

Psychology Newsletter

Bryn Mawr College Department of Psychology



Community News

Did you know that we have a Student Lounge? Come relax and connect with other majors and minors in Room 101 Bettws-y-Coed.



DEI News

The American Psychological Association (APA) recently issued an apology to people of color for APA's role in "promoting, perpetuating and failing to challenge racism, racial discrimination, and human hierarchy within the U.S." The apology lists harms caused by the APA, including its role in perpetuating ideas of human hierarchy; minimizing and marginalizing psychologists, including students, from communities of color; failing to support research on communities of color; failing to advance research that calls attention to harmful social determinants of physical and psychological health that adversely affect communities of color; among other harms. The apology also includes resolutions to combat racism. Bryn Mawr's Department of Psychology fully supports this apology and believes it is a step in the right direction toward creating a more equitable and anti-racist field. You can read the APA's full statement [here](#).

As the department works toward addressing issues like these in our courses and department, we would value input from students. All students and faculty are welcome to visit the DEI team's office hours and/or use the new comment box in BYC located near the bulletin board near the entrance.

Open DEI Office Hours:

- Sarah Phillips: Monday 11/22 7 - 8pm in the CC
- Prof Orvell: Tuesday 11/30 12:30 - 1:30pm in 306 BYC
- Emma Samstein: Thursday 12/9 5 - 6pm in the Student Lounge

Welcoming Professor Mukerji

Professor Mukerji joined the psychology department this year! We had a chat with her to learn about her hopes and goals regarding DEI, classes, etc. as a new member of the community!

- *What are your main goals for your courses next semester? What are the main learnings that you hope students take away from them?*

I want students to learn more about psychopathology and how we study it. I also want to work on critical thinking and discussion skills and motivate students to consider people's individual contexts, lived experiences, and the stigma that surrounds psychopathology.

- *Why are diversity, equity, and inclusion important to you? What are ways in which you are trying to be more intentional about these considerations as you transition to Bryn Mawr?*

Diversity, equity, and inclusion are important to me as a researcher, teacher, and clinician, and are central to the work that I do. I want my students to actively think about the barriers that people face in getting treatment, and break down the 'one-size-fits-all' approach to treatment that is very inequitable.

- *What was the motivation behind changing the name of the Abnormal Psych class to Clinical Psych? What impact do you hope that change will have?*

I find the name Abnormal Psych to be challenging. It was originally developed to reflect the idea that the behaviors studied were 'abnormal' which is a language that can be extremely stigmatizing. I hope that the new name encourages students to come in with an open and thoughtful mind about how we approach this topic.

- *Why is encouraging and generating more empathy for, and understanding of, mental disorders important to you?*

Generating more empathy is vital to think about how we take care of other people and how we think about the field at large. That is why it is such an important part of the course. It is also the approach I take in my clinical and research work.

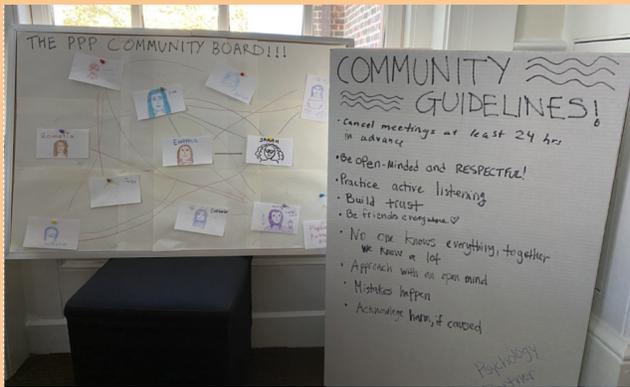
- *How do you see yourself integrating into Bryn Mawr and its culture? What challenges and successes do you anticipate facing as you do so?*

I'm very excited to integrate into the vibrant culture at Bryn Mawr, and in the process, challenge myself as a teacher to think outside the box. Science at its core is about co-creation and I want to draw that element into the classroom.

Psychology Partner Program Launch

On October 28th the Psychology DEI team hosted its first Psychology Partner Program Kickoff! Hot apple cider and doughnuts were served while community members gathered. The group laid out community guidelines, which included being respectful of one another, keeping an open mind, and recognizing that everyone has their own unique lived experiences. By the end of the kickoff event, our social connections had grown, as pictured in our community board (to the right).

We are so excited to be bringing people together within the major, and hope this community continues to strengthen and grow. If you are interested in joining, please be on the lookout for a call in the coming months for more students to join!



Registration Resources for Psychology Courses:

Psychology Colloquium: Previously called Junior Brown Bag, this is a required course for Psychology Majors. It is offered every semester and can be taken by students as soon as they declare their major. It is a weekly hour-long class (usually held on Fridays) that aims to introduce students to faculty members' areas of research, provide opportunities for student-faculty interactions, and build community. Students register for it by emailing Ann Ogle and NOT through Bionic. This class is not for credit.

Psychology Senior Seminar: This is one of two capstone choices offered to seniors. It is usually offered in the Spring and is being taught by Professor Anjali Thapar next semester. Students engage with cutting-edge topics in psychology and complete a final project. It is a semester-long course.

Psychology Thesis: This is the other capstone choice offered to seniors. Senior Thesis is a year-long commitment (fall and spring semester). Thesis students conduct a year-long research project with a faculty member. Students are expected to reach out to faculty members they are interested in working with during the spring before their senior year. Only psychology students who complete a thesis are eligible for honors in psychology.

Make sure that you are on track to complete your major/minor in psychology! You can check out the newly updated "[Paths Through the Major/Minor](#)" page on the BMC psychology website or using the QR code. Students can also check their progress by requesting an unofficial transcript through Bionic. Remember that you can reach out to your Major Advisor, Dean, Major Reps, DEI Reps, Faculty & the Registrar for help!

Closing Thoughts

This fall there is much to be grateful for as we've learned together on campus and in BYC after more than a year of primarily remote learning. As we get ready for the Thanksgiving break, the DEI team would like to acknowledge that this holiday carries a complicated and painful history. In the dominant White narrative of Thanksgiving, the holiday commemorates the peaceful, friendly meeting of the English settlers and the Wampanoag tribe. However, this narrative trivializes a shared, painful history with the Wampanoag people. For many Native Americans, Thanksgiving is a day of mourning and protest which marks the arrival of settlers in North America and the oppression and genocide that followed. If you are interested in learning more, you can read [this speech](#) by teacher and activist Wamsutta Frank B. James, who was Wampanoag. This speech was to have been delivered at a state dinner in Plymouth Massachusetts in 1970, but James was told he could not deliver these words.

