

FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER

BRYN MAWR PSYCHOLOGY DEPARTMENT



DR. PHIA SALTER



Psychology Research on DEI & Anti-Racism:

Dr. Salter Examines Differing Representations of Black History Month—and Their Implications

Dr. Salter takes a cultural approach in her research, acknowledging that racism is steeped in America's history, institutions and systems. In one study, Dr. Salter was interested in representations of Black History Month (BHM) in different schools in Kansas City, which are highly segregated. Schools that were majority Black and majority White both highlighted the achievements of Black Americans during BHM. However, the way in which they did so differed. Schools that were majority Black were more likely to frame these individuals' achievements within the context of slavery, the civil rights movement, or racism, unlike majority White schools, which ignored this important contextualization.

Why does this matter? In follow-up experiments, Dr. Salter found that White college students *preferred* the representations of BHM that avoided these issues. Yet, when she exposed students to portrayals that included more critical representations of history, their recognition of racism increased, as did their support for anti-racist policies.

Black History Month arose out of a proposal by Carter G. Woodson in 1926 to celebrate Black American communities *and also* to foster anti-racism. Dr. Salter sums up the importance of her study's findings powerfully: "As students and teachers...choose to emphasize diversity or individual accomplishments, and omit information about racist barriers, they selectively reproduce cultural worlds of sanitized history representations that in turn afford denial of racism and weak support for anti-racism policy."



CHECK OUT THE ARTICLE



CHECK OUT THE PODCAST

Senior Seminar vs. Thesis

An important part of deciding between a thesis and a seminar is understanding what each is:

- The senior seminar is a course offered to seniors during the Spring semester. Students engage with relevant topics in the field of psychology. They conduct research and present it in the form of group presentations, podcasts and other modalities. This is a good way for students to integrate their knowledge from various classes and engage with cutting-edge topics in psychology.
- The senior thesis is a year-long commitment. Students work with a professor on a research project, including data analysis, that combines both of their interests and expertise. Students produce an APA paper at the end of the year. Senior thesis students are eligible for psychology honors.

SEMINAR?

PRE-REGISTER FOR IT IN THE FALL SEMESTER OF YOUR SENIOR YEAR VIA BIONIC.

THESIS?

CONSIDER

your own research interests based on classes, research experience, and/or personal experiences. You are not expected to have a fully formed idea of your research interests; in fact, being open-minded can be a strength. Feel free to reach out to professors or the major reps for more guidance!

RESEARCH

what the professors in the Bryn Mawr Psychology Department are interested in (e.g., through the department website, their CV, or google scholar). Taking a lab course with a professor is also a great way to identify whether they may be a good thesis advisor for you.

REACH OUT

to professors whose research interests align with yours. You can send them an email asking if they would consider being your thesis advisor. If you do not feel ready to commit to a professor yet, you can set up a meeting to talk to them and understand their interests and research process better.

KEEP IN MIND:

- If considering a senior thesis,
 - Consider working and mentorship style.
 - Reach out to professors in the spring semester of your junior year (before pre-registration), ideally.
- Both the thesis and the seminar are enriching experiences.
- The choice lies in the student's own interests and future goals.
- Reach out to current students and professors to talk if you are unsure which path is for you.

LOOKING FOR SUMMER INTERNSHIPS?

INTERESTED IN SUMMER RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES IN PSYCHOLOGY? HERE'S HOW TO FIND THEM!



How can I get paid for this work?

- The Career & Civic Engagement Center's Summer Internship Funding Program provides funds up to \$4000 per student to support unpaid summer internships:



- Bryn Mawr's 'Summer Science Research' program is also an excellent way to do research with faculty. Students are encouraged to conduct independent research under the guidance of Bryn Mawr faculty members during the summer and/or academic year. Students can apply to receive stipends for summer research and academic credit for research performed in the junior and senior years, and should speak with a faculty member before applying.



- The APA provides a list of summer research opportunities across the US.
- The NSF funds Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REUs) at a variety of Universities in the Social Sciences; these programs are often particularly invested in recruiting students from groups that have been historically underrepresented in psychology.
- Reach out to professors in Bryn Mawr's Psychology department to see if they have research opportunities for students in their labs during the summer.
- The Annual Summer Institute in Survey Research Techniques Diversity Fellowship is a two-week program that focuses on recruiting upper-level undergraduates from underrepresented groups who are interested in quantitative social science fields.

- You can also research labs at other Colleges or Universities. Oftentimes, emailing the professor/lab coordinator (if listed) to inquire about opportunities is a good place to start. You can introduce yourself, state your interest in working in the lab, and attach your CV/resume). Lab websites might also have a place for students to apply formally.
 - [Link here with opportunities at Duke](#)
- Check out list of Clinical Opportunities [here](#).

Interested in other kinds of internships?

Handshake is a resource provided by the college where employers directly post internships opportunities. Students can filter internship searches based on their preferences and can directly apply for them through Handshake, making the application process easier.

A Note from the Department Faculty:

In the wake of the hateful, anti-Black racist graffiti that was found on campus, we want to communicate that these acts of racism have no place in our community. Black members of our community were directly targeted by and affected by these acts. To Black students and community members: we are here to listen and support you. We understand experiences like this ripple through our community as time passes; we are committed to continuing to make the psychology department an anti-racist place where every student feels that they belong and are supported. We are also grateful to students who are supporting members of our community and contributing to making the psychology department an anti-racist and inclusive place. Please feel free to reach out to any one of us.