

# Social Psychology at UConn

<http://socialpsych.uconn.edu/>

## Emphases:

- Theory-based approaches to social issues, especially prejudice, inequality, health
- Multiple theoretical perspectives, multiple methods, and multiple levels of analysis (individual, dyad, group, intergroup, culture, society, international, ecology)

## Faculty Members:

- Meg Gerrard
- Frederick X. Gibbons
- Blair T. Johnson (Program Head)
- Seth C. Kalichman
- Kerry L. Marsh
- Felicia Pratto
- Diane M. Quinn
- Nairán Ramírez-Esparza

## Notables:

- Each professor in our program is on at least one editorial board or holds and/or holds an editorship at major journals relevant to the emphases of our program.
- Social Psychology faculty ranked 11th in citation impact nationally (Nosek et al., 2010).
- Students funded by NSF, NIH, Farber, University fellowships, and NIH training grant.
- Less than 2-to-1 student-faculty ratio in doctoral program.
- Department of Psychology consistently ranked in top 10 in federal grant funding.
- Psychology doctoral program ranked in top 30 public research universities (NRC, 2010).
- University of Connecticut ranked in top 20 national public universities (US News).

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**Meg Gerrard** ([@uconn.edu](mailto:@uconn.edu)): Interests include the application of social psychology theories and methods to the study of health risk and prevention behaviors, especially those related to cancer. Other interests include the impact of social, environmental, and familial factors, and genetic variation on developmental trajectories of risk and prevention behaviors during adolescence and young adulthood.

**Frederick X. Gibbons** ([@uconn.edu](mailto:@uconn.edu)) applies social psychology to the study of health (e.g., substance use, risky sex, cancer-risk behavior), with a particular focus on the effects of racial prejudice. Other interests include health decision-making among adolescents and young adults (from a dual-processing perspective), long-term health effects of interpersonal stress during adolescence, and the effects of gene by environment interactions on health.

**Blair T. Johnson** ([Blair.T.Johnson@uconn.edu](mailto:Blair.T.Johnson@uconn.edu)): research centers on social influence: How one person might—or might not—change another person. More specifically, these interests center on the nature of attitudes, applying theoretical principles about attitudes and behavior to HIV prevention, the history of social psychology, and in developing scholarly tools for research synthesis of empirical studies (i.e., meta-analysis).

**Seth C. Kalichman** ([seth.k@uconn.edu](mailto:seth.k@uconn.edu)) focuses on health psychology, particularly psychological issues of chronic illness. He currently devotes all of his research time to behavioral and social aspects of AIDS. His research includes studies of theoretical predictors of HIV-AID risk behavior, interventions to prevent the spread of HIV, coping among people living with HIV-AIDS, and improving HIV-AIDS treatment adherence.

**Kerry L. Marsh** ([Kerry.L.Marsh@uconn.edu](mailto:Kerry.L.Marsh@uconn.edu)) studies motivational and affective processes in persuasion (attitude functions; implicit attitudes and HIV risk); social affordances and interpersonal synchrony; motivational influences on social cognition, action, and outcomes; meta-analysis of socio-behavioral HIV interventions; individual differences in control needs.

**Felicia Pratto** ([Felicia.Pratto@uconn.edu](mailto:Felicia.Pratto@uconn.edu)): central research interests are prejudice and intergroup relations. She has studied sex stereotyping, automatic evaluation and preconscious processing, the relationship between political attitudes and group prejudices, gender differences in political roles and social attitudes, and attention biases toward negative information. She is co-author of the book *Social Dominance*.

**Diane M. Quinn** ([Diane.Quinn@uconn.edu](mailto:Diane.Quinn@uconn.edu)) focuses on the experiences of members of stigmatized groups, self-related cognitions, behavior, and affect. She has examined how identity related constructs determine psychological and health related outcomes for people with concealable stigmatized identities. She has focused on issues related to gender stereotypes, self-objectification, and the stigma of overweight.

**Nairán Ramírez-Esparza** ([nairan.ramirez@uconn.edu](mailto:nairan.ramirez@uconn.edu)) focuses on the intersection of culture, language, and personality, drawing on a variety of methods, analyses, and theoretical approaches. She uses bilingual/cultural designs, qualitative/quantitative designs, recording devices to capture everyday behaviors, and text analytic tools to complement self-report strategies. She is also interested in answering applied questions about well-being and language development in monolingual and bilingual families.

Last updated: 22 October 2018