



## **Information for Social Area Graduate Students**

September 2010

Social Psychology Area  
Department of Psychology  
The University of Western Ontario

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## **1. Program Description**

The Social Psychology Area at the University of Western Ontario is oriented toward training graduate students in how to conduct high-quality empirical research. This research training concentrates on the psychological theories, principles, and research methods relevant to understanding the behaviour of individuals and groups in social contexts. At the present time, faculty and students are engaged in research focusing on three major themes:

### ***Attitudes, Social Cognition, and Motivation***

Research within the *Attitudes, Social Cognition, and Motivation* theme currently focuses on attitudes (Fisher, Gawronski, Olson); attribution (Gawronski); automaticity and control (Gawronski); cognitive consistency (Gawronski, Olson); counterfactual thinking (Olson); cross-cultural differences in cognition and motivation (Sorrentino); implicit measures (Gawronski); motivation and cognition (Gawronski, Sorrentino); person perception (Campbell, Gawronski); the self and self-regulation (Gawronski, Sorrentino).

### ***Close Relationships and Sexual Behaviour***

Research within the *Close Relationships and Sexual Behaviour* theme currently focuses on evolutionary foundations of mate selection (Campbell); interpersonal perception and behaviour in relationships (Campbell); romantic relationships and attachment (Campbell); sexual behaviour (Fisher); and reproductive health (Fisher).

### ***Intergroup Relations and Social Justice***

Research within the *Intergroup Relations and Social Justice* theme currently focuses on dehumanization (Esses); ethical decision making (Seligman); ethnic relations (Esses); evil (Seligman); group competition and conflict (Esses); group dynamics (Sorrentino); immigration (Esses); moral judgment (Gawronski, Olson, Seligman); prejudice, stereotyping, and discrimination (Esses, Gawronski); reactions to stigmatization and threatened social identities (Esses, Gawronski, Norman, Sorrentino); social justice (Olson); and values (Esses, Olson, Seligman).

Our primary goal is to train graduate students to become excellent researchers who, upon graduation, will obtain highly desirable positions in academic and nonacademic settings in which psychological research skills are required. This research training mainly follows an apprenticeship model in which students develop strong skills in conducting high-quality empirical research, conceptual thinking, and scientific writing. In addition to the research conducted with their primary supervisor, students are encouraged to collaborate with at least one other faculty member during their graduate training to enable broad training in a variety of methodological approaches and research issues. Our students are also encouraged to take the initiative in planning and conducting their own research and to collaborate with fellow graduate students.

## **2. Social Area Faculty**

The Social Psychology Area at the University of Western Ontario currently consists of seven core faculty members and one additional faculty member with research interests related to social psychology:

### ***Core Faculty***

Lorne Campbell, PhD (Texas A&M University, USA)  
Romantic Relationships; Interpersonal Perceptions and Behaviour; Evolutionary Psychology  
SSC 6328; [lcampb23@uwo.ca](mailto:lcampb23@uwo.ca); Phone: (519) 661-2111 Ext. 84904

Victoria M. Esses, PhD (University of Toronto, Canada)  
Stereotypes, Prejudice, and Discrimination; Intergroup Relations; Immigration  
SSC 6322; [yesses@uwo.ca](mailto:yesses@uwo.ca); Phone (519) 661-2111 Ext. 84650

William A. Fisher, PhD (Purdue University, USA)  
Models of Health Behaviour Change; Sexual and Reproductive Health Behaviour  
SSC 7424; [fisher@uwo.ca](mailto:fisher@uwo.ca); Phone (519) 661-2111 Ext. 84665

Bertram Gawronski, PhD (Humboldt-University Berlin, Germany)  
Social Cognition; Attitudes; Implicit Measures  
SSC 6324; [bgawrons@uwo.ca](mailto:bgawrons@uwo.ca); Phone (519) 661-2111 Ext. 87672

James M. Olson, PhD (University of Waterloo, Canada)  
Attitudes; Social Psychology of Justice; Humour and Ridicule; Social Cognition  
SSC 6332; [jolson@uwo.ca](mailto:jolson@uwo.ca); Phone (519) 661-2111 Ext. 84637

Clive Seligman, PhD (Northwestern University, USA)  
Ethical Decision Making; Nature of Evil  
SSC 8405; [seligman@uwo.ca](mailto:seligman@uwo.ca); Phone (519) 661-2111 Ext. 84666

Richard M. Sorrentino, PhD (SUNY at Buffalo, USA)  
Motivation and Cognition; Group Dynamics; Cross-Cultural Research  
SSC 6326; [rsorrent@uwo.ca](mailto:rsorrent@uwo.ca); Phone (519) 661-2111 Ext. 84658

### ***Other Faculty with Interests in Social Psychology***

Ross Norman, PhD (University of Michigan, USA)  
Mental Illness Stigma; Mental Health Service; Intervention for Psychotic Disorders  
LHSC-SSH 113B, WMCH Bldg.; [rnorman@uwo.ca](mailto:rnorman@uwo.ca); Phone (519) 685-8500 x75493

### 3. Participation in Administrative and Organizational Work

In addition to course work, research, and teaching assistantships, students are encouraged to participate in the organizational and administrative work of the Social Psychology Area. Currently, graduate students are involved in the coordination of the bi-weekly brownbag series, and in the organization and maintenance of the Social Area Lab, which is shared by all members of the area. In addition, students elect two representatives, one at the MSc level and one at the PhD level, who are invited to attend faculty meetings of the Social Psychology Area and serve as mediators between social area faculty and graduate students.

#### *Student Representatives*

Sarah Stanton; SSC 6323; [sstanto4@uwo.ca](mailto:sstanto4@uwo.ca) (MSc level)

Karen Dickson, SSC 6325, Email: [kdickso6@uwo.ca](mailto:kdickso6@uwo.ca) (PhD level)

#### *Brownbag Coordinator*

Yang Ye; SSC 6307; [yeye7@uwo.ca](mailto:yeye7@uwo.ca)

#### *Journal Club Coordinator*

Paul Conway; SSC 6333; Email: [pconway2@uwo.ca](mailto:pconway2@uwo.ca)

#### *Social Area Lab Coordinators*

Taylor Kohut; SSC 6335; [tkohut@uwo.ca](mailto:tkohut@uwo.ca) (reservations)

Kurt Peters; SSC 6300; [kpeter3@uwo.ca](mailto:kpeter3@uwo.ca) (equipment)

#### *Coordinator of Weekly Windows Updates on Lab Computers*

Laura Creighton, SSC 6315, Email: [lcreigh2@uwo.ca](mailto:lcreigh2@uwo.ca)

#### *Weekly Windows Updates on Lab Computers*

Caroline Bennett-AbuAyyash; SSC 6327; [cabuayya@uwo.ca](mailto:cabuayya@uwo.ca)

Paula Brochu; SSC 6327; Email: [pbrochu2@uwo.ca](mailto:pbrochu2@uwo.ca)

Irene Cheung, SSC 6333, Email: [icheung4@uwo.ca](mailto:icheung4@uwo.ca)

Kimberly Dalke, SSC 6315, Email: [kdalke@uwo.ca](mailto:kdalke@uwo.ca)

Amanda DeVaul, SSC 6313, Email: [adevail@uwo.ca](mailto:adevail@uwo.ca)

Leah Hamilton, SSC 8424C, Email: [lhamil2@uwo.ca](mailto:lhamil2@uwo.ca)

Sandra Lackenbauer; SSC 6301; [slackenb@uwo.ca](mailto:slackenb@uwo.ca)

Natalia Lapshina, SSC 6313, Email: [nlapshin@uwo.ca](mailto:nlapshin@uwo.ca)

Etienne LeBel; SSC 6300; [elebel@uwo.ca](mailto:elebel@uwo.ca)

Matthew Maxwell-Smith; SSC 6335; [mmaxwel@uwo.ca](mailto:mmaxwel@uwo.ca)

Stelian Medianu, SSC 6325, Email: [smedianu@uwo.ca](mailto:smedianu@uwo.ca)

Jennifer Pink, SSC 6323, Email: [jpink@uwo.ca](mailto:jpink@uwo.ca)

Jeff Rotman, SSC 6431, Email: [jrotman@uwo.ca](mailto:jrotman@uwo.ca)

Harris Rubin; SSC 6307; [hrrubin@uwo.ca](mailto:hrrubin@uwo.ca)

Chris Wilbur, SSC 6301, Email: [cwilbur2@gmail.com](mailto:cwilbur2@gmail.com)

## 4. MSc Requirements

Typically, it takes students two years to complete their MSc (formerly MA) in social psychology. Students are required to take a full course in statistics called *Research Design* (Psychology 9540) and three half courses in social psychology: *Theories in Social Psychology* (Psychology 9701), *Research Methods in Social Psychology* (Psychology 9702), and *Proseminar in Social Psychology* (Psychology 9703). Psychology 9701 and 9702 are offered in alternate years; Psychology 9703 is offered every other year (the first time in 2010-2011). Students may choose to take additional courses during the MSc program. Courses taken above those required for the MSc can generally be counted toward the PhD requirements for those who progress to the PhD program. In addition to their course work and research, students are expected to regularly attend the Social Area brownbag series and the departmental colloquium series, and to present their work in a brownbag at least every second year. Students typically complete their MSc thesis between May and July of their second year in the MSc program.

### Year I

- Psychology 9540 (Research Design)
- Psychology 9701 (Theories) *or* 9702 (Research Methods)
- Psychology 9703 (Proseminar) if offered during that year
- MSc Thesis Proposal Meeting

### Year II

- Psychology 9701 (Theories) *or* 9702 (Research Methods)
- Psychology 9703 (Proseminar) if offered during that year
- MSc Thesis Defence

### ***MSc Thesis Proposal and Defence***

Students typically work on the development of their MSc thesis research project during their first year in the program and conduct the main body of research in the second year. However, students are strongly encouraged to become involved in empirical data collection in their first year (which may or may not be thesis-related). A formal proposal meeting is required for students in the Social Psychology Area. For the proposal meeting, students select 1-2 members of the faculty in addition to their chief advisor to serve as an advisory committee. The committee will read the proposal, provide feedback and, when ready, give approval in principal to the project. Students typically defend their MSc thesis in the second half of Year II in the program. The examining committee will consist of 2 members from the Department of Psychology (excluding the chief advisor) and 1 member from outside the Department.

### ***Benchmarks of “normal” progression within the MSc program***

- |           |              |   |
|-----------|--------------|---|
| • Year I  | Fall, Winter | Literature review                           |
| • Year I  | Spring       | Design research and prepare thesis proposal |
| • Year I  | Summer       | Successful defence of thesis proposal       |
| • Year II | Fall, Winter | Data collection                             |
| • Year II | Spring       | Data analyses and thesis write-up           |
| • Year II | Summer       | Successful defence of thesis                |

**Please make sure to confirm relevant deadlines in the Departmental Graduate Handbook!!!**

## 5. PhD Requirements

Typically, it takes students enrolled in the PhD program in psychology four years to complete their studies. Students are required to take 6 half courses in or outside their area of concentration, generally within the first two years of the PhD program, with at least 2 half courses in the first year. To ensure breadth in training, selection of courses should be done carefully in consultation with the student's chief advisor. Courses that complement the student's program of study are available within the Department of Psychology and in other departments or faculties. In addition to their course work and research, students are expected to regularly attend the Social Area brownbag series and the departmental colloquium series, and to present their work in a brownbag at least every second year. Students typically complete their PhD thesis during their third or fourth year in the PhD program.

### Year I

- 3 half courses
- Comprehensive Examination

### Year II

- 3 half courses
- PhD Thesis Proposal

### Years III and IV

- PhD Thesis Defence

### *PhD Thesis Proposal and Defence*

Students typically work on the development of their PhD thesis research project in their second year in the program. Students should be prepared to present a formal proposal to their advisory committee by the end of Year II. Acceptance of the proposal by a committee made up of the chief advisor and two additional members is required. The committee will read the proposal, provide feedback and, when ready, give approval in principal to the project.

### *Benchmarks of "normal" progression within the PhD program*

- |            |                |  |
|------------|----------------|--|
| • Year I   | Fall to Summer | Literature review; collection of pilot data for dissertation |
| • Year I   | Winter, Spring | Preparation for comprehensive examination                    |
| • Year I   | Summer         | Comprehensive examination                                    |
| • Year II  | Fall, Winter   | Literature review; collection of pilot data for dissertation |
| • Year II  | Spring         | Preparation of thesis proposal                               |
| • Year II  | Summer         | Successful defence of thesis proposal                        |
| • Year III | Fall to Summer | Research in progress   |
| • Year IV  | Fall, Winter   | Write-up in progress   |
| • Year IV  | Spring         | Successful defence of dissertation (department and senate)   |

**Please make sure to confirm relevant deadlines in the Departmental Graduate Handbook!!! If you are interested in applying for a SSHRC post-doctoral fellowship, please note that SSHRC requires successful completion of your defence by the application deadline!!!**

## **6. Comprehensive Examination**

The purpose of the PhD comprehensive examination is to ensure that students in the PhD program acquire broad knowledge in social psychology and develop conceptual thinking skills. All students enrolled in the social psychology PhD program must successfully complete a comprehensive examination. PhD candidates are expected to write the examinations in their first year in the PhD program.

For each student, the comprehensive examination will cover 5 out of the following 10 areas:

- 1) Attitudes and Persuasion
- 2) Prejudice, Stereotypes, and Discrimination
- 3) Social Cognition
- 4) Interpersonal Processes
- 5) Group Processes and Intergroup Relations
- 6) Attraction, Close Relationships, and Sexual Behaviour
- 7) Social Motivation, Social Influence, and Conformity
- 8) The Self
- 9) Individual Differences
- 10) Culture and Evolution

The 5 topics to be covered will be determined individually by a student's comprehensive examination committee in consultation with the student, with the goal of optimizing breadth. Please note that the purpose of the examination is NOT to provide comprehensive knowledge in the 5 selected research areas. Instead, the goal is to familiarize students with core themes in areas outside of their expertise, and to develop the skills to discuss research findings in these areas at an integrative level.

### ***Committee***

The comprehensive examination committee typically consists of a student's primary supervisor and 2 additional faculty, usually members of the social psychology area. Committee members are determined by the social area faculty in consultation with the student. The committee will be responsible for (a) determining the 5 topics to be included in a student's comprehensive examination, (b) preparing and administering the comprehensive examination, and (c) deciding on the outcome of the comprehensive examination, based on consultation with the full area faculty. The reading list and the questions will be compiled by the full area faculty.

### ***Content***

The 5 topics to be covered by a student's comprehensive examination will be determined by the comprehensive examination committee in consultation with the student. To maximize breadth in training, the committee will assess which of the above-listed topics have been least covered by the student's course work, thesis preparation, and other graduate work (e.g., non-thesis related research; preparation of a course as an instructor). The decision of topics will be guided by the goal of optimizing breadth in the student's training. For the examination, the committee will provide a list of core readings, which will consist of 6 readings for each of the 5 topics to be covered by the examination.

### ***Format***

The comprehensive examination itself includes a written and an oral component. The written component consists of a take-home exam that will include one question on each of the 5 selected topics. For each question, students are expected to provide a short essay of not more than 5 pages (double-spaced). Students have one week to complete the assignment. As a general orientation, it is suggested that students consider spending one day on each of the 5 questions, and two days for the fine-tuning of the 5 essays. Students are expected to work independently on their comprehensive exam assignments. The questions for each topic will

be designed to assess the students familiarity with the respective topics and their ability to discuss research findings in these areas at an integrative level. The oral component consists of a 45 minute follow-up examination that is based on the original readings, the particular questions of the written component, and the essays submitted by the student. The goal of the oral component is to give the student the opportunity to respond to questions raised by their essays. The oral examination typically takes place two weeks after completion of the written component.

### ***Dates***

Members of a student's comprehensive examination committee will be determined by October 31st after the student has entered the first year of the PhD program. The topics and readings of the examination will be determined by the committee not later than November 30th of the same year. The actual examination period will commence on the first Monday of June of the same calendar year, starting with the one-week period for the written component.

### ***Evaluation***

The committee will normally evaluate the performance and communicate its evaluation to the student immediately after the oral examination. The committee will determine, by consensus, whether a student has obtained a SATISFACTORY or UNSATISFACTORY grade on each component of the comprehensive examination. If the student obtains an UNSATISFACTORY grade on any component of the comprehensive examination, the examining committee will require a re-examination of the corresponding component. The date for this re-examination will be determined by the examining committee in consultation with the student, but should normally be within two weeks of the receipt of feedback on the first examination. The re-examination will be graded on a pass/fail basis by the members of the comprehensive examination committee. Students will receive detailed feedback on their written and oral examinations by their individual supervisors after completion of the oral examination. A failure of any part on the second round will result in the student being withdrawn from the PhD program in the Department of Psychology.

## **7. Brownbags and Colloquia**

### ***Social Area Brownbags***

The social area holds bi-weekly brownbag meetings in which faculty, graduate students, and external speakers present their research. Brownbag meetings are held Fridays from 12:30 to 1:30 pm in SSC 6435. Students are expected to regularly attend the brownbag series. In addition, it is expected that students will give a brownbag presentation at least every second year. Aside from research presentations, the brownbag meetings will be devoted to discussion of professional career development issues at least once a year. If the number of individuals who wish to give a presentation exceeds the number of slots available, additional brownbag meetings will be scheduled. The schedule of the brownbag series will typically be administered by a graduate student. The brownbag coordinator for 2010-2011 year is Yang Ye (SSC 6307; [yye7@uwo.ca](mailto:yye7@uwo.ca)).

### ***Brownbags in Other Areas***

Students are also encouraged to make use of the brownbag meetings offered by other areas in the Department of Psychology. Brownbag meetings are currently offered on the following topics: Behavioural and Cognitive Neuroscience; Animal Cognition; I/O Psychology; Developmental Psychology; and Cognition. For up-to-date information regarding meeting times and locations, please visit the departmental website at <http://www.ssc.uwo.ca/psychology/brownbag.htm>.

### ***Journal Club***

In a more or less regular manner, members of the Social Area meet to discuss recent publications in social psychology. Journal club meetings are typically held on Fridays from 12:30 to 1:30 pm in SSC 6435 when there is no brownbag scheduled for that day. For more information on journal club meetings, please contact the current journal club coordinator Paul Conway (SSC 6333; Email: [pconway2@uwo.ca](mailto:pconway2@uwo.ca)).

### ***Colloquia***

In addition to the social area brownbags, the department holds a colloquium series in which external scholars from different areas present their research. Colloquia are typically held Fridays from 3:00 to 4:00 pm in Somerville House, Room 3345 unless otherwise noted. As with the brownbag series, students are expected to regularly attend the colloquium series. The schedule for colloquium talks is available at the departmental website at <http://www.ssc.uwo.ca/psychology/speakers.htm>.

### ***Meetings with External Speakers***

When external speakers are invited by the social area, students are encouraged to meet with these speakers either individually or in group sessions. When an external speaker presents a brownbag, there will be a lunch following the talk to which students only will be invited, and which will be subsidized by the department. Such meetings are typically the best opportunity to discuss research findings with prominent scholars in the field and to get feedback on one's research ideas. Even if there is no overlap in the particular research interests, external speakers are an excellent resource for questions regarding career development, such as expectations for job candidates or recommendations regarding the development of one's CV.

## 8. Professional Organizations

Students in the program are encouraged to become members of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology (SPSP). The membership fee for graduate students is currently US-\$25 and includes free subscriptions to *Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin* and the *Personality and Social Psychology Review*, two of the major journals in social psychology. Students may additionally consult their chief advisor regarding membership in other professional organizations. A list of professional organizations that are relevant for social psychologists include:

American Psychological Association (APA)

<http://www.apa.org/>

Association for Psychological Science (APS)

<http://www.psychologicalscience.org/>

Canadian Psychological Association (CPA)

<http://www.cpa.ca/>

European Association of Social Psychology (EASP)

<http://www.eaesp.org/>

International Social Cognition Network (ISCON)

<http://psychology.ucdavis.edu/labs/sherman/iscon/>

International Society for Self and Identity (ISSI)

<http://www.psych.neu.edu/ISSI/>

Midwestern Psychological Association (MPA)

<http://www.midwesternpsych.org/>

Social Psychology Network (SPN)

<http://www.socialpsychology.org/>

Society for Personality and Social Psychology (SPSP)

<http://www.spsp.org/>

Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues (SPSSI)

<http://www.spssi.org/>

Society of Experimental Social Psychology (SESP)

<http://www.sesp.org/>

## 9. Social Area Lab

### *Access to Social Area Lab*

In order to get access to the Social Area Lab, you need to complete and sign the form on the last page of this document and send it to the current Social Area Lab coordinator Taylor Kohut (SSC 6313; [tkohut@uwo.ca](mailto:tkohut@uwo.ca)). Your information will then be added to the online room reservation system (see below) and you will receive an email with your account information and your individual password. In addition, your Western ID card will be added to the swipe card system, so that you will have access to the 6400 area with Western ID card. Requests for permissions to use the Social Area Lab can be submitted at any time throughout the year. However, all permissions have to be renewed annually by September 30<sup>th</sup>. User rights are limited to faculty and students of the Social Area. However, if capacity is available, others may use the rooms with permission (please contact the current Social Area Chair Dr. Seligman, [seligman@uwo.ca](mailto:seligman@uwo.ca)).

### *Room Reservation*

Room reservations can be made online at <http://psyclone2.ssc.uwo.ca/socialarealab/login.asp> after you have been granted the permission to use the Social Area Lab (see above). In making room reservations, all users are asked to follow the rules outlined below, which will be monitored by the Social Area Lab coordinator (please note that the Social Area Lab coordinator maintains the right to remove your account in case of repeated violations):

- You may only reserve rooms for two weeks in advance. Room reservations beyond this two-week time window may be cancelled by Social Area Lab coordinator without notice.
- Avoid reserving rooms with equipment that you do not need. For example, if you are not using computers in your research, try to sign out rooms that do not contain computers. A list of the equipment that is available in each room is provided at the end of this document and in the online reservation system.
- Only sign out the AV control room (6407) if you need to reserve the recording equipment. Please note that there are two different AV workplaces available in this room (6407A, 6407B), which are linked with the AV equipment in different rooms. Please make sure that you reserve the right workplace for the room in which you would like to do your video recording. It is not permitted to run participants in the AV control room. All researchers have access to control rooms at all times. Please make sure to keep the doors to this room closed at any time to minimize concerns among participants (see below).
- Honours students may reserve computer testing rooms for a maximum of 20 computer-hours per week. This means, for example, that they may use a 5-computer room for up to 4 hours per week, or a one-computer room for up to 20 hours per week in total. Honours students may reserve the group testing room 6435 (A+B) for a maximum of 5 hours per week in total.
- All lab users are asked to keep their room reservations of a particular room to less than 4 hours per day. This policy is to reduce potential conflicts, if several researchers are using the same rooms for their studies.
- If your study plans change and your reserved rooms are no longer needed, please make sure to cancel your room reservations as soon as possible. This will make the rooms available for other users.
- Book only rooms for times that you absolutely need. Be respectful of the number of other individuals needing the research rooms. Have a look at previous weeks to get a sense of the demand for the rooms.

### *Use of Lab Rooms*

In addition to the above guidelines for room reservations, all users are requested to follow several rules regarding the use of the Social Area Lab (please note that the Social Area Lab coordinator maintains the right to remove your lab account in case of repeated violations):

In addition to the above guidelines for room reservations, all users are requested to follow several rules regarding the use of the Social Area Lab (please note that the Social Area Lab coordinator maintains the right to remove your lab account in case of repeated violations):

- **Room and Equipment Maintenance:** All Social Area Lab users have the responsibility to keep the lab in a clean condition and to avoid any possible damage of the available equipment and furniture. Damages should be reported immediately to the current Social Area Chair Dr. Seligman ([seligman@uwo.ca](mailto:seligman@uwo.ca)).
- **No Food and No Beverages:** It is not allowed to consume food or beverages in any of the testing rooms or in the control room, the only exception being the Social Area Brownbag Meetings and studies that involve the consumption of food as part of the study.
- **Meeting Participants:** Participants should be requested to come to room 6400 and to wait in the waiting area until they are brought to the testing rooms by the experimenter. To give participants access to the waiting area, experimenters can unlock the 6400 door from inside the waiting area with the same key (608-A) that provides access to the testing rooms. If the 6400 door is unlocked from inside, participants can enter the waiting area without a swipe card (though access to the testing area still requires a key). Participants should not enter the testing area without an experimenter, but wait for the experimenter in the waiting area. Experimenters should always make sure that they lock the 6400 door to the waiting area when they leave the lab.
- **Waiting Area:** The waiting area should only be used by participants waiting for studies that are conducted in the Social Area Lab. If the waiting area is used by other individuals, please explain the purpose of the room and ask them to leave the area.
- **Participants:** Please make sure that you always ask for participants' SONA ID number and the name of the experiment he or she signed up for. If a participant cannot remember his or her ID number or the name of the experiment, experimenters may allow the participant to retrieve that information from one of our lab computers. In any event, experimenters should always double-check if the participants in the waiting area have indeed signed up for their study (rather than someone else's study).
- **Storing Research Materials:** Research materials (e.g., questionnaires, debriefing forms, consent forms) have to be stored in the research rooms of the faculty member who is supervising your research. Please do not leave any research materials in any of the testing rooms or in the control room 6407. Such materials may be discarded without notice.
- **Use of Partition in Room 6435:** Rooms 6435A and 6435B can be separated by a (relatively) soundproof partition. To extend or retract the partition, the partition key in 6435A needs to be in the "On" position and the respective buttons to extend or retract the partition need to be pressed simultaneously in 6435A and 6435B (two people required!). Please note that the extend function does not extend the partition completely, and that you need to bring the partition into its final position by hand. In order to retract the partition, you first have to "unlock" the partition by hand by pulling the handle on the door-side in 6435A.
- **Use of Control Room 6407:** Participants sometimes get concerned or upset when they notice the video-recording equipment in 6407. To avoid such concerns, the doors to 6407 should be kept closed at any time.
- **Use of Common Rooms 6422 and 6423:** We currently have two common rooms that are available for all social area labs who need an extra work room for students or research assistants on an ad hoc basis (as long as we don't need these rooms for other purposes). If exceptional circumstances require you to leave materials in one of the two rooms, please make sure to clearly mark a section in the book shelves with your name, so that the owners can be identified. If you or your lab would benefit from having access to these rooms, please contact Dianne McCormack to request a key to these rooms (key 610-A).
- **Equipment Removal Prohibited:** Please do not remove any equipment or furniture from a lab room (incl. chairs, tables, joysticks, headsets, etc.).
- **Keeping Rooms Secure:** The Social Area Lab includes a lot of expensive equipment. Lab users are therefore requested to lock all doors after use of the lab or if lab rooms will be unobserved by the user.

Please make also sure that the rear-exit door to the stairways (between rooms 6422 and 6423) is always closed and that you lock the 6400 door to the waiting area after you leave the lab.

### *Use of Equipment*

When using lab computers or the AV equipment, users should be aware of the following issues:

- **AV Equipment:** Users who are interested in using the AV equipment are asked to carefully read the AV manual. Manuals are available in the AV control room (6407) or can be obtained from Kurt Peters ([kpeter3@uwo.ca](mailto:kpeter3@uwo.ca)). Please do not change any settings of the audio-recording equipment (except volume). In the case of technical problems with the AV equipment, please notify Kurt Peters immediately.
- **Computer Accounts:** You can logon to the lab computers with your personal UWO account. Alternatively, social area faculty may set up a shared account that is available for everyone working in their lab (e.g., graduate students, research assistants, honours students). In order to set up a shared account, lab supervisors should contact Anthony Dobravec ([adobrave@uwo.ca](mailto:adobrave@uwo.ca)). Note that for shared lab accounts the “Logon to:” field needs to be set to “[room number] (this computer)” when you logon.
- **Administrator Rights:** All lab and personal accounts will be “restricted user accounts” that do not have administrator rights. Thus, you will be unable to install any software or to access personal folders from other individuals or labs. If you need to install additional software that is not available on the lab computers, please contact Kurt Peters ([kpeter3@uwo.ca](mailto:kpeter3@uwo.ca)).
- **Saving Documents and Data:** In order to avoid chaos on the hard-drives, please copy your experiments to your “My Documents” folder of your personal account or your shared lab account. Please do not save any data or documents in other folders or on the desktop. Any such documents may be deleted without notice.
- **DirectRT Styles:** If you run experiments with DirectRT and need to adjust the styles settings, please do not change the default styles file of DirectRT. Instead, you should copy the default file into the folder of your experiment and then adjust it according to your individual needs. DirectRT will automatically search for a styles file in the folder of your experiment, and if the program can’t find a styles file, it will use the default styles settings.
- **Computer Settings:** Lab users are not allowed to change any of the settings on the lab computers (e.g., screen resolution, refresh rate, etc.).
- **Shut Down Computers After Use:** All lab computers have to be shut down completely after use (do not just logoff!). Users are asked to wait until all systems are completely off (it may not be enough just to initiate the shutdown cycle, as it sometimes fails). If you want to shut down a computer and you are alerted that updates need to be installed, please click “Install Updates and Shut Down Computer” and wait until the system is completely off. If you encounter any problems while shutting down a lab computer, please contact Kurt Peters immediately ([kpeter3@uwo.ca](mailto:kpeter3@uwo.ca)).
- **Problems:** Problems with any of the lab equipment should be immediately reported to Kurt Peters ([kpeter3@uwo.ca](mailto:kpeter3@uwo.ca)). To help us diagnose the problem, please report as many details pertaining to the malfunction as possible (e.g., what program was running when the computer froze, etc.).

## **10. Other Useful Information**

### ***Major Journals and Email Alerts***

To stay informed about current developments in the field, students are encouraged to keep track of the latest publications in major psychological journals, such as the *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, *Journal of Experimental Social Psychology*, *Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin*, *European Journal of Social Psychology*, *Personality and Social Psychology Review*, *Psychological Science*, *Psychological Review*, and *Psychological Bulletin*. Other more specialized journals include the *Group Processes and Intergroup Relations*, *Self and Identity*, *Journal of Social and Interpersonal Relations*, *Social Cognition*, *Journal of Cross-Cultural Psychology*, and *Journal of Social Issues*. Many of these journals offer free email alerts that include information about the contents of their latest issues. Requests for email alerts can be submitted at the journal websites.

### ***Conferences***

Students are strongly encouraged to present their research at scientific conferences. Detailed information regarding conferences is available online at the websites of the professional organizations listed above. As these conferences target different kinds of audiences, students should contact their supervisor to determine which conference would be most suitable for them. If students give a conference presentation, the department provides some financial support for travel expenses (typically around \$300). Requests for departmental support for conference travel have to be submitted during the Spring of the preceding academic year.

### ***Western-Waterloo Meetings***

In addition to scientific conferences held by professional organizations, the Social Psychology areas at the University of Western Ontario and the University of Waterloo hold an annual meeting at which graduate students are encouraged to give oral presentations of their research. Typically 3 graduate students from each university will have the opportunity to give an oral presentation. In addition, there will be opportunities for all other students to give a poster presentation. The location of the annual Western-Waterloo Meeting alternates between London and Waterloo. The next meeting in June 2011 will be held at the University of Waterloo.

### ***Scholarships and Funding***

All students are expected to apply for scholarships from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC) and the Ontario Graduate Scholarship Program (OGS). More detailed information (including requirements, deadlines) will be sent out early in the fall by our graduate program coordinator, Val Van Domelen.

### ***Professional Websites***

Students are encouraged to create a professional (not “personal”) website that includes information regarding their research interests, published papers, contact information, and other useful information. These websites will be linked to the Social Psychology Area website.

### ***Compleat Academic***

The “Compleat Academic” edited by Darley, Zanna, and Roediger (2004) provides useful information on various career-related issues, such as the hiring process, teaching, and writing research articles. The reference is: Darley, J. M., Zanna, M. P., & Roediger, H. L. (2004). *The compleat academic: A career guide*. Washington, DC: American Psychological Association.

## 11. Useful Links

Research Participation Website	<a href="http://uwo-psychology.sona-systems.com/">http://uwo-psychology.sona-systems.com/</a>
Social Area Lab Room Reservation	<a href="http://psyclone2.ssc.uwo.ca/socialarealab/login.asp">http://psyclone2.ssc.uwo.ca/socialarealab/login.asp</a>
Electronic Psychology Resources	<a href="http://www.lib.uwo.ca/programs/psychology/">http://www.lib.uwo.ca/programs/psychology/</a>
Western's Volunteer Program	<a href="http://www.career.uwo.ca/wvp/">http://www.career.uwo.ca/wvp/</a>
Technology and Social Research Committee	<a href="http://www.ssc.uwo.ca/psychology/tsrc/index.htm">http://www.ssc.uwo.ca/psychology/tsrc/index.htm</a>
Social Psychology Network	<a href="http://www.socialpsychology.org/">http://www.socialpsychology.org/</a>

## 12. Available Equipment in the Social Area Lab

Room	Description	Computers	Monitors	Headphones	Microphones	Joysticks	Response Box	Camera	Other
6407A	Video Control Room								1 RA computer
6407B	Video Control Room								
6404	Large Testing Room	1	TFT 1280X1024	1	1	1		1 ceiling	
6406	Large Testing Room	1	TFT 1280X1024	1	1	1		1 ceiling	
6408	Large Testing Room	1	TFT 1280X1024	1	1	1		1 ceiling	
6410	Large Testing Room	1	TFT 1280X1024	1	1	1		1 ceiling	
6412	Interaction Room							2 tripods	
6414	Multiple Computers	4	TFT 1280X1024	4	4	4			
6416	Large Testing Room	1	TFT 1280X1024	1	1	1		1 ceiling	
6420	Multiple Computers	4	TFT 1280X1024	4	4	4			
6421	Multiple Computers	4	TFT 1280X1024	4	4	4			
6435A	Group Testing Room							1 ceiling	screen
6435B	Group Testing Room	5	TFT 1280X1024	5	5	5		1 ceiling	
6434	Large Testing Room	2	TFT 1280X1024	2	2	2			
6436	Large Testing Room	2	TFT 1280X1024	2	2	2			
6438	Large Testing Room	2	TFT 1280X1024	2	2	2		1 ceiling	
6440	Large Testing Room	2	TFT 1280X1024	2	2	2		1 ceiling	
6441	Small Testing Room	1	TFT 1280X1024	1	1	1	1		
6443	Small Testing Room	1	TFT 1280X1024	1	1	1	1		
6445	Small Testing Room	1	TFT 1280X1024	1	1	1	1		
6447	Small Testing Room	1	TFT 1280X1024	1	1	1	1		
6449	Small Testing Room	1	TFT 1280X1024	1	1	1	1		
6442	Small Testing Room	1	TFT 1280X1024	1	1	1	1		
6444	Small Testing Room	1	TFT 1280X1024	1	1	1	1		
6446	Small Testing Room	1	TFT 1280X1024	1	1	1	1		
6448	Small Testing Room	1	TFT 1280X1024	1	1	1	1		
6450	Small Testing Room	1	TFT 1280X1024	1	1	1	1		

**Control Station 6407A:** AV control for 6404, 6406, 6408, 6410, 6416,

**Control Station 6407B:** AV control for 6435A, 6435B, 6438, 6440

## Guidelines for the Use of the Social Area Lab

I hereby confirm that I have read the Guidelines for the Use of the Social Area Lab and that I will follow the rules outlined in the guidelines. I understand that violations of these rules may result in a withdrawal of my permission to use the Social Area Lab.

First Name: .....

Last Name: .....

UWO ID Number: .....

UWO Username: .....

Email Address: .....

Lab Affiliation:  Campbell  
 Esses  
 Fisher  
 Gawronski  
 Olson  
 Seligman  
 Sorrentino  
 Other: .....

Status:  Faculty  
 Post-Doc  
 Graduate Student  
 Honors Student  
 Research Assistant  
 Other: .....

Signature: ..... Date: .....