

Understanding mind and behaviour



Members of the Centre for Psychological Research



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The Centre for Psychological Research is a group of active research psychologists with particular strengths in cognitive, health, pedagogic and social psychology, and the psychology of mental health.

Research Expertise

Systematic literature reviews

- Comprehensive reviews of research evidence
- Meta-analyses of research findings
- Informing evidence-based practice and policy

Cognitive processes

- Thinking, problem solving and decision making
- Visual attention
- Language comprehension
- Short-term memory

Qualitative research

- In-depth studies of people's experiences
- Personal identity
- Gender, culture and relationships
- Social constructionist methods
- Interpretative phenomenological analysis (IPA)

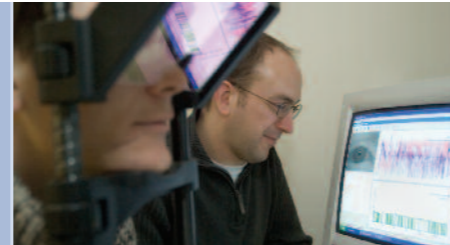
Health behaviours

- Perception of risks and decision making about risk behaviours
- Drinking, smoking, diet and exercise
- Adolescent and young adult risk behaviours
- Living an coping with chronic pain



Ergonomics and occupational psychology

- The human-environment interface
- Self-assembly and construction tasks
- People's use of visual information
- Creativity in the workplace



Evaluations

- Trials and controlled evaluations of products, methods and procedures

Psychometrics

- Maximising reliability and validity of psychological assessments

Child development

- Autism, Asperger's Syndrome, ADHD and other developmental disorders
- Development of language, literacy and cognitive abilities



Mental health

- Psychological processes in self-compassion and self-criticism
- Testing evolutionary theories of psychopathological mechanisms
- Clinical trials of compassion-focused therapy

Brain imaging

- Magnetoencephalography (MEG) and the latest brain imaging technologies
- Neurophysiological correlates of visual attention, face perception and mental health/illness



Learning and education

- Distance learning, e-learning and virtual (Second Life) learning environments
- Creativity and critical thinking
- Educational transitions

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Service development

Mental health

- Models for understanding shame and its treatment
- Compassion-focused therapy for a range of chronic and complex difficulties including depression, eating disorders and psychosis.
- Cognitive-behavioural therapy



Living and coping with chronic pain

- Musculo-skeletal pain
- Neuropathic pain
- Chronic headache
- Haemophilia-related pain
- Sickle cell disease pain

Food allergies and food choice

- Psychological and behavioural aspects of food allergies and intolerance
- Impact of food allergies on everyday life



Previous consultancy services

Measuring health-related behaviour and experience: A pharmaceutical company wanted to improve their evaluations of new treatments in clinical trials. Our evidence-based advice enabled the company to measure the symptoms associated with specific conditions more accurately.

Behavioural analyses: A manufacturer of furniture drawer dampeners (soft-closers) needed to know how much force people use to close drawers of different types. Our research and development enabled the company to refine their products in a systematic way.

Evaluating products and procedures: A company needed to assess a new instructional system for self-assembly furniture, and was able to use the data from our formal evaluation to support their marketing.

Attitudes and behaviour in the workplace: A company wanted to assess employee satisfaction in the workplace. Our research enabled them to improve their practice and increase satisfaction.

Data management and statistical analysis: A company needed instruction in using software to manage and analyse data. We provided workshops and support in the use of SPSS.

Pedagogic evaluations: An innovative learning centre needed an assessment of the impact of their work, and we provided a tailored impact evaluation.