



Flinders
UNIVERSITY

College of Education,
Psychology & Social Work

**INSPIRING
ACHIEVEMENT**

College of Education, Psychology and Social Work

Higher Degree by Research

Supervisors

Presented to: Southwest University

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flinders.edu.au

Associate Professor Lisa Beatty

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Associate Professor Lisa Beatty is a Clinical Psychologist with over 15 years of research and clinical expertise in the field of psycho-oncology - the scientific exploration of the psychological impact and treatment of cancer. Within this field, Lisa is an expert in digital mental health interventions for cancer survivors, a strategy that aims to deliver evidence-based psychological treatments online to those who may not be able to access them otherwise due to distance, fear or distress. Lisa works at the interface of oncology and psychology and effectively engages with researchers, clinicians, and consumers in both these fields.

Supervision areas of interest:

My area of interest is psycho-oncology (the scientific study of the psychological, social, behavioural and ethical aspects of cancer). I have two broad projects I can offer to PhD students:

- Digital mental health in cancer: We know that our digital mental health program, Finding My Way (FMW) is an efficacious program in reducing distress, improving QOL and reducing health service utilisation among people treated with early stage cancers, and I have a newly funded national multi-site clinical trial of FMW-Advanced (for women with metastatic breast cancer) commencing in 2022. There is scope to carve out a PhD sub-project within this.
- Symptom clusters in psycho-oncology: this is a new area with lots of scope for multiple related studies, including: defining the term 'cluster', identifying the scope of the problem in psycho-oncology, identifying predictors (using archival data we have, along with prospective data collection), exploring whether symptom clusters vary culturally, identifying treatment targets (ie., is there a key 'sentinel' symptom to target), identify how symptom clusters are currently managed in cancer care, and possibly development of an intervention to manage symptom clusters.

I have strong collaborations with researchers in the UK, interstate, with industry (Cancer Council SA), and with other disciplines/colleges, thus there are opportunities to develop strong local, national and international collaborations with potential for overseas visits.

Dr Monica Cations

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Monica Cations is a clinical psychology registrar and epidemiologist who has worked in the ageing and dementia field for many years. Her research is translational with a focus on psychological wellbeing in aged care environments and young people using aged care. Monica is a Lecturer in Lifespan Development in the College of Education, Psychology and Social Work at Flinders University, supported by a Hospital Research Foundation Early Career Fellowship and NHMRC/MRFF Emerging Leadership Investigator Grant. She also holds Partnership status with the Registry of Senior Australians (ROSA) at the South Australian Health and Medical Research Institute.

Supervision area of interest:

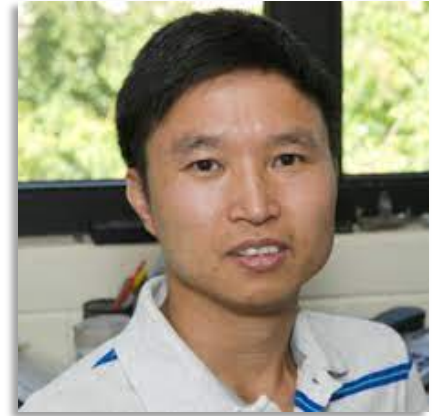
- Very little is known about how psychological trauma affects older adults, and the effectiveness of existing therapies for post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) in this population. This project seeks to fill this important research and clinical gap, by examining the need for psychological supports for older adults who have survived psychologically traumatic events and how these supports could be delivered in practice. This project would be co-supervised by Professor Reg Nixon.

Dr Yunong Huang

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Supervision areas of interest:

- Resilience and mental health of older adults (the research will adopt a quantitative research method to examine the direct and moderating impacts of resilience - including personal resilience, family resilience and community resilience on older adults' mental health- including both depression and life satisfaction).
- Coping with COVID-19: Trauma and resilience among older adults in China (the research will adopt a quantitative research method to examine the impacts of COVID-19 on older adults -PTSD and how different types of resilience -personal, family and community resilience mitigate the impacts of COVID-19 and contribute to posttraumatic growth)
- Trauma and resilience of domestic violence survivors in China (the research will adopt a quantitative research method to examine trauma, resilience and posttraumatic growth among domestic violence survivors in China)
- Resilience and mental health of disaster survivors (the research will adopt a quantitative research method to examine the direct and moderating impacts of resilience - including personal resilience, family resilience and community resilience on disaster survivors' mental health- including PTSD, depression and life satisfaction).

Dr Michelle Jones

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Michelle was appointed in July 2017. She has worked in a variety of government roles including Principal Health Analyst with Health Performance Council Secretariat and Evaluation Manager in Public Health Services; OPAL (Obesity Prevention and Lifestyle), a State-wide community-based childhood obesity prevention program and eat well be active Community Programs, a community-based childhood obesity prevention program in Morphett Vale and Murray Bridge. Prior to working for Health, she evaluated sex offender, violent offender and Aboriginal offender group-based treatment programs for the Department for Correctional Services. Michelle has a PhD from the University of Adelaide and a Bachelor of Social Work (Hons) from University of South Australia. Her PhD examined discourses of domestic violence and was part of the evaluation of men's stop domestic violence group programs. Michelle worked as a social worker in the area of women's health including unplanned pregnancy and rape and sexual assault. Michelle is a member of the SA Health Human Research Ethics Committee. Her research interests include health including Aboriginal health, public health, childhood obesity prevention, domestic violence, evaluation research, mixed-methods research, 'space, place and the body'.

Supervision areas of interest:

- Health, in particular how social determinants of health are assessed within hospitals
- Comparison of the health system responses to disaster management in South Australia and Chongqing municipality
- Public health including Aboriginal health, women's health; childhood obesity prevention and domestic and family violence

Dr Ben Lohmeyer

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Dr Ben Lohmeyer is a Youth Sociologist and Youth Worker. His research and teaching are in the field of youth sociology and the sociology of violence, with intersections into youth policy and youth work practice.

Ben is the Chair of Youth Work SA - Professional Association for Youth Workers in South Australia. Prior to his academic career, Ben worked in the Non-Government Youth Work sector with young people around issues of violence and justice in alternative education and accommodation.

Supervision areas of interest:

- Youth and exclusion
- Violence
- Bullying
- Youth policy
- Youth work practice

Project interest:

The moral orders of school bullying: A cross cultural comparison of social values that obscure school bullying.

This project would employ a youth centred methodology that prioritise dialogue between young people in focus groups or semi-structured interviews about their experiences of bullying. The project could be expanded to incorporate mixed methods through a participant survey to provide baseline data. Young people would be recruited in late secondary school in Adelaide (South Australia) and the Beibei District (China) to provide a cross cultural comparison. The project would focus on examining school bullying as a social and cultural phenomenon in contrast to the globally dominant behaviouralist paradigm. The emphasis on particular behaviours conforming to pattern of intent, repetition and power imbalance (Olweus 1993) in the dominant paradigm of bullying research obscures victimisation that aligns to social and cultural norms. The international comparison would shed new light on the social dynamics of bullying consistent across cultures.

Dr Penny Van Deur

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I have taught in Australian schools for over twenty years. While teaching, I began a Master of Gifted Education and followed this with a Master of Arts by research. I left classroom teaching to concentrate on my studies when I received a PhD scholarship. I was drawn back to teaching in the university context and worked in two universities before becoming a continuing staff member at Flinders University in the School of Education. I am married and have two children.

Supervision areas of interest:

- Cognitive psychology in educational contexts including self-regulation of learning, learning strategies and explicit teaching of learning strategies, motivation and the role of mental imagery in learning and performance outcomes;
- Teachers, pre-service teachers and students' beliefs and knowledge about learning, self-directed learning, inquiry, problem solving, gifted students, and students with learning difficulties.

Dr Stephanie Wong

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Stephanie Wong is a NHMRC Research Fellow and Clinical Neuropsychologist with 10 years' experience in clinical dementia research. Her research combines neuropsychology, cognitive neuroscience and neuroimaging to investigate the neurobiological bases of motivation, reward processing and financial capability in aging and dementia. Through her research and clinical work, she aims to translate research findings into advances in clinical practice and interventions, thereby improving quality of life in individuals living with dementia and their families.

Supervision areas of interest:

- Cognitive impairment and financial capability. Financial mismanagement and exploitation are common in individuals with cognitive impairment. This project aims to investigate the cognitive skills required to undertake everyday financial tasks (e.g., budgeting, paying bills, decision-making), and to develop targeted interventions to support difficulties in performing these tasks. The project will involve cognitive and clinical investigations in healthy individuals and individuals with cognitive impairment (e.g., due to dementia or other neurological and neurodevelopmental conditions). Outcomes from this project are expected to result in improved assessment and interventions for deficits in financial capability.
- Behavioural changes in dementia. When most people hear about dementia, memory loss is often the first thing that comes to mind. However, memory impairment is only one symptom of dementia. Other symptoms, such as apathy, socially inappropriate behaviour, reduced empathy and poor financial judgment, are also common. These behavioural symptoms account for high levels of carer burden, greater functional decline and reduced quality of life. The underlying neurobiological mechanisms of these symptoms are not well understood. This project will involve a combination of various methodologies, including cognitive and clinical investigations, neurophysiology and eye tracking. This project will improve knowledge and health outcomes in the therapeutic management of dementia.

Dr Mirella Wyr

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Dr Mirella Wyr is a senior lecturer in the College of Education, Psychology and Social Work.

Research interests include foreign language learning and teaching, learning and teaching strategies, students' knowledge, mental imagery, e-pedagogy in foreign language acquisition, new technologies in foreign language education, first language maintenance, student and teacher wellbeing, TESOL

Supervision areas of interest:

- Cognitive psychology in educational contexts including self-regulation of learning, learning strategies and explicit teaching of learning strategies, motivation and the role of mental imagery in learning and performance outcomes;
- Teachers, pre-service teachers and students' beliefs and knowledge about learning.

Professor Robyn Young

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Robyn Young's interest in autism began while studying savants as part of her PhD in Savant Syndrome.

This work became the subject of an ABC documentary titled *Uncommon Genius*. She went on to develop a screening tool for Autistic Disorder suitable for use in children as young as 12 months of age. This tool, known as the Autism Detection in Early Childhood (ADEC; ACER, 2007), clearly operationalises early behaviours indicative of autism. Together with colleagues at Flinders University she has developed an intervention program called SPECTRA (ACER, 2009). Her work has now turned to older persons with Autism Spectrum Disorder. Specifically she is interested in why persons with ASD may become unwittingly involved in crime.

Supervision areas of interest:

- Robyn has an interest in all areas of autism: early detection, prevention, outcomes, impact on families, and interaction with the law. The prospective student is encouraged to navigate their way through her research and develop their own ideas and proposal.

