A Distinctive Program For Innovative Scholars

The Potential

The Department of Psychology’s PhD Program in Consciousness and Society is dedicated to preparing a new kind of psychologist. In this age of remarkable potential and unfathomable peril, our world needs psychologists that are capable of understanding the depth of human experience and who can catalyze transformation at all levels of the human community. The program’s curriculum focuses on the dynamic interface between consciousness and society, individual experience, and collective structures.

A Distinctive Program

The program’s combination of interdisciplinary perspectives, qualitative research, and reflexivity has a unique value. The emphasis is on a global awareness coupled with an intimate empiricism that is engaged with and adequate to the task of examining and addressing the complexity and subtlety of human life. The program has three primary theoretical orientations:

• humanistic psychology rooted in existential-phenomenological thought
• critical psychologies rooted in cultural studies and social justice
• transpersonal psychology, including mind/body integration and wisdom traditions

In our research courses, qualitative methodology and a human-science orientation is emphasized. Students will engage phenomenological, critical, transpersonal, theoretical/philosophical, social justice, discursive, and hermeneutic research paradigms. The generation of knowledge is a collaborative effort, as we believe that a truly ethical approach cannot hide behind generated knowledge, but instead must reflect an understanding of how both the discipline and the researcher are historically and culturally situated.

The Doctoral Students

We are looking for creative and committed scholars equal to the rigors of theoretical reflection, scholarly writing, and community engagement. Our students have a rich, widely published, and constantly expanding corpus of research related to topics such as the phenomenology of authenticity, the discourse of hysteria, trauma and subjectivity, psychotherapy and social justice, quantum transformation, transcinema, discourses of sexuality, restorative justice practices, legislation on child prostitution, building community in global and local contexts, creative writing, Lacanian psychoanalysis, and self-transformation. Our students routinely present at national and international conferences. Students are actively engaged in both their own and faculty research projects. Graduates of the program may go on to work within academia as teachers and researchers, in health care, social services, government, or religion.
Welcome from a Distinguished Community of Faculty

Our faculty is an internationally comprised group of distinguished scholars representing a diverse spectrum of psychological inquiry. Our work includes research in the phenomenology of consciousness, social justice, contemplative inquiry, discourse studies, psychotherapy, Lacanian psychoanalysis, philosophy of science, Buddhist psychology, ESP and synesthesia, and feminist subjectivity, to name a few domains. Our faculty fosters a lively community of student-scholars who are encouraged to creatively and innovatively explore their intellectual interests.

Christopher Aanstoos (PhD, Duquesne University) is a former president of the APA division of Humanistic Psychology and former editor of the journal The Humanistic Psychologist. His interests include the phenomenology of consciousness, human development and potentiality, and the historical and philosophical foundations of psychology.

Jeanette Diaz (PhD, University of California, Riverside) Her interests include: psychology and globalization, the psychology of poverty, sustainable community development, poverty eradication in least developed countries, the intersection of psychology and social justice.

Eric Dodson (PhD, Duquesne University) Areas of interest include: exploring the psychology of teaching from a phenomenological standpoint, rethinking the meaning of academic intellectuality, exploring the psychological significance of living in a postmodern and technological world, and a psychology of decadence and related phenomena.

Tobin Hart (PhD, University of Massachusetts) Interests include spirituality, psychotherapy, and education. His work considers those ways of knowing that could be described as contemplative, intuitive, or empathic. He values an integrative psychology and interdisciplinary inquiry that asks questions about wisdom, love, and knowledge; spiritual life of children and educational renewal.

Daniel Helminiax (PhD, University of Texas) builds on the western philosophical tradition and especially Lonergan’s analysis of human consciousness or spirit to elaborate the psychology of spirituality or transpersonal psychology. He holds Ph.D.’s in human development and systematic theology. His latest books are Sex and the Sacred: and The Transcended Christian.

Neil Korobov (PhD, Clark University) is the Director of the PhD Program. His work is situated in Discursive Psychology, with areas of interest including identity, gender (masculinity), emerging adulthood, romantic intimacy, storytelling, critical discourse theory, social constructionism, and film.

Mark Kunkel (PhD, University of Tennessee) has present teaching and research interests in the fundamentals of psychology as they apply to psychotherapy and assessment. He is a licensed psychologist and maintains a limited private practice.

Tüğçe Kurtiş (PhD, University of Kansas) is a social psychologist who is interested in using psychological theory, pedagogy, and practice as resources for global social justice. Drawing upon diverse traditions in cultural, critical, feminist, and liberation psychologies, her research focuses on sociocultural and discursive constructions of self and identity in which she examines the joint processes of disclosure and silence. Her work investigates gender and health implications of voice and silence within close relationships and collective contexts.

Kareen Ror Malone (PhD, University of Dallas) Interests and writings pertain to philosophy of science, gender studies, race relations, and Lacanian psychoanalysis. She is active in various professional organizations in theoretical psychology and psychoanalysis. She has trained with Groupe Interdisciplinaire Freudien de Recherche et d’Intervention Clinique et culturelle and is an analyst in training at Apres Coup.

Tobin Hart (PhD, University of Massachusetts) Interests include spirituality, psychotherapy, and education. His work considers those ways of knowing that could be described as contemplative, intuitive, or empathic. He values an integrative psychology and interdisciplinary inquiry that asks questions about wisdom, love, and knowledge; spiritual life of children and educational renewal.

Lisa Osbeck (PhD, Georgetown University) focuses on historical and philosophical approaches to psychological studies. She studies relations between epistemology and methodology as they interface with accounts of human cognition and the philosophy of science. She is a fellow and associate of the Center for Philosophy of Science, University of Pittsburgh, and a research consultant for the Georgia Institute of Technology.

Kris Klassen (PhD, University of British Columbia) has a background in existential-phenomenological psychology and is interested in models and methods of personal transformation. Areas of active research include Buddhist psychology, mindfulness, bereavement, and cross-cultural studies.

Don Rice (PhD, Saybrook Graduate School) is the Chair of the Psychology Department. He has worked as an assistant to Dr. Stanley Krippner at the William C. Menninger Dream Laboratory, taught at Auburn University, and interned in London at the Philadelphia Institute, with the late R.D. Laing. Interests include the psychology of the mind and body, dreams, martial arts, bio-/neurofeedback, and psychotherapy.

Kathy Skott-Myhr (PsyD, St. Thomas University) is a postmodern feminist scholar-practitioner whose interests include: theories and practices related to counseling and rethinking feminine subjectivity. She has extensive experience working with children and youth who have experienced learning challenges, substance abuse, family conflict, disordered eating, sexual trauma and issues of sexual identity.
We’re happy that you are considering our PhD program in Consciousness and Society at the University of West Georgia. You will not find a PhD program in Psychology like this anywhere in the world. Our program is uniquely and innovatively situated at the nexus of three theoretical approaches to the analysis of consciousness and society: Humanistic, Critical, and Transpersonal. These approaches serve as reflexive and reflective catalysts for our student’s distinctively ‘human science’ research endeavors. The result is an interdisciplinary approach that incorporates literature, philosophy, history, cultural studies, anthropology, critical theories of discourse and sociality, mind/body studies, and Western and Asian philosophies.

If you’re interested in working closely with us in these unique ways to make original and substantive contributions at the progressive edge of psychological theory and knowledge, then please consider applying. We look forward to receiving your application.

—Neill Korobov, Director of PhD program

Application and Admissions

Your application should include all of the following materials. Please send the materials to the appropriate offices to ensure proper processing of your application. Except as noted below, your application materials should be submitted as one package directly to the College of Social Sciences, Room 336, University of West Georgia, 1601 Maple Street, Carrollton, Georgia 30118. Please allow 7-10 business days for processing your application. This program only admits during fall semester, and the deadline is always January 10th.

1. Completed application for admission (Send directly to Admission’s Office)
2. Non-refundable $40.00 application fee (Send directly to Admission’s Office)
3. One official transcript from each college or university attended (Send directly to Admission’s Office)
4. Three letters of recommendations on official letterhead stationery. Academic letters are preferred although other professional letters will be accepted. Letters must arrive in sealed, signed envelopes with this form. (Send directly to the College of Social Sciences at address listed above)
5. An official Graduate Record Examination (GRE) Score. If your GRE scores are lower than 140 on Verbal and Math, and 3.5 on the analytic writing, please provide a short explanation in your cover letter. The program will not accept scores more than 5 years old. For more information about the GRE, please visit: www.gre.org/ gentest (GRE scores should be sent directly to the Admission’s Office)
6. A current curriculum vita listing contact information (including email address), educational background, employment history, awards and recognitions, publications and presentations, etc. (Send directly to the College of Social Sciences at address listed above)
7. A reflective essay describing why you are drawn to this particular program and how you understand the relation of consciousness and society. The essay should include a statement of how you imagine the program will contribute to your future plans. (Send directly to the College of Social Sciences at the address above)
8. Satisfactory Certificate of Immunization (new students only). Please send this form directly to the Department of Health Services. Contact the Department of Health Services at 678-839-6452 should you have any questions.
9. Writing sample. An academic paper is highly preferred but other formats are acceptable. The word limit on this is 8,000 words, all inclusive (including references, etc). (Send directly to the College of Social Sciences at the address above)

 Applicants with a Master’s degree are strongly preferred. Only exceptional students with a B.A. or B.S. will be considered and are rarely accepted. Although it is typical for applicants to have Psychology degrees, those with degrees outside of Psychology will be considered as well. Additional courses in the Department of Psychology at the University of West Georgia may be required due to disciplinary background or level of educational attainment. After your complete application has been received by the College of Social Sciences, it will be sent to the Director of the Ph.D. Program. Selected applicants will be invited to campus for an interview. For more information about the application process, please contact psydoc@westga.edu. For questions about the status of your application, please contact Victoria Yang by email at vyang@westga.edu

www.westga.edu/psydept · 678-839-6510