

# INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FORENSIC MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES NEWSLETTER

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Photo by Rob Schillinger

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## Letter from the Editor

Dear members of IAFMHS,

Welcome to the latest installment of the IAFMHS newsletter. We hope you are all enjoying the fall semester and all the new projects and adventures this time of year brings! In this issue, you will find several exciting contributions, including an update from our association's president, Dr. Barry Rosenfeld, and several articles highlighting international forensic mental health research and services. For instance, Roger Tan shares his knowledge of forensic services in Singapore and Audrey Vicenzutto and colleagues provide a brief review of their study examining executive functioning among adult forensic inpatients in Belgium. Our new student president, Ilvy Goossens introduces the new – and incredibly international – student board, outlining many of their great initiatives. Lastly, I would like to introduce our newest associate editor, Dr. Helen Walker from the Forensic Mental Health Managed Care Network and the University of the West of Scotland. Dr. Walker will be overseeing the newsletter's new Forensic Mental Health Nursing section.

We hope that you are all thinking about our upcoming conference in Montreal, Canada, June 2018! Please keep in mind that abstract submissions are due November 30th!

Alicia Nijdam-Jones, Editor

# IAFMHS President: Barry Rosenfeld

As I progress through the second, and final year of my presidency, I am beginning to reflect on what our organization has accomplished and what else might still be possible during my tenure. Along with my desire to grow the association and increase our fiscal stability, admittedly, one of my central goals, to quote the Hippocratic oath, was to “do no harm.” I believe I have maintained these goals thus far and hope I have helped move our association forward. The organization continues to thrive, both in terms of the services we provide as well as our “organizational health” more generally. The success of the Antwerp conference was a good starting point, as we had an uptick in attendance (roughly 350 attendees), and once again, were able to break even on the costs. This is especially impressive considering we reduced our registration costs by roughly \$100 CDN per person, in comparison to the previous year (and provided an even more significant discount for students). We hope that the costs for the coming year will be even lower, to once again allow for strong attendance, particularly among our student members (i.e., the future of the organization). And while it may seem a long way off, we are already gearing up for the coming conference: the website is open for submissions, we are finalizing our keynote speakers, and we are planning a fantastic social program to help members explore the beautiful city of Montreal. We’ve also expanded our bursaries, so that colleagues from less affluent parts of the world will have even greater access to the annual conference.

We continue to plan for the future and are currently identifying a site for our 2020 conference in Europe. We’ve considered the suggestions from our post-conference survey, and hope to have another great location locked down soon. We will continue to reduce conference costs, but without sacrificing the exceptional conference experience our members and regular attendees have come to expect. Stay tuned to learn more about the next conference venue soon!

The organization has also continued to work on a number of initiatives. As many of you are already aware, we have been collaborating with a European consortium focusing on improving our understanding and reducing incidents of violence by mentally ill individuals. This group, [VIORMED](#), has charged us with compiling a comprehensive database of published research relevant to mental illness and violence risk (much of which has been conducted by our members). The first phase of this project is complete and we will continue to provide regular updates of new research as it emerges.

We also had a number of members (i.e., you) who stepped forward, volunteering to play a greater role in the organization. For



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Professor of Psychology, Fordham University,  
New York, United States

example, Helen Walker is now overseeing a regular column for the newsletter, updating members on advances in forensic mental health nursing. Michael Martin (a former Student Section President) will be co-chair of the Scientific Program for the Montreal conference, and chair of the Scientific Program in 2020. We also anticipate appointing a new chair of our Intellectual Disabilities SIG in the coming months. If these updates inspire you to offer your services, we can certainly use more help. We are always looking for help planning future conferences, including a new conference co-chair for 2020. Additionally, Alicia Nijdam-Jones is always looking for both ad hoc contributions to the newsletter, and suggestions for ongoing column or feature contributions. Finally, we are always interested in developing new initiatives association-wide, such as expanding the reach and impact of our organization. While we are truly international, and have representatives from around the world at our annual meeting as well as on our Board of Directors and Advisory Board, there are large regions of the globe that are underrepresented in our membership. Broadening our membership by including clinicians from these parts of the world (e.g., Asia, Africa, Latin America, and Antarctica) will benefit all of us, by expanding our knowledge of the laws, practice standards, and logistical constraints that challenge our work.

These latter points are particularly important, both to me as well as the entire Board of Directors. Increasing the breadth of our organization, and the involvement of our membership, is critical to guiding the future of IAFMHS. While my one of my goals as President was to do no harm, I know we can do much more than that, and that we can establish new opportunities for our members and enhance our communal knowledge base. Although we continue to struggle with limitations (e.g., we are not a “wealthy” organization that can afford to sponsor large grants), we are never short of enthusiasm or initiative. We will try to pursue good ideas that are brought forward, and have the potential to advance the mission of the organization: improving forensic mental health services around the world. In my final months as President, I hope we can make important strides in these directions.

## Editorial Team

**Alicia Nijdam-Jones**, *Editor*  
Fordham University (USA)

**Helen Walker**, *Associate Editor*  
NHS State Hospitals (Scotland)

**Kori Ryan**, *Associate Editor*  
Fitchburg State University (USA)

**Ellen Quick**, *Editorial Assistant*  
Fordham University (USA)

# Forensic Nurses Special Interest Group

Helen Walker, Ph.D. | Forensic Mental Health Managed Care Network and University of the West of Scotland, Scotland

The advantages associated with networking and sharing good practice is apparent to all mental health nurses; we like to talk and often share strengths and challenges in equal measure. The IAFMHS Forensic Nurses Special Interest Group (FNSIG) has featured as an integral part of the conference programme for many years and a steady group of regular attendees is emerging. This group offers a golden opportunity to nurses attending the conference to gather as a profession and set their own agenda. In former years collaborations at the group have led to symposia on special nursing features, such as, managing problem behaviours and creating national nurse competency frameworks. This year at the FNSIG in Antwerp we agreed to promote our current research and clinical endeavours in a regular slot in the IAFMHS newsletter, in an attempt to reach a wider audience and share good practice. Within the current group there is



**Helen Walker, Ph.D.**

Consultant Nurse, Forensic Mental Health Managed Care Network  
Senior Lecturer, University of the West of Scotland,  
Scotland, UK

representation from countries across the world, although we still have gaps and are eager to welcome new participants. Each member has agreed to provide a new feature in future newsletters based on current projects or initiatives they are involved in. We look forward to sharing our work with you.

## 19<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL IAFMHS CONFERENCE

# IAFMHS 2019 Montreal Conference



### **CULTURAL DIVERSITY:**

### ***Adaptability, Flexibility and Reconciliation in Forensic Mental Health***

#### Conference Themes:

- Offender Services and Management
- Violence Risk (General)
- Intimate Partner/Family Violence
- Forensic Assessment
- Mental Health Treatment
- Juvenile Offenders
- Dynamics of Diversity

- Offender Services and Management
- Program Evaluation
- Education and Training
- Substance Abuse
- Public Policy and Legal Issues
- Social justice
- Dimensions of Individual Differences

**ABSTRACT SUBMISSION DUE NOVEMBER 30, 2018!**

# Executive Function Assessment Among a Forensic Sample: Discussion on Implementation of Miyake task Considering Psychopathic Traits

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Psychopathy is a clinical construct defined by a mix of interpersonal, affective and behavioral characteristics (including egocentrism, manipulation, callousness, irresponsibility, relational instability, impulsiveness, lack of empathy, remorse or guilt), and poor self-control (antisocial behavior) that is not necessarily of a criminal nature (Hare, 2003). The operational definition that seems to have the most solid empirical support in the past few decades is derived from Hare's Psychopathy Checklist-Revised (PCL-R; Hare, 2003). This instrument is composed of two factors and four facets: (1) Interpersonal and (2) affective (Factor 1: emotional, interpersonal and narcissistic components) and (3) Lifestyle and (4) Antisocial behavior (Factor 2: propensity for chronic antisocial behavior).

The aim of the neuropsychological approach is to provide a better understanding of the cognitive mechanisms underlying decision-making and self-regulation of behavior among antisocial and psychopathic individuals. Individuals with psychopathic traits are impulsive, easily bored, quickly frustrated and seek immediate satisfaction. Much research has been done to explore the links between the concept of psychopathy and executive functions (Bagshaw, Gray, & Snowden, 2014). Most studies on cognitive functions have shown no overall deficit but have found specific deficits at both executive and attentional levels. Individuals with psychopathic traits seems to present specific difficulties for attentional management, behavioral inhibition and planning (Bagshaw, et al., 2014).

However, generalization of the results is difficult due to lack of sample homogeneity (incarcerated, forensic inpatient), the assessment tools used, and the controlled characteristics (IQ, mental disorders, medication, etc.). Given these inconsistencies and the lack of systematic research, it seems difficult to draw conclusions on an overall neuropsychological deficit in people with psychopathic traits. Studies have often focused on the assessment of specific executive functions (usually with the use of isolated tasks), making it more difficult to construct a general vision of executive functioning in relation to psychopathy. On the other hand, the methodologies used are often not very pure, simultaneously measuring several executive functions. This statement suggests the necessity to implement more accurate and discriminating tests- including the measurement of performances, reaction times, realization times - such as Miyake Tasks

(Miyake et al., 2000). In this context, the main purpose of Miyake's Tasks is to allow at the same time a specific (i.e. a function evaluated by task) and coordinated exploration of the executive functions (i.e. comparability of the tasks for identify the differential deficit between the executive functions).

Miyake's model proposes the simultaneous and integrated assessment of the three main executive functions: shifting, updating, and inhibition (Miyake et al., 2000). The use of this kind of battery makes it possible to define the cognitive performance with greater strictness. However, to our knowledge, no study has yet assessed these executive functions among psychopathic individuals using an exhaustive and theoretically grounded neuropsychological battery. We have implemented this tool within the Secure Psychiatric Hospital of the Regional Psychiatric Center « Les Marronniers » in Belgium. Our sample included 20 male adult forensic inpatients. The mean age was 45.92 years (SD = 12.02) and the mean length of stay was 6.11 years (SD = 5.33). We analyzed the relations between Computerized Miyake Tasks (Miyake et al., 2000) and the PCL-R (Hare, 2003).

## Description of the nine executive function Tasks (Miyake et al, 2000)

Tasks	Order
<b>SHIFTING</b>	
Plus Minus	Switching between mental computations (addition and subtraction)
Number Letter	Switching between mental sets of numbers and letters
Local Global	Switching between local and global processing of geometric shapes
<b>UPDATING</b>	
Keep Track	Memorize and manipulate words from different categories
Tone Monitoring	Memorize and manipulate sounds with various pitches
Letter Memory	Memorize and manipulate sequences of letters
<b>INHIBITION</b>	
Antisaccade	Inhibit automatic eye saccadic movement to determine the direction of an arrow
Stop Signal	Inhibit a previously learned word categorization
Stroop	Inhibit the automatic reading of a color word to focus on the color of the ink in which it is written

The preliminary results (Vicenzutto et al., 2016) revealed large negative correlations between the PCL-R total score, the Interpersonal Factor (including the Interpersonal and Affective facets) and the performances on the Stroop (Inhibition Task). These results suggest that the higher the Interpersonal Factor, the lower the reaction time on the Stroop, which did not impair the success rate. In term of inhibition, this factor allows the patient to be cognitively functional. On the other hand, large negative correlations were found between the PCL-R scores and the subtest Number-Letter (Mental Set Shifting). This indicated that the higher the score on Social Deviance Factor, especially in the Antisocial facet, the lower the success rates (percentage of correct answers to the task). At last, the total PCL-R score was negatively and moderately correlated to the Letter Memory (Updating) score.

In conclusion, the results suggest some Inhibition and Shifting response specificities, according to the facets of PCL-R. It appears necessary to identify the cognitive profiles through these facets tapping the multidimensional concept of psychopathy.

In contrast to most studies concerning executive function deficits in psychopathy, our study implemented a more specific measure among a forensic population, testing the equipment in clinical conditions. Our first observations identified several difficulties with the Computerized Miyake Task: the length of the administration (several sessions) and the difficulty of several tasks caused a loss of motivation among patients. Moreover, several tasks require alphabet

knowledge or reading abilities, which are not applicable to some patients.

These findings encourage further research on the executive functioning in psychopathy through the implementation of specific measures. However, the results need to be considered with caution. Indeed, we conducted exploratory research, with a small sample size. We did not control for IQ or psychiatric comorbidities, which may alter cognitive test performances. Furthermore, in the statistical analyzes, we did not compute the indexes scores that reduce the task impurity problem (Brion, D'Hondt, Pitel, Lecomte, Ferauge, de Timary, & Maurage, 2017).

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## CALL FOR CONTRIBUTIONS!

The IAFMHS newsletter team would like to invite members to contribute short articles/submissions for the next or a following edition of the IAFMHS quarterly newsletter. Contributions may include one of the following topic areas (listed below) or if you are interested in becoming involved in a semi-regular column or feature, please contact the newsletter editor to further discuss potential ideas.

- 1. International updates:** Articles may highlight news, trends, laws or policies that impact the work of individuals in the IAFMHS community.
- 2. Innovative risk reduction strategies:** Articles may highlight current research or clinical practice implemented by IAFMHS members.
- 3. Training and pedagogy in forensic mental health:** Articles may focus on methods or emerging issues for enhancing knowledge for supervisors, trainers, instructors, professors, or other staff educating forensic mental health professionals.
- 4. Other topic of relevance:** Members may submit articles of a topic relevant to the individuals in the IAFMHS community. Please contact the newsletter editor to propose a topic prior to submission.

Submissions should be sent to the editor in Word format and discuss the above subjects relevant to the IAFMHS community. When e-mailing a submission, please include full name, title, institutional affiliation, and contact information. All articles which are selected for publication will be proof read for content, spelling and grammatical errors.

- Suggested 500-1000 words/5 references
- Articles may include section headings
- Illustrations, tables, sidebars are encouraged to illustrate or emphasize article's message

Authors names and affiliations will be included with their article in the newsletter. Authors will be informed of the decision to include the article in current or later editions of the newsletter, however, editors reserve the right to make minor editorial changes as well as not publish every submission.

If you have questions, please email the newsletter editor, Alicia Nijdam-Jones ([anijdamjones@fordham.edu](mailto:anijdamjones@fordham.edu)). We look forward to receiving your submissions!

# Forensic Mental Health Services in Singapore



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Roger Tan, MSW | Principal Medical Social Worker, Institute of Mental Health, Singapore

## Forensic mental health services in Singapore

Singapore is a geographically small nation-state (712 square kilometers) with a population of 5.61 million in South-east Asia that is notable for its low crime rate (e.g., 584 cases per 100,000 population in 2017; Department of Statistics Singapore, 2018). In fact, its robust security infrastructure was one of the reasons why it was chosen for the recent Trump-Kim summit.

The Institute of Mental Health (IMH) is Singapore’s only tertiary psychiatric hospital and offers psychiatric, rehabilitative and counselling services to children, youth, adults, and the elderly. Forensic mental health services at IMH extend from the young to the elderly. The Forensic Rehabilitation, Intervention, Evaluation & Network Development Services (FRIENDS) at the Child Guidance Clinic provides multi-disciplinary assessment and intervention services for young offenders, youth-at-risk of committing crimes, victims of child abuse, and families involved in complex custody and access disputes. This article will focus on adult forensic mental health services, where my clinical practice lies.

Adult forensic psychiatry services are provided by the Department of Forensic Psychiatry at IMH where its forensic psychiatrists are engaged as expert witnesses for the courts in cases requiring their expertise in mental health matters in both civil and criminal hearings. This would include assessments of persons remanded in prison who are facing capital punishments for offenses such as drug trafficking and homicide, while cases considered less severe are



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remanded in a medium secure facility in IMH. The Department of Forensic Psychiatry also manages persons detained under the Mental Health (Care and Treatment) Act 2008 due to their risk of harm to self or others.

### Forensic Psychiatric Assessments

#### Forensic Psychiatric Assessments at the Pretrial Stage

Accused persons suspected to have mental health issues are remanded by the courts in IMH for a two to four weeks period for psychiatric evaluation. This involves a multi-disciplinary assessment conducted by a psychiatrist, a case manager, and a medical social worker, after which a psychiatric report would be submitted to the courts providing an opinion on the accused person’s fitness to plead, unsoundness of mind at the time of the offence(s), and recommendations for treatment. The psychiatrist may refer the accused person for psychological or personality assessments as part of the evaluation. Assessments are also conducted on an outpatient basis for accused persons that are released on bail.

## Unfit to Plead and Unsoundness of Mind Acquittees

A person assessed by the psychiatrist to be unfit to plead in court or of unsound mind at the time of the offence would be detained in IMH under a Minister of Law's Order provided under Section 249 and 252 of the Criminal Procedure Code 2010 (CPC) respectively. Once detained under the CPC, a person must be reviewed by a Visitors' Board (VB) at least once every 6 months. The VB includes the Chairman of the Medical Board in IMH, an appointed medical practitioner, and one other appointed person. The VB is responsible for reporting to the Minister of Law on the detainee's mental state and make disposition recommendations. Should a person who was previously found unfit to plead but is later found fit, the VB would recommend that trial proceedings resume. There are three disposition options for the VB to consider for a person who was found of unsound mind: continue detention, release unconditionally, or conditionally discharge to the care of a relative or friend under a financial bond.

As a medical social worker, I provide a psychosocial assessment of the detainees for the VB Review which would involve interviewing and assessing the detainee and the next-of-kin, where available, on their social background and discharge plans. Due to the nature of the offence(s) or prior caregiving experience, family members may be rejecting towards the detainees. This would pose a challenge for discharge to the community where family members are often called upon to supervise a mentally disordered person's compliance to treatment. I would also be involved in discharge planning such as referring to a stepdown facility such as psychiatric rehabilitation centres.

## Mandatory Treatment Order

Mandatory Treatment Orders (MTO) are one of the community-based sentencing options provided for under Criminal Procedure Code 2010, in addition to the traditional punishments of jail, caning or fines. A mentally disordered offender may be ordered to undergo psychiatric treatment for up to 24 months with regular follow-up and reports to the Court. The MTO is available to mentally disordered offenders where the mental disorder was assessed to be a contributory factor to the offence. Clinical measures used include the Clinical Global Impression – Severity Scale (CGI-S) and Global Assessment Scale (GAS). Medical social workers use the Camberwell Assessment of Need – Forensic Version (CANFOR-S) to assess the needs of persons sentenced to MTO and to inform plans for intervention. One of the major needs identified is unemployment, as many lost their jobs after their arrest and are seeking re-employment. In these cases, we would refer them to Job Club, which is a job placement service located in IMH.

As part of the MTO team, which includes an appointed psychiatrist and a case manager, I assess the suitability of offenders for MTOs, and provide social work intervention for those sentenced to MTO. Such interventions include providing financial assistance for

treatment fees, making referrals for accommodation needs, and managing cases with family violence.

Recent developments in the Singapore legislation include plans to extend the maximum duration of the MTO from 24 months to 36 months, increase the severity of offences types to be included for consideration for MTO, and make provisions for a person to be ordered an inpatient admission as part of the MTO.

## Psychiatric Housing Unit

The Psychiatric Housing Unit (PHU) was set up as a joint initiative between Singapore Prison Services (SPS) and IMH since April 2011, starting in the male prison, and expanded to include a unit in the female prison in 2013. This rehabilitative programme was developed using a multidisciplinary approach, which teams consist of a forensic psychiatrist, advanced practice nurses, occupational therapists, psychiatric nurses, a psychologist, prison correctional officers, and administrators from IMH. The aim was to provide psychosocial rehabilitative treatment to offenders with mental disabilities (OMDs) and prepare them for reintegration back to mainstream prisons or to the community upon release.

## Forensic Psychiatry Community Services

Forensic Psychiatry Community Services (FPCS) is an aftercare programme that assesses OMDs prior to their release from prison and follows up with them up to a year after their release. The programme was initiated to address the poor attendances of OMDs at the clinics upon their release from prison. The team consists of a forensic psychiatrist, medical social workers, case managers and administrators from IMH. The aim of the programme is to monitor OMDs' appointments at IMH and work with the OMDs on reintegrating into the community. As FPCS is a voluntary programme, the OMDs may reject the service and thus it would be a challenge to engage them in treatment. Nevertheless, having a consistent caseworker to turn to for assistance in practical matters such as finances and accommodation was seen to be helpful in the reintegration process of OMDs.



Institute of Mental Health

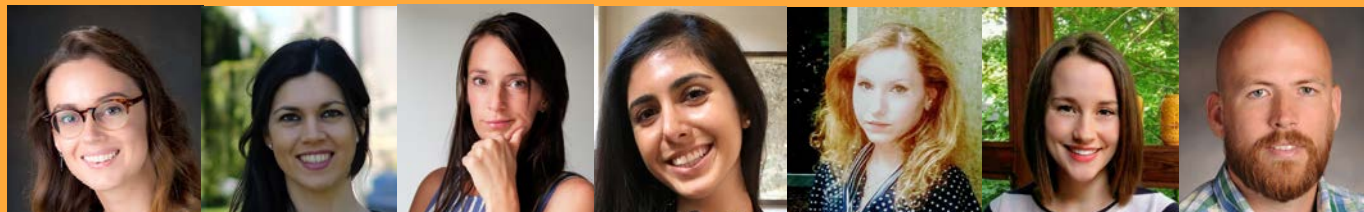
# Welcome from the 2018-2019 Student Board

Ilvy Goossens, M.Sc., Simon Fraser University | IAFMHS Student President

IAFMHS NEWSLETTER Fall, 2018

There is something about fall that invites contemplation, a period of reminiscing and reorienting. Many big events happen in fall for our students: a new board, a new school year, and the first award opportunity. I would like to welcome old and new student members to this "new year", and do some reminiscing myself. First and foremost, I would like to thank the outgoing student board for their excellent work this past year. Second, our 18th annual conference in Belgium was one for the books, with great student events and \$3,000 in [student awards](#) allotted. Perhaps a testament to the great work the student section has been doing, we received a record number of nominations for the student board. I am very pleased to announce our 2018-2019 Student Board officers:

## IAFMHS Student Board Members



President      President-Elect      Communications Officer      Volunteer Coordinator & Country Rep      Secretary      Treasurer      Past President

**Ilvy Goossens**

Simon Fraser University  
Canada



**Maria Aparcero-Suero**

Fordham University USA



**Tamara de Beuf**

Maastricht University  
The Netherlands



**Sanam Monjazeb**

Simon Fraser University  
Canada



**Laura Dellazizzo**

University of Montreal  
Canada



**Samantha Zottola**

North Carolina State  
University  
USA



**Joel Cartwright**

RTI International  
USA



We are truly fortunate to surround ourselves with such a diverse and eager team for the upcoming academic year. As an international organization, it is important to highlight that our student board officers are international in more ways than one. They are coming to us from Canada, North-America and Europe and many of our officers have crossed international borders to pursue education elsewhere and seek the best academic fit. This board comes packed with international experience and knowledge – and we could not be more excited for the upcoming year.

As September has arrived, we were eager to build on the momentum achieved this past year. We are approaching this new year with a renewed focus on student opportunities, leadership and international (free/low-cost) resources for our student members. This year's noteworthy highlights and opportunities include:

- The continuation of our Peer Mentorship Program & the pilot of our Campus Representative Program. These are two amazing [leadership opportunities](#) for students, and the board is actively recruiting students for both.
- The second consecutive year we are offering [Derek Eaves Student Research Grants](#). Make sure to submit your brief research application by Oct. 31, 2018 (11:59pm GMT)!
- The continued growth of our [student webpage](#) as a veritable resource hub for student members. Access to resources is restricted to student members and includes information on upcoming international conferences, student applications, the peer review process, accessing free datasets, and so on.

Launching into this new academic year, I encourage you to contemplate what you need from us, how we can best serve you, and to stay connected! Our programs require continued support from you to stay relevant; consider joining us as a peer mentor/mentee or campus representative to further your growth and help shape our organization. If you have identified a need, a pressing question, or have developed an interest in the academic trajectories of our student board officers – feel free to send us an email at [students@iafmhs.org](mailto:students@iafmhs.org). As always, keep an eye on your inbox and our social media to stay up-to-date.

To a wonderfully fulfilling year!

Ilvy Goossens, M.Sc., IAFMHS Student President



## Student Section Update

### 2018 Conference Awards Corner

Each year, the Student Board provides students with \$3,000 worth of conference awards opportunities. We would like to congratulate our IAFMHS 2018 awards winners.

#### Presentation Award Winners

**Oral presentation award:** Emilie Picard, Fordham University (USA)

**Poster award:** Sanam Monjazebe, Simon Fraser University (CA)

#### Travel Award Winners

As part of our travel awards scheme, we require students to submit a 1000-word essay discussing the impact of the conference on their professional development. This year's awardees have agreed to share some of their experiences with you, we hope you enjoy their cogent reflections on their conference experience.

**First place travel award:** Nicole Muir, Simon Fraser University (CA)

"... seeing that other researchers are adding culture to forensic psychology research as well. I study Indigenous youth who are on probation (and am Indigenous myself) and, in particular, how risk assessment tools are used with these youth. I connected with a student doing similar research to mine. Now, I can connect with this student for support and discussions around culture and risk assessment tools."

**Second place travel award:** Courtney Wade, NC State University (USA)

"... I resonated with a statement made by Dr. Lorraine Johnstone in her Keynote Address: "Sometimes those who are hardest to love, need it the most." Not only is this a sentiment I value clinically, but I also believe it to be applicable in a broader professional context: Sometimes those topics that are the hardest to discuss, are the topics that need to be discussed the most. The Student Board developed a space for these topics to be discussed; a service that benefits IAFMHS members, the individuals we treat, and the broader contexts we return to upon the conclusion of the conference. By working to integrate science and respectful, collaborative, and supportive treatment of peers and students, we are able to support and grow the up-and-coming "cohort" of the forensic mental health field."

### Student Leadership Opportunities in IAFMHS

The Student Section of the IAFMHS offers a number of leadership and personal development opportunities for its student members. There are currently three ways to get more involved with our organization:

**Become a Campus Representative |** The Campus Representative Program is designed to facilitate communication among the IAFMHS Student Board, professional IAFMHS members, and IAFMHS student affiliates. The primary goal of the program is to create a network of liaisons at as many colleges, universities, and countries as possible, with IAFMHS student members serving as official representatives of the Student Board and IAFMHS at their local campuses. Campus representatives help disseminate relevant information about opportunities, activities and programs organized by the Student Board and IAFMHS to their local student bodies.

**Become a Peer Mentor or Mentee |** The Peer Mentorship Program is designed to connect students with same- or upper-year mentors who act as approachable, knowledgeable sources of support. We do our best to match pairs based on shared goals and skills (e.g., getting into grad school, obtaining research funding, research productivity, studying abroad). Undergraduate and graduate students from all disciplines are welcome to apply.

**Run for the Student Board |** There are Student Board positions, 5 of which become available annually. Each position is held for a one-year term, except for the president-elect position. We accept self-nominations and nominations on behalf of others. As opposed to other positions on this page, there is a specific time frame for nominations. Student members in good standing will receive an email message with a call for nominations approximately 1 month after our annual conference. This is the only time we accept student board nominations. Student board officers will be elected by the studentship.



Image credit: Getty images

# Student Section Update

## Call for Awards: IAFMHS Derek Eaves Student Research Grant (C\$500)

The Derek Eaves Student Research Grant honours Dr. Derek Eaves' bursary and academic contributions to the International Association of Forensic Mental Health Services. Eligible candidates are individuals who are currently undertaking a Bachelor, Masters or Doctoral degree in a relevant field to forensic mental health and are current student members of IAFMHS. Research or knowledge translation proposals will be considered for funding.

Deadline: **October 31, 2018 @ 11:59pm GMT / 7:59pm EDT / 6:59pm CDT / 5:59pm MDT / 4:59pm PDT**

Additional information regarding eligibility, requirements and how to apply can be found [here](#).

## Tenure-Track Position in Law and Forensic Psychology

### Description

The Department of Psychology at Simon Fraser University invites applications for a tenure-track faculty position at the rank of **Assistant Professor in Law and Forensic Psychology to begin July 1, 2019.**



Simon Fraser University has two law and forensic streams: an experimental law-forensic program and a clinical forensic program. This position is specifically for our experimental law- forensic program.

### Qualifications

Applicants must have a Ph.D. by the time of appointment or shortly thereafter. We seek candidates with clearly demonstrated potential to establish a strong research program, excel in undergraduate and graduate training and teaching, and participate in departmental activities and service. The area of research specialization within law and forensic psychology is open. However, we seek applications from scholars who study the application of basic psychological process to legal issues; this includes, but is not limited to, topics such as interrogation, witnesses, racial biases, children, and legal decision-making. Also, we are interested in applications from scholars whose research is strongly complementary to that of our current faculty, while providing additional breadth and innovation.

All qualified candidates are encouraged to apply; however, Canadian citizens and permanent residents will be given priority. SFU is an equity employer and encourages applications from all qualified individuals including women, persons with disabilities, visible minorities, Indigenous Peoples, people of all sexual orientations and gender identities, and others who may contribute to the further diversification of the university. The position is subject to availability of funding and final approval by the SFU Board of Governors.

### Environment

Simon Fraser University is consistently ranked among the top comprehensive universities in Canada. More information about the Psychology Department and the University can be found on our website at <http://www.sfu.ca/psychology>. The campus is located on Burnaby Mountain in Greater Vancouver. Vancouver is a scenic waterfront city located minutes from the mountains and a wide range of outdoor activities. It has a reputation as a clean, safe, multicultural and ethnically diverse city, and is one of the very top cities in the world in which to live and work.

Completed applications will be reviewed as they are received.

All applications and supporting materials must be received by **November 23, 2018.**

### Inquiries

Inquiries should be directed to Dr. Deborah Connolly,  
Chair Department of Psychology Simon Fraser University,  
8888 University Drive, Burnaby, BC V5A 1S6 Canada [debc@sfu.ca](mailto:debc@sfu.ca)

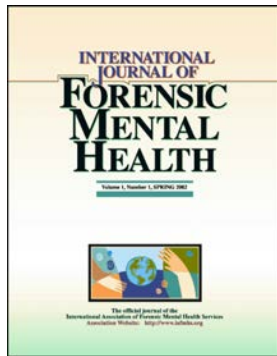
Under the authority of the University Act personal information that is required by the University as part of academic appointment competitions will be collected.

For further details see: [http://www.sfu.ca/vpacademic/Faculty\\_Openings/Collection\\_Notice.html](http://www.sfu.ca/vpacademic/Faculty_Openings/Collection_Notice.html).



Simon Fraser University

## Feature Article



## Some Ethical Considerations About the Use of Biomarkers for the Classification of Adult Antisocial Individuals

Marko Jurjako, Luca Malatesti & Inti A. Brazil

Project CEASCRO, Department of Philosophy, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Rijeka, Rijeka, Croatia; Donders Institute for Brain, Cognition and Behaviour, Radboud University, Nijmegen, The Netherlands; Forensic Psychiatric Centre Pompestichting, Division Diagnostics Research and Education, Nijmegen, The Netherlands; Collaborative Antwerp Psychiatric Research Institute, University of Antwerp, Antwerp, Belgium; Centre for Psychology, Behaviour, & Achievement, Faculty of Health and Life Sciences, Coventry University, Coventry, UK

It has been argued that a biomarker-informed classification system for antisocial individuals has the potential to overcome many obstacles in current conceptualizations of forensic and psychiatric constructs and promises better targeted treatments. However, some have expressed ethical worries about the social impact of the use of biological information for classification. Many have discussed the ethical and legal issues related to possibilities of using biomarkers for predicting antisocial behavior. We argue that prediction should not raise the most pressing ethical worries. Instead, issues connected with “biologization”, such as stigmatization and negative effects on self-image, need more consideration. However, we conclude that also in this respect there are no principled ethical objections against the use of biomarkers to guide classification and treatment of adult antisocial individuals.

## GET INVOLVED WITH IJFMH

The International Journal of Forensic Mental Health would like to invite members to become involved in the peer-review process. We're looking for Editorial Board members, ad-hoc reviewers and student reviewers. Please refer to the journal's [webpage](#) for more information.

### **BECOME AN EDITORIAL BOARD MEMBER**

The IJFMH invites people who are appropriately qualified and have diligently provided high quality reviews to the journal to self-nominate for the **Editorial Board**. Editorial Board members are required to commit to reviewing ~6 papers per year.

### **BECOME A REVIEWER**

If you are interested in becoming an **ad-hoc reviewer**, please contact us. In order to facilitate this process, we recommend that you are nominated by a member of IAFMHS (a succinct email is sufficient) and provide us with your CV and 4-5 areas of expertise. Emails can be sent to the Editor or Editorial Assistant.

### **BECOME A STUDENT REVIEWER**

We are particularly interested in supporting **student reviewers**. Students should be admitted to a graduate program in a related discipline and must have a direct supervisor who is willing to collaborate on the review(s). If you are interested in becoming a student reviewer, please send your CV with a brief statement of support by your supervisor, and include up to five areas of expertise. Emails can be sent to the Editor or Editorial Assistant.

Please refer to the journal's [webpage](#) for more information, or contact the Editor, Tonia Nicholls ([tnicholls@forensic.bc.ca](mailto:tnicholls@forensic.bc.ca)) or the Editorial Assistant, Ilvy Goossens ([ilvy.goossens@forensic.bc.ca](mailto:ilvy.goossens@forensic.bc.ca)), with your inquiries.

We look forward to your further involvement in our association's journal!

## Associate Editor Highlight



**Matthew Huss, Ph.D.**  
Associate Editor, IJFMH  
Professor; Department of Psychological  
Science  
Creighton University, USA

Matthew T. Huss, PhD, MLS, is a Professor at Creighton University in Omaha, Nebraska. He is a graduate of the University of Nebraska Law and Psychology and Clinical Psychology training programs. He is the author of over 70 different scholarly publications and a textbook on forensic clinical psychology, *Forensic Psychology: Research, Practice, and Applications*. His primary research

interests focus on the assessment of violence risk, domestic violence, psychopathy, and sexual violence. More specifically, much of his current research focuses on treatment outcomes and related factors, especially among sexual offenders. Dr. Huss also has significant interests in training and education in law and psychology. In addition to his other responsibilities and involvement in the IJFMH, Dr. Huss is a nationally licensed soccer coach.

## SAPROF: The Structured Assessment of Protective Factors

Tuesday 18 December 2018

Forensic Academy, The University of Manchester, 09.15-16.30

Facilitator: Dr Michael Doyle



Dr Michael Doyle is an Honorary Clinical Chair in the Faculty of Biology, Medicine & Health at the University of Manchester. He is also a Deputy Director of Nursing and Quality at South West Yorkshire Partnership Trust, having previously worked as Nurse Consultant, specialising in Clinical Risk in Forensic Services. Currently Past-President of the International Association of Forensic Mental Health Services. Mike has conducted research and published widely on psychosocial risk assessment, formulation and interventions, forensic mental health nursing and related subjects. He managed the largest study in the UK to date, investigating the reliability and validity of the SAPROF.



### Workshop Summary

The SAPROF was developed as a tool for the structured assessment of protective factors for violence risk. The SAPROF is a structured professional judgement checklist designed to be used in combination with other structured risk assessment tools like the HCR-20. The addition of the structured assessment of protective factors creates a more balanced risk assessment for future violence risk, enabling a more positive approach to violence prevention and aiding formulation, evaluation and risk communication. The SAPROF will be introduced and participants will be trained in using the SAPROF. Advantages of protective factors for risk assessment and risk management will be discussed and research evidence for the SAPROF will be presented. New findings from the largest research study to use the SAPROF will be presented.

### Learning Outcomes

Following the training participants will be able to:

- Outline the background to risk assessment in mental health services.
- Discuss the potential benefits of considering protective factors in risk assessment, formulation and management.
- Understand the rationale for using the SAPROF.
- Discuss new research findings from the UK.
- Use the SAPROF in clinical practice & research.

Please Note:

Participants who complete this training will then be eligible to attend the 'SAPROF Train-The-Trainer' course.

**Fee: £249, including learning materials, lunch and refreshments. SAPROF manual provided.**

For further information, please email [forensic.academy@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:forensic.academy@manchester.ac.uk)