



FPRC

FORENSIC PSYCHOLOGY
RESEARCH CENTRE

WINTER 2024 NEWSLETTER

A MESSAGE FROM OUR CO-DIRECTORS

Hello everyone!

We hope everyone is enjoying their reading week, and what is becoming beautiful winter weather.

Our second year as co-directors of the FPRC has been a fun one! The FPRC hosted numerous events, including our popular Lunch and Learns events and a holiday party. We are also collaborating with the Mental Health and Well-being Research and Training Hub (MeWeRTH) for a free conference on May 15th entitled Mind and Law: Exploring Mental Health in the Criminal Justice System. Faculty and students will be presenting their research, and we are excited to host Dr. Mary Ann Campbell from the University of New Brunswick as our keynote speaker.

It was also a tough year for Carleton, the Department of Psychology, and the Forensic Faculty. We lost our colleague and dear friend, Dr. Ralph Serin, in November of 2023. In honour of Ralph, the FPRC has created two awards for graduate students and postdoctoral fellows to help support their research and conference attendance. We had a great pool of applicants this year, and are happy to announce the winners in this newsletter. We hope that these yearly awards will honour the legacy of our dear colleague Dr. Serin, who was not only a prolific researcher, but someone who enjoyed supervising the next generation.

Kirk & Kelly,
Co-Directors, FPRC



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CONGRATULATIONS AWARD WINNERS!

Congratulations to the 2024 Ralph Serin Emerging Scholar award winners. Descriptions of their exciting projects can be found below!



Kristopher Brazil, Postdoctoral Fellow - Conference Award (\$500)

Adolescents who exhibit psychopathic traits (e.g., callousness grandiosity, impulsivity) often suffer negative outcomes, such as substance abuse and incarceration. An evolutionary–developmental perspective, however, suggests that psychopathic traits involve individuals adapting to adverse social environments that brings both negative and positive outcomes. In line with this, our research found that psychopathic traits were associated with social adversity and socially adaptive outcomes including dating and social dominance with peers. The research suggests interventions targeting adolescent psychopathy should be sensitive to the potential rewards that may accompany psychopathic traits in adolescence, especially in adverse developmental contexts.

Jessie Swanek, PhD Candidate - Research Award (\$1000)

The idea of a psychopath has long infatuated the public; media often portrays them almost exclusively as untreatable, unemotional, serial killers. A spillover effect of this is that the psychopathy label has become synonymous with increased stigma and harsher sentences in court cases. The aim of these two studies is to create and validate a scale to assess the beliefs that people commonly hold about psychopathy, then experimentally reduce these beliefs, and assess if they stay reduced over a 3-month follow-up. Alongside that, my doctoral thesis will assess how one's own level of psychopathic traits, need for cognition, and confirmation bias may moderate a reduction of these beliefs.



NEXT AWARD CYCLE FOR CONFERENCE COSTS: MAY 2024

We are pleased to announce a change in our award structure to better support students with conducting and sharing their research. Please visit our [website](#) for further details.

- 1) The **Ralph Serin Student Travel Grant** is intended to support students with costs associated with sharing and presenting their research at conferences. Applications are due three times a year (January, May, and September), depending on the date of the conference. Proof of acceptance is required as part of the application.
- 2) The **Ralph Serin Emerging Scholar Research Grant** is intended to support graduate students and postdoctoral fellows with operational research costs (e.g., participant recruitment, creating advertisements). Applications are due January 31st every year.

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REMINDER: CALL FOR ABSTRACTS FOR OUR UPCOMING CONFERENCE



Mind and Law: Exploring Mental Health in the Criminal Justice System

The FPRC is excited to partner with the Mental Health and Well-being Research and Training Hub (MeWeRTH) to host a free half-day conference exploring mental health as it relates to the criminal justice system.

Join us on **May 15, 2024**, for a day of talks and presentations from faculty and students! The event will begin with a presentation from Dr. Shelley Brown covering the link between mental health and the onset and maintenance of offending. Then, Dr. Kevin Nunes will speak on the role of attitudes in violent behaviour, followed by Dr. Craig Bennell, who will make a case for alternative (non-police) responses for persons in crisis. The event will conclude with a keynote address from Dr. Mary Ann Campbell, who will speak about her work on the psychological health and well-being of police officers.

If you are planning to attend, click [here](#) to register for the event.



We are currently accepting abstracts for the conference.

Graduate students and postdoctoral fellows are welcome to submit a 250 word abstract for a 4-minute Snapshot Presentation on any topic in forensic psychology. Snapshot Presentations will take place over two sessions (AM and PM).

Abstracts are **due by February 26, 2024**. To download a copy of the abstract submission form, please visit our [website](#).

Thanks to our sponsors:



WINTER 2024 NEWSLETTER

RECENT FACULTY PUBLICATIONS



Adelle Forth

Brazil, K. J., & Forth, A. E. (2024). Adolescent psychopathic traits, early adversity, and intimate partner violence. *Criminal Justice and Behavior*, 51(2), 213–229. [10.1177/00938548231219810](https://doi.org/10.1177/00938548231219810)

Craig Bennell

Bennell, C., Simpson, R., Makeen-Braze, L., Ackert-Fraser, R., Lanzo, L., & Bennell, N. (in press). Public perceptions of police officers who wear pins or patches on their uniform. *Police Practice and Research*.

Jenkins, B., Semple, T., & Bennell, C. (in press). Why are tactical officers responding to 'routine' calls? Using police data to examine the presence of risk factors during seemingly low risk incidents. *Police Practice and Research*.

Joanna Pozzulo

Pica, E., Ross, D., & Pozzulo, J. (Eds.). (2024). The impact of technology on the criminal justice system: A psychological overview. Taylor & Francis. [10.4324/9781003323112](https://doi.org/10.4324/9781003323112)

Kelly Babchishin

Perley-Robertson, B., Babchishin, K. M., & Helmus, L. M. (2024). The effect of missing item data on the relative predictive accuracy of correctional risk assessment tools. *Assessment*. [10.1177/10731911231225191](https://doi.org/10.1177/10731911231225191)

Babchishin, K. M., Dibayula, S., McCulloch, C., Hanson, R. K., & Helmus, L. M. (2023). ACUTE-2007 and STABLE-2007 predict recidivism for men adjudicated for child sexual exploitation material offending. *Law and Human Behavior*, 47(5), 606–618. [10.1037/lhb0000540](https://doi.org/10.1037/lhb0000540)

Kevin Nunes

Nunes, K. L., Pedneault, C. I., Hermann, C. A., & Fraser, J. (2023). Do violent attitude measures assess evaluative attitudes toward violence? *Psychology of Violence*, 3(4), 348–359. [10.1037/vio0000470](https://doi.org/10.1037/vio0000470)

Pham, A. T., Hilton, N. Z., Ennis, L., Nunes, K. L., & Jung, S. (2023). Predicting recidivism in a high-risk sample of intimate partner violent men referred for police threat assessment. *Criminal Justice and Behavior*, 50(5) 648–665. [10.1177/00938548221143535](https://doi.org/10.1177/00938548221143535)

Kirk Luther

Luther, K., Keeping, Z., Snook, B., de Almeida, H., Fahmy, W., Smith, A., & Han, T. (2024). Nudging eyewitnesses: The effect of social influence on recalling witnessed events. *Journal of Criminal Psychology*, 14(1), 55–77. [10.1108/JCP-06-2023-0042](https://doi.org/10.1108/JCP-06-2023-0042)

Luther, K., Arenzon, V., Curtis, A., Hannah de Almeida, Hachey, J., & Lundy, J. (2024). Do automated and virtual interrogation and deception detection systems work? In E. Pica, D. Ross, & J. Pozzulo (Eds.), *The impact of technology on the criminal justice system: A psychological overview*. Taylor & Francis. [10.4324/9781003323112-2](https://doi.org/10.4324/9781003323112-2)

Shelley Brown

Brown, S. L., Coady, M. N., & Huppe, E. G. (in press). What works with women in custodial settings. In L. A. Craig, L. Dixon & T.A. Gannon (Eds.), *The Wiley Handbook of what works in correctional rehabilitation: An evidence-based approach to theory, assessment and treatment* (2nd Ed.). Wiley.

Brown, S. L., Mcfarlane, E., & Garvey, M. (in press). Criminal Behavior. In B. L. Cutler & P. A. Zapf (Eds.), *American Psychological Association (APA) handbook of forensic psychology* (2nd Ed.). American Psychological Association.