



Summer 2026 Newsletter



Welcome to the Summer 2026 Newsletter!



We hope you had a great end to the 2025-26 academic year and your summer semester is restful and productive! Looking forward to welcoming you back in September (and for those who graduate in June, congratulations and good luck out there!).

We are so proud of the contributions our members have made to the field of forensic psychology and are pleased to share some of the recent achievements of our talented students and faculty in this newsletter.

Craig & Shelley
Co-Directors, FPRC

WHAT TO EXPECT IN THIS ISSUE



➤ Retirement News

➤ Student Awards

➤ FPRC News

➤ Recent Graduates

➤ Research Grants

➤ Select Publications

Legacy of A Forensic Psychology Researcher: *Thirty-Four Years at Carleton University*



Adelle Forth
Professor Emeritus



I arrived at Carleton University in 1991 and retired in 2025, spending a total of 34 years teaching and conducting research. My position at Carleton was made possible because Correctional Services of Canada agreed to pay Carleton 3 years salary for a “correctional” psychology position, and although I had not finished my PhD, I applied and got the position. I completed all my degrees at the University of British Columbia working with Robert Hare who is the world’s foremost expert on psychopathy.

Working at Carleton has been simply wonderful, maybe even the best job ever, with great colleagues, supportive staff, and amazing students.

Initially, I found teaching a huge challenge but over the years something switched, and I started to love teaching. My two favourite undergraduate courses were the 2nd year Introduction to Forensic Psychology course and 4th year Psychopathy seminar, and at the graduate level, Forensic Assessment.

The final 2400 class



From left: Kevin Nunes, Craig Bennell, Shelley Brown, Adelle Forth, Kristopher Brazil, Kirk Luther, Kelly Babchishin

Although I would have hoped the undergraduate students would remember forensic related content, something else seemed to be the most memorable. Numerous students who I have met over the years say the one thing they remembered was the bonus question on the midterm.

Legacy of A Forensic Psychology Researcher: *Thirty-Four Years at Carleton University*

If you are wondering what this question was: “What is the name of one of my ferrets named after a serial killer?”

The answer:
Jack the Nipper!

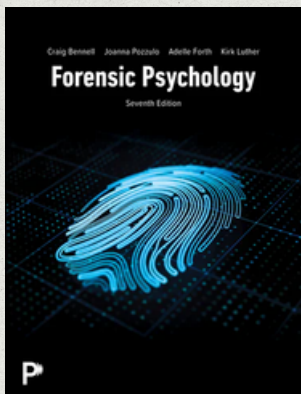
(There is a story behind the name, but you will need to ask me when you see me next).



Jack the Nipper

I have been incredibly fortunate to have had such amazing honours and graduate students. My first honours student was Shelley Brown, who as you all know is a professor here. Carleton’s most recent Forensic Psychology hire is Kristopher Brazil, who did his M.A. with me.

When I arrived, I developed the Introduction to Forensic Psychology course, which has become the most popular second year psychology course at Carleton.



In 1998, Joanna and Craig were in my office lamenting about not having a Canadian Forensic Psychology textbook.

So we wrote one.
Now in its 7th edition.

I have conducted research on the validity and reliability of assessments of psychopathic traits, the relationship between emotional and

cognitive correlates of psychopathy, violence risk assessment, and most recently studying the impact of psychopathy. Okay, let’s be honest, my students have done the research, and I have helped them.

Forever part of our pack

In 2018, I got involved with the Carleton Therapy Dog Program with my dog Zak.

This experience has become one of the most meaningful chapters of my time at Carleton.

You will still find me on campus with my two dogs, Jazz and Ace, providing a safe, supportive, and welcoming space for students, staff, and faculty.



Jazz



Ace

This biographical sketch is not meant to be a farewell because I plan to continue doing research, attending FPRC events, and bringing Jazz and Ace to campus. So, I hope to still see you all!



WELCOME TO THE FPRC, KRISTOPHER!

We are pleased to formally welcome Dr. Kristopher Brazil to the FPRC. Kristopher was hired as a Forensic Psychology Assistant Professor in July 2025. Kristopher's research uses an interdisciplinary framework of evolutionary, developmental, and relationship perspectives to understand psychopathy and other individual differences.

We are looking forward to spotlighting some of Kristopher's latest research in our upcoming newsletters.



APPLIED POLICE BRIEFINGS TAKING OFF



Applied Police Briefings, edited by Dr. Craig Bennell and Dr. Kirk Luther, continues to have a significant impact. Published four times a year, each issue of APB includes free-to-access 2-page briefs of published policing research, written specifically for the policing community (e.g., free of statistical and psychological/criminological jargon). Soon, the download counts for APB will surpass 100,000 and it has recently been officially endorsed by the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police.



Craig and Kirk also won the Evidence-Based Policing Practitioner of the Year Awards from the Canadian Society of Evidence-Based Policing in 2025.

CONGRATULATIONS, KELLY!

Dr. Kelly Babchishin received an Early Researcher Award in May 2025 to support her innovative research projects that address key challenges facing Ontarians. Kelly's research focuses on understanding and preventing technology-facilitated sexual offences, to reduce offending and ease pressure on the Ontario justice system.



COLD CASE CLASS HIGHLIGHTED IN LOCAL NEWS

Carleton Students Investigate Cold Cases: [CBC Morning Ottawa Radio Interview](#)

University Students Work to Solve Decades-Old Disappearance: [Challenge What's Possible](#)





CONGRATULATIONS, SIMON!

Carleton alumni Dr. Simon Baldwin was inducted into the Evidence-Based Policing Hall of Fame at the Centre for Evidence-Based Crime Policy. This impressive accomplishment reflects Simon's dedication to leadership and forwarding evidence-based practice.

CONGRATULATIONS, SHELLEY!

Dr. Shelley Brown received a Research Excellence Award, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, for her project "Validating a Measure of Probation Supervision in Punjab, Pakistan".

VIOLENT THOUGHTS: A MEETING OF THE MINDS

Funded by Carleton University and a SSHRC Connection Grant, Dr. Kevin Nunes held a meeting of experts to discuss how we can better understand, measure, and change cognitions relevant for violent behaviour.



The meeting consisted of presentations and discussions with researchers and knowledge-users from a variety of disciplines (e.g., forensic psychology, social psychology, criminology), settings (e.g., academic, corrections, forensic psychiatric), and locations (Ontario, Quebec, UK, and USA).

SSHRC CRSH **FACULTY RESEARCH GRANTS**



Craig Bennell

- Understanding mental health challenges and opportunities in context: A partnership project with a small Canadian police service (SSHRC; 2025-2026; \$24,965) (PI).
- Understanding police use of force through video data analysis of body worn camera footage (Carleton University Internal Award; 2025-2026; \$10,000) (PI).

Kevin Nunes

- Violent thoughts: Constructs, measures, interventions, and synthesis (SSHRC; 2025-2026; \$19,444) (PI).
- Are violent attitudes relevant for forensic psychiatric patients? (SSHRC; 2025-2026; \$22,909) (PI).

Kelly Babchishin

- Trajectories, escalation predictors, and management guidelines for low risk sex offenders (SSHRC; 2026-2030; \$294,095). Applicants: Stephens, S. (PI); Babchishin, K. M., & Blais, J.
- Testing dyadic and family factors to explain incest across types of relationships (SSHRC; 2026-2030; \$345,025). Applicants: Seto, M. C. (PI), & Babchishin, K. M. (Co-PI).
- WRITE: Written risk indicators triggering exploitation (Safe Online; 2026-2028; \$351,690). Applicants: Lehmann, R. (PI), Quinten, L., Huikuri, S., Schmidt, A., Gannon, C., & Babchishin, K. M.

Kirk Luther

- Eyewitness memory contamination in the wake of generative-AI (Leverhulme Small Research Grants; \$15,800) (PI).



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STUDENT AWARDS

Abiraam Saminthamby: SSHRC CGS-M; FPRC Travel Award; FRQSC MA Training Scholarship; GSA Master's Scholarship & Visible Minority Grant

Annika MacDonald: GSA Master's Scholarship

Cassidy Hatton: SSHRC CGS-D; CUASA Scholarship; CCDP TA Award; ISRA New Investigator

Ellen Coady: CPA SWAP Travel Award; IACFP Student Award; Derek Eaves Research Grant; AAFFP Dissertation Grant; CCDP TA Award

Emma Holmes: SSHRC CGS-D; Mitacs Accelerate Internship; CPA CJS best graduate poster

Eva Huppé: SSHRC CGS-M

Faye Arellano: GSA Master's Scholarship & Visible Minority Grant

Harper Chaisson: 3-Minute Thesis Competition (2nd place)

Joelle Pagacz: SSHRC CGS-D

Myles Davidson: SSHRC CGS-D

Roshni Sohail: Sir James Lougheed Award of Distinction

Shannon Ferguson: SSHRC CGS-M

Thea Button: SSHRC CGS-M



FPRC RESEARCH GRANT PROJECT UPDATE

The public doesn't understand various issues related to police use of force (e.g., how frequently force is used, what training looks like, use-of-force dynamics). Given this, there is value in exploring educational interventions to correct public misconceptions about police use of force. However, it is currently unclear what form this intervention should take for it to have a meaningful impact. This award from the FPRC funded a study to explore this issue. Participants were recruited using purposive sampling and 13 online semi-structured focus groups and interviews were conducted with police officers (n = 10), academic researchers with expertise in policing and police use of force (n = 8), and community members, including community organization representatives (n = 7).

In the first part of these sessions, we explored participants' perceptions of policing, how use of force fits into policing roles, and how they define police use of force. Participants identified several key policing roles: ensure a just and safe society (e.g., protect people, property), address public expectations (e.g., respond to non-criminal matters or social issues), and serve the community (e.g., foster community

Better Understanding of Police Use of Force: Community, Police, and Academic Perspectives Award Recipient: Ariane Khanizadeh (2025)

relationships and feelings of safety). Participants indicated that while use of force is rarely used by police officers in Canada, it remains necessary, and can play an important role in allowing officers to fulfill the sorts of roles highlighted above. Interestingly, there was significant disagreement about what constitutes police use of force – some participants saw any police action (including their mere presence) as a use of force, others considered use of force to involve physical force only, and others included both physical and psychological force in their definition.

In the second part of the sessions, we explored participants' views about what an effective educational intervention might look like and what the potential impacts of such an intervention might be. Results from this part of the sessions are helping us develop an intervention, which will be tested using a large group of Canadian citizens to see if it increases understanding of police use of force and influences perceptions of police legitimacy. If the results from these tests are positive, the intervention may be able to be used more broadly by police services to help educate the public about policing.



Recent Graduates

Master of Arts in Psychology

Ace Doyle. (2025). *Barriers and facilitators to a strong relationship between clients on community supervision and probation and parole officers and its effects on client outcomes.* Supervisor: Shelley Brown.

Liana Lanzo. (2026). *Improving the quality of care for people experiencing crises in Owen Sound, Ontario: Facilitators and barriers to referral uptake and service utilization by community members.* Supervisor: Craig Bennell.

Mackenzie Moore. (2025). *What did you expect? The role of alcohol outcome expectancies in the relationship between psychopathic traits and alcohol-related aggression.* Supervisor: Adelle Forth.

Melissa O'Donaghy. (2025). *Searching for child sexual exploitation material (CSEM) on an adult pornography site: Risk profiles and risk-related constructs of CSEM and child sexual offending.* Supervisor: Kelly Babchishin.

Zack Lair. (2026). *Deciding when to use deadly force: An examination of police and public assessments of lethal force decisions during direct and indirect threat scenarios.* Supervisor: Craig Bennell.

Doctor of Philosophy in Psychology

Andrew Brown. (2025). *Feeling blue: Examining the impact of body-worn cameras on police officers' well-being during investigations of misconduct.* Supervisor: Craig Bennell.

Bryce Jenkins. (2025). *Examining the role and decision-making of tactical officers in Canada: Risk, response, and expertise.* Supervisor: Craig Bennell.

Heather Burke. (2026). *Structured risk assessment in frontline policing: A prospective field study of police-scored Static-99R assessments of sexual-assault suspects.* Supervisor: Kevin Nunes.

Meghan Garvey. (2026). *Statistical retooling of the Service Planning Instrument for Women (SPIn-W): Performance gains and user perspectives across custody and probation.* Supervisor: Shelley Brown.

Sonya McLaren. (2026). *Understanding change in a diverse Canadian correctional sample: A prospective implementation of the Client Change Scale.* Supervisor: Kirk Luther (Ralph Serin).



Thesis and Dissertations
are available on [Scholaris](#).



FPRC

FORENSIC PSYCHOLOGY
RESEARCH CENTRE

SELECTED FACULTY PUBLICATIONS



Our members publish impactful research in many academic journals, with a combined total citation count of over 25,000. For a complete list of publications, please refer to the member's [lab website](#).

Craig Bennell

Khanizadeh, A-J., McGale, H., & Bennell, C. (2025). Improving understanding of police use of force. *Canadian Journal of Behavioural Science*. [10.1037/cbs0000447](https://doi.org/10.1037/cbs0000447)

Semple, T., Jenkins, B., Siamro, J., Brook, G., Didayula, S., Bordeleau, E., Bussey, O., MacIsaac, A., & Bennell, C. (2025). Injuries and death proximate to conducted energy weapon use: A systematic review. *Journal of Police and Criminal Psychology*. [10.1007/s11896-025-09750-w](https://doi.org/10.1007/s11896-025-09750-w)

Joanna Pozzulo

Pozzulo, J., Pica, E., Fraser, B. M., & Sheahan, C. (book forthcoming). *I spy with my little eye: Real-life cases of wrongful conviction involving a young eyewitness*. Oxford University Press.

Fraser, B. M., & Pozzulo, J. (2025). Delayed reporting of sexual assault in sports: The impact of decade-long delays on mock-jurors' perceptions and decision-making. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*. [10.1177/08862605251381848](https://doi.org/10.1177/08862605251381848)

Kelly Babchishin

Baskurt, S., Babchishin, K. M., Hilkes, G., & Seto, M.C. (2025). A meta-analysis of recidivism rates among individuals who commit child sexual exploitation material (CSEM) offending. *Aggression and Violent Behavior*. [10.1016/j.avb.2025.102080](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.avb.2025.102080)

Hanson, R. K., Babchishin, K. M., May, K., Reid, B., & Wilson, R. (2026). Risk tools predict recidivism for men with low intellectual ability and a history of sexual offending. *Sexual Abuse*. [10.1177/1079063226142912](https://doi.org/10.1177/1079063226142912)

Kevin Nunes

Nunes, K. L., Hatton, C. E., & Pham, A. T. (2026). Researchers' interpretations of evidence about the association between violent attitudes and offending from different research designs. *Journal of Experimental Criminology*. [10.1007/s11292-024-09649-2](https://doi.org/10.1007/s11292-024-09649-2)

Pham, A. T., Nunes, K. L., Hilton, N. Z., Ennis, L., & Jung, S. (2026). The factor structure of intimate partner violence risk. *Criminal Justice and Behavior*. [10.1177/00938548251357789](https://doi.org/10.1177/00938548251357789)

Kirk Luther

Denault, V., Luther, K., Eastwood, J., Dion Larivière, C., Talwar, V., & Béland, S. (2026). Pseudoscientific practices in fraud investigations: A case study. *Journal of Forensic Psychology Research and Practice*. [10.1080/24732850.2025.2610830](https://doi.org/10.1080/24732850.2025.2610830)

Deslauriers-Varin, N. & Luther, K. (2026). Guest editorial: Two-part special issue on investigative interviewing. The continued evolution of investigative interviewing research and practice: An editorial introduction. *Journal of Criminal Psychology*. [10.1108/JCP-02-2026-155](https://doi.org/10.1108/JCP-02-2026-155)

Kristopher Brazil

Bellamy, N. A., Salekin, R. T., Delamillieure, E., Cassart, T., Brazil, K. J., & Colins, O. F. (2025). Daring-Impulsive (DI) traits versus ADHD features in adolescent boys with conduct problems. *Journal of Clinical Child and Adolescent Psychology*. [10.1080/15374416.2025.2579277](https://doi.org/10.1080/15374416.2025.2579277)

Brazil, K. J. (2026). Psychopathy and evolution: An integrative and comprehensive review. *Evolution and Human Behavior*. [10.1016/j.evolhumbehav.2026.106864](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.evolhumbehav.2026.106864)

Shelley Brown

Rieger, D. J., Serin, R. C., & Brown, S. L. (2026). Optimized risk assessment in forensic practice: A comparison of machine learning and manual scoring approaches. *Behavioral Sciences & the Law*. [10.1002/bsl.70046](https://doi.org/10.1002/bsl.70046)