
  Musculoskeletal mechanics and injury prevention
Name(s) of research team: Evangelos Pappas, Claire Hiller
Aims and background
Aim: To assess the validity of various musculoskeletal assessment tools for the lower limb and core stability.
  Specificity and validity of musculoskeletal assessment tools are important aspects to consider when selecting the right tool for a client. New or modified assessments have not been thoroughly investigated for use in different population groups, and clinicians need to reliably implement the assessment tools appropriately. The purpose of this project is to establish normative values across different population groups, investigate the construct validity, specificity, and accuracy of the tests.
Proposed method of data collection:
Ethics approval needed? Yes
Ethics applied for? No
Type of study: Quantitative
Resources needed (all available):
Additional information:
Supervisor: Doctor Alycia Fong Yan
Supervisor contact details: alycia.fongyan@sydney.edu.au
Is there a specific project available: Yes
Do you have a broad research topic for students to consider
Project title: Investigating mechanics of dance movement
Is this a project for students starting in 2017? No
Research question: What are the unique characteristics of dance movement?
What are the kinematic and kinetic demands on the body during dance movement?
How do the mechanics of dance movement change with varying levels of skill?
What are the mechanical risk factors for injury during dance movement?

Research topic:
This project is appropriate for students in the following discipline(s):
- Any discipline

Research group type: Research Group based

University Profile: http://sydney.edu.au/health-sciences/about/people/profiles/alycia.fongyan.php

Primary research interests: Dance
Biomechanics

Name(s) of research team: Richard Smith, Claire Hiller

Aims and background
This project aims to better understand the movement patterns and forces that dancers undergo during dance performance to inform injury prevention and teaching practices.

Dancers push their bodies to the physical limits of motion whilst maintaining the aesthetic requirements of the dance genre. The extreme technical requirements can take a toll on the body with many dancers, both professional and recreational, either injured or at risk of injury. Dancers only have a short professional career and the competition for performance roles and jobs is high. The purpose of this study is to investigate the mechanism for injuries, risk factors for injury, and movement variability.

Proposed method of data collection:
Ethics approval needed? No
Ethics applied for? No
Type of study: Quantitative

Resources needed (all available):

Additional information:
Supervisor: Associate Professor Evangelos Pappas
Supervisor contact details: evangelos.pappas@sydney.edu.au
Is there a specific project available: Yes
Do you have a broad research topic for students to consider ACL injuries
Project title: Recovery after ACL reconstruction; predictors of good outcomes
Is this a project for students starting in 2017? No
Research question: What predicts outcomes after ACL reconstruction?
Research topic: ACL injuries
This project is appropriate for students in the following discipline(s):
  · Bachelor of Applied Science (Exercise and Sport Science) Honours, Bachelor of Applied Science (Physiotherapy) Honours, Bachelor of Applied Science (MRS) Diagnostic Radiography Honours
Research group type: Research Group based
University Profile: http://sydney.edu.au/health-sciences/about/people/profiles/evangelos.pappas.php
Primary research interests: athletic knee injuries; sports injury prevention; biomechanics; recovery after knee injury
Name (s) of research team: Corey Scholes
Aims and background
There is wide variability on the extent of recovery after ACL reconstruction. However, there is limited research on predictors of outcomes. The current project aims to identify predictors of recovery after ACL reconstruction.
Proposed method of data collection: Secondary data analysis of predictors (age, sex, activity level, pre and post-operative measures etc) on recovery after ACL reconstruction
Ethics approval needed? Yes
Ethics applied for? Yes
Type of study: Quantitative
Resources needed (all available):
Additional information:
Supervisor: Associate Professor Martin Mackey
Supervisor contact details: martin.mackey@sydney.edu.au
Is there a specific project available: Yes
Do you have a broad research topic for students to consider: Impacts of activity based working environments on health enhancing physical activity
Project title: Activity Based Working – how is it working of FHS staff and students?
Is this a project for students starting in 2017? Yes
Research question: What are the health effects and perceptions of staff and students moving from Cumberland Campus to the ABW environment of the Faculty's new Health Precinct building at the Camperdown Campus.
Research topic: Impacts of activity based working environments on health enhancing physical activity
This project is appropriate for students in the following discipline(s):
- Bachelor of Applied Science (Physiotherapy) Honours
Research group type: Discipline based
University Profile: http://sydney.edu.au/health-sciences/about/people/profiles/martin.mackey.php
Primary research interests: Physical activity and population health - measurement, interventions
Ergonomics
Work Health and Safety
Name(s) of research team: A/Prof Martin Mackey
- Dr Lina Engelen
- Dr Josephine Chau
- Dr Jo Gale
- A/Prof Corinne Caillaud

Aims and background
Activity Based Working (ABW) is potentially a promising avenue for improving physical and mental health in the workplace and can have a positive impact on staff perception of the workplace and the employer. Although ABW is implemented in numerous organisations and is the flavour ‘du jour’ of office design, there is a scarcity of evidence on the outcomes, benefits and downsides of ABW, specifically in a holistic sense. The aim of the project is to holistically evaluate the health effects and perceptions of staff and students moving to an ABW environment at the University.

Proposed method of data collection: Observational study design, measuring outcomes 2 months prior to moving, 2 months after moving and 6 months after moving to assess baseline and the short and longer terms effects respectively. We will use a range of validated measures (self-report, objective, digital) at each time-point to holistically study the impact moving into an ABW environment has on physical and mental health and healthy behaviours, perceptions of the workplace and productivity, and how the ABW environment is used.
Participants: A representative sample of staff and students moving to the ABW environment in the new location will be invited to participate.

Ethics approval needed? Yes
Ethics applied for? Yes
Type of study: Mixed methods
Resources needed (all available):
Additional information: The study will likely run over several enrollment cohorts 2017-18 and 2018-19. The study team is highly experienced including in this field with numerous related grants and publications
Supervisor: Associate Professor Tricia McCabe
Supervisor contact details: tricia.mccabe@sydney.edu.au
Is there a specific project available: Yes
Do you have a broad research topic for students to consider Severe speech disorders in children - treatment and diagnosis
Project title: Treating more children with CAS more often.
Is this a project for students starting in 2017? Yes
Research question: Does an online training package for speech pathologists improve treatment for children with childhood apraxia of speech?
Research topic: Severe speech disorders in children - treatment and diagnosis
This project is appropriate for students in the following discipline(s):
  - Bachelor of Health Sciences (Honours), Bachelor of Applied Science (Speech Pathology) Honours
Research group type: Discipline based
University Profile: http://sydney.edu.au/health-sciences/about/people/profiles/tricia.mccabe.php
Primary research interests: Childhood apraxia of speech
  - Neurogenic speech disorders in adults and children
  - Dyspraxia
  - Dysarthria
  - Phonology
  - Speech development
  - Ultrasound in speech pathology
  - Voice disorders in adults and children
  - Treatment of speech and voice disorders
  - Speech pathology evidence based practice
  - Speech pathology service delivery
  - Acoustics
  - Acoustic perception
  - Prosody
  - Motor speech disorders in adults and children
  - Motor learning in speech pathology
Name(s) of research team:

Aims and background
Childhood apraxia of speech is a severe and persistent speech disorder which starts in early childhood. Our team at the Faculty of Health Sciences has developed an effective treatment for this disorder and
recently received funding to make an online training package so that speech pathology clinicians can learn how to deliver the training, regardless of where they live. The aim of the online training is to improve client access to the training and reduce clinician anxiety about implementing the new treatment. This project will evaluate the effectiveness of the website.

**Proposed method of data collection:** Online survey, analysis of interviews with speech pathologists. Quantitative and qualitative methods will be used.

**Ethics approval needed?** Yes

**Ethics applied for?** Yes

**Type of study:** Mixed methods

**Resources needed (all available):**

**Additional information:**
Supervisor: Associate Professor Tricia McCabe

Supervisor contact details: tricia.mccabe@sydney.edu.au

Is there a specific project available: Yes

Do you have a broad research topic for students to consider

Project title: The development of speech skills in children who have autism

Is this a project for students starting in 2017? Yes

Research question: How does connected speech develop in children who have autism over a 12 month period?

Research topic: This project is appropriate for students in the following discipline(s):

- Bachelor of Health Sciences (Honours), Bachelor of Applied Science (Speech Pathology) Honours

Research group type: Discipline based


Primary research interests: Speech Pathology

Communication Disorders

Speech and Language disorders

Phonology and phonetics

Evidence based practice

Name (s) of research team: In addition to Tricia McCabe, the team includes Kate Broome (PhD student) and Dr Kimberley Docking and Dr Maree Doble (both speech pathologists).

Aims and background

Proposed method of data collection: As part of a larger study of speech development in children with autism, this project will examine the connected speech of 23 children who have a diagnosis of autism. The children's speech has been recorded over a 12 month period and in this project it will be transcribed and changes over time will be explored. The study will help speech pathologists and others who work with these kids to understand their speech development.

Ethics approval needed? No

Ethics applied for? N/A

Type of study: Quantitative

Resources needed (all available):

Additional information: Students will need to transcribe speech samples and therefore knowledge of phonetic transcription is required. We do not expect you to be very good at it to start with and will provide training but you must have completed CSCD1034 Linguistics and Phonetics (or equivalent)

You will also learn to use transcription and analysis software.
Supervisor: Associate Professor Chin-Moi Chow

Supervisor contact details: chin-moi.chow@sydney.edu.au

Is there a specific project available: No (your name and research interest will be made available to students)

Do you have a broad research topic for students to consider Napping (e.g., use of a sleeping pod to be located in the Health Sciences library) and cognitive functions

Project title:

Is this a project for students starting in 2017? Yes

Research question:

Research topic: Napping (e.g., use of a sleeping pod to be located in the Health Sciences library) and cognitive functions

This project is appropriate for students in the following discipline(s):

- Bachelor of Health Sciences (Honours), Bachelor of Applied Science (Exercise and Sport Science) Honours, Bachelor of Applied Science (Occupational Therapy) Honours, Bachelor of Applied Science (Physiotherapy) Honours

Research group type: Discipline based

University Profile: http://sydney.edu.au/health-sciences/about/people/profiles/chin-moi.chow.php

Primary research interests: Sleep and lifestyle factors, exercise

Name(s) of research team:

Aims and background

Proposed method of data collection:

Ethics approval needed? Yes

Ethics applied for? No

Type of study: Quantitative

Resources needed (all available):

Additional information:
Supervisor: Doctor Anne Honey

Supervisor contact details: anne.honey@sydney.edu.au

Is there a specific project available: No (your name and research interest will be made available to students)

Do you have a broad research topic for students to consider: Research on family and carer involvement in mental health services

Project title:
Is this a project for students starting in 2017? Yes

Research question:
Research topic: Research on family and carer involvement in mental health services

This project is appropriate for students in the following discipline(s):
- Bachelor of Applied Science (Occupational Therapy) Honours

Research group type: Discipline based

University Profile: http://sydney.edu.au/health-sciences/about/people/profiles/anne.honey.php

Primary research interests: mental health families

Name(s) of research team:

Aims and background

Proposed method of data collection:

Ethics approval needed? Yes

Ethics applied for? No

Type of study: Qualitative

Resources needed (all available):

Additional information:
Supervisor: Professor Philip Bohle

Supervisor contact details: philip.bohle@sydney.edu.au

Is there a specific project available: Yes

Do you have a broad research topic for students to consider: Data are available from three recent ARC and NHMRC projects concerning the employment, health and wellbeing of Australian workers. One is based on a representative sample of Australian aged between 45 and 64, stratified by whether they are in paid employment or not. A subsequent project collected similar data from Australians aged 18 to 64 who were in paid employment. The final project is examining the health, safety and wellbeing of homecare workers in three sectors: disability services, youth services & aged care services. I am happy for students to be jointly supervised by a staff member in their own discipline and to negotiate the specific topic in conjunction with them.

Project title: ‘You can choose from various work and health projects’ (See additional information)

Is this a project for students starting in 2017? Yes

Research question:

Research topic: Data are available from three recent ARC and NHMRC projects concerning the employment, health and wellbeing of Australian workers. One is based on a representative sample of Australian aged between 45 and 64, stratified by whether they are in paid employment or not. A subsequent project collected similar data from Australians aged 18 to 64 who were in paid employment. The final project is examining the health, safety and wellbeing of homecare workers in three sectors: disability services, youth services & aged care services. I am happy for students to be jointly supervised by a staff member in their own discipline and to negotiate the specific topic in conjunction with them.

This project is appropriate for students in the following discipline(s):

- Bachelor of Health Sciences (Honours), Bachelor of Applied Science (Occupational Therapy) Honours, Bachelor of Applied Science (Physiotherapy) Honours

Research group type: Research Group based


Primary research interests: Working hours, work-life conflict and health; Employment and health of older workers; Job quality and health; Effects of precarious (casual, agency, subcontract, etc) work on health and wellbeing.

Name (s) of research team: Prof. Philip Bohle

Aims and background
Proposed method of data collection:

Ethics approval needed? No

Ethics applied for?

Type of study: Quantitative

Resources needed (all available): Completion of a unit of study on statistics, preferable including with some multivariate analysis.

Additional information: Each of the projects is nearing completion. All data have been collected for all but one project and are available for analysis. Collection of survey data from the homecare project will be completed in February 2017. I have supervised 31 students, from Honours to PhD, to completion of their theses, with three more PhD students submitting in the next six months.

From above - Project Title

You will have an opportunity to select a specific project from a range of options. Various datasets are available for analysis (see 9 above). Each contains extensive selections of demographic (e.g. age, gender, socioeconomic status), employment (e.g. precarious or secure work, working hours, work intensity/demands), and self-reported health and wellbeing (e.g. work-life balance, job or life satisfaction) variables. For example, you could do a project on the links between working hours; preference for, or satisfaction with, casual work; work-life conflict and health. Many other topics are possible too.
Supervisor: Doctor Anne Honey

Is there a specific project available? Yes

Is there a broad research topic/s for students to consider:

Project title: Going home: Experience of international students transitioning to practice in non-Western countries

Is this an existing project? Yes

Research question: How do international occupational therapy students transfer the skills they have learned in Australia to the different cultural contexts of their home countries?

This project is appropriate for students in the following degree(s):
- Bachelor of Applied Science (Occupational Therapy) Honours

Research group type: Discipline based


Primary research interests: International student experiences of OT

Chief investigator: Anne Honey

Research team:

Aims and background

Studying occupational therapy requires students to think and behave in ways that may come more or less “naturally” to students depending on culture. A previous study found that international OT students from Asian backgrounds were concerned about how what they learned in Australia would translate into practice in their home countries. Little is known about how international students from CALD backgrounds experience the transition to practice in their home countries.

Proposed method of data collection: Method can be negotiated. Participants will be OT Alumni from the University of Sydney who were international students from non-western backgrounds and are now working in non-western countries. Methods could involve a survey of all alumni or skype interviews with a smaller sample.

Ethics approval needed? Yes

Ethics applied for? No

Type of study: Could be qualitative or quantitative.

Supervisor contact details: 93519370 / Anne.honey@sydney.edu.au