

HDR Graduations – December 2016

Reuben Rideaux



- 1) **When did you start studying at ANU?** I began studying undergraduate psychology at ANU in 2008.
- 2) **Why was psychology an area of interest to you?** Explanations of [human] perception and behaviour have always fascinated me.
- 3) **What was your thesis topic? What did you find?** I investigated parallel processing within the human visual system and found that processing information simultaneously comes at a cost and is severely limited.
- 4) **What do you want to do now/in the future?** I'm currently working as a postdoctoral researcher at the University of Cambridge and hope to continue satisfying my curiosity of perception and behaviour well into the future.

Hanzhang (Corie) Lin



- 1) **When did you start studying at ANU?** I started my honours mid-year 2010 and proceeded to a PhD in 2012.
- 2) **Why was psychology an area of interest to you?** I was interested in ethology in high school. This interest then shifted to human behaviour and how society and culture influence people. My interest led me to psychology, social and cultural psychology in particular.
- 3) **What was your thesis topic? What did you find?** My thesis topic is using the social identity perspective to explain personality variability. I found that people's self-concept does vary depending on their social identity. Who we are is determined by which groups we belong to. This is interesting because it shows that the self is dynamic and socially determined.
- 4) **What do you want to do now/in the future?** I want to continue my research and explore the dynamics of social identity and its change

Natalie Rimlinger



- 1) **When did you start studying at ANU?** I started at the ANU in 2006.
- 2) **Why was psychology an area of interest to you?** I'm a Year 10 dropout who never thought I could attend uni and I'm also the daughter of a Vietnam veteran. In the early 2000s my parents became involved with the psychology programs offered through Vietnam Veterans counselling service and I ended up also getting some help through the program. A psychologist there inspired me and suggested that I could "have a go at Uni". Once I enrolled I found the topic fascinating and have enjoyed pretty much every aspect of my years of learning. And here I am 14.5 years later all done and still without a year 12 certificate!
- 3) **What was your thesis topic? What did you find?** I studied the psychological wellbeing of parents of intellectually gifted children in Australia and USA. To explore this, I looked at child behavioural characteristics, parenting stress and psychological wellbeing, and the relationship between the parent and the child's teacher as school is an important system within these families lives. Contrary to popular belief, I found that a majority of the intellectually gifted children in my sample have a behavioural profile that calls into question the validity of measures of child behaviour in this population. I also found that the parents have higher levels of parenting stress than is found in parents of typically developing children, and they also have more extreme levels of anxiety. Of importance (I think!) to educators is that the level of trust between the parent and the teacher had an impact on the relationship between the parent and the child as measured by parenting stress. Certainly not an outcome I was expecting!
- 4) **What do you want to do now/in the future?** I have a private practice and I have recently started to collaborate with several other therapists and academics who are examining the context of being gifted above and beyond achievement in schools. The field is largely filled with educators and much of the research that has been done has focussed on those aspects of the child that are directly related to achievement. Our 'group' is more interested in understanding the individual in a holistic way and this includes researching the families in far greater detail. I also hope to further investigate the questions surrounding the validity of using standardised scales with the gifted population. So in the future I hope to be able to strike a balance between being a researcher and a clinician and continue to work within this gifted population.

Sarah Flint

1) When did you start studying at ANU? I started my B Asian Studies/ B Science in 2002.

2) Why was psychology an area of interest to you? I have always been interested in what makes people tick - what influences does biology have on behaviour, why do people make the choices they do, why and how do psychological and neurobiological things go wrong...

3) What was your thesis topic? What did you find? It's the chicken not the egg: visual attentional deficits in adults with dyslexia are not the result of a failure to learn to read.

I found that there was a neurobiological deficit present in people with dyslexia which could result in visual processing deficits, such as dyslexia. This neurobiological deficit wasn't present in semi-literate or illiterate adults which indicates that the deficit wasn't the result of poor reading or if not reading. Rather this deficit was independent of reading experience.

As part of my research, some of which I conducted in PNG, I developed a reading ability assessment that was culturally and linguistically appropriate to PNG and Canopus be conducted in Tok Pisin or English. This assessment was in the left at a stage where it was useful and appropriate for my study, but would need to be adapted before it could be used in schools to provide a means of assessing reading ability for students in certain grades. This type of assessment is lacking in PNG. I hope to adapt this test in future to fill this gap.

4) What do you want to do now/in the future? I am currently living in Jakarta and am studying to bring my language skills back up to where they were when I finished undergraduate studies. This would provide more employment opportunities in Indonesia. Ultimately, I would like to continue to work and research in field of cognitive psychology, neuropsychology or neuroscience

Still to come:

Lauren Turner

Dora Sharpe-Davidson

Lisa Knipe

Roxanne Foster