

INScription

Department of International Studies (INS)

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MEET THE FACULTY & STUDENTS



Dr. Chasity O'Connell

While I can appreciate the kind gesture of being featured, I will admit that it left me with that awkward feeling of “what do I write about myself?” Do I tell people about my love of beaches, trampolines and attachment theory? Do I share that my favorite food is sushi and my favorite color is pink? As you can see, when you ask me to share a bit of who I am outside of work, my creativity well dries up pretty quickly. As such, I thought I would enlist my family to help. So, I asked my children to describe me, code names: Zarbie (11), Solly (10), Harbo (8), and Rubie-Doobie (3). Solly thinks that the “funniest” facts about me are: “She’s from Michigan and she’s genius...” (my hype man). Harbo thinks that the best parts about me are that “she buys us presents...” When further pressed he added that “she is kind and she enjoys baking, cooking, cleaning, being mom, having children and that’s about it...” I can tell you straight that I do not enjoy baking, cooking or cleaning—grossly inaccurate (remember trampolines??). I am not sure where this came from, perhaps it is “wish fulfillment” or “projection?” Rubie-Doobie thinks that I am “...(runs off to play on the monkey bars)...” And now for Zarbie, my only daughter. When I asked her to share what she thinks of me, she wrote a mini-essay that essentially portrayed me as if Rosa Diaz (Brooklyn 99) were a character on Little House on the Prairie (yes, most of you will need to Google that). And so, I will not be sharing that. But, hopefully, what you take away from this is that I love my family and I try not to take myself too seriously.



Selena Atari

Last semester, I had the opportunity to study abroad in the Netherlands, at one of the top 50 psychology programs in the world! It was an unforgettable experience for both academic and personal reasons. I was able to take a diverse selection of courses such as Introduction to Forensic Psychology, Philosophy of Mind, and Emotions: Scientific and Clinical Aspects. I have always had an interest in true crime and forensic psychology, so having the privilege of being able to explore it in an educational context affirmed my professional aspirations. I also started learning Dutch with the intention of going back there for my master’s degree. I explored multiple cities within the Netherlands and also spent a lot of my free time exploring Belgium. I would highly recommend everyone to go through an exchange program if you are able to. You get to experience a completely new way of life, immerse yourself in a foreign culture, and make friends from all over the world. If you are planning to study abroad, my advice would be to say yes to everything, talk to many people and take lots of pictures!



NEW COURSES IN FALL 2022

PSY 39409 (Psychology of Language Development) by Dr. Juana Park

Prerequisites:

PSY 250, or PSY 101 and (STA 201 or STA 202 or QBA 201 or NGN 111).

Program attributes:

Psychology Major Elective, Psychology Minor Elective, GER: Human Interaction and Behavior

This course provides a comprehensive overview of language development, from birth to the end of the school years. It explores the biological bases of language, and the phonological, lexical and syntactic aspects of normal language development. Students will compare and contrast different theories of language development, and will analyze findings in this field. Students will also learn about language development in special populations, and childhood bilingualism.

FAQs

1. In what ways will the course help my personal and professional life?

This course will be useful for students planning on becoming parents, educators, clinical psychologists, development psychologists, speech pathologists, etc.

2. What kind of exams, projects or papers does the course entail?

This course involves writing exams containing questions that require short and long answers, designing research projects in groups, participating in in-class activities, analyzing empirical articles and presenting case studies.

3. If there was something I could check out to learn more about the course, what would you recommend?

Watch this video to understand and gauge the course further:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y8qc8Aa3weE>

4. Would this course be offered in Spring 2023?

Nope.

CONVERSATIONS WITH ALUMNI

What happens next after graduating from AUS? Are you interested in pursuing graduate degrees? We invited some of our star alumni who are pursuing master's degrees to share with us their experiences in applying for graduate schools. In this issue, we invited recent graduate Iman Al Ali (double major in Economics and INS, Class of 2020) to share with us her experiences. She is now pursuing a degree in Development Management at London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE).



How did you decide which master's program(s) to apply for? What was your process of research to find the right programs and universities to apply to?

Iman: As a double major, my options were pretty open and I also was interested in many areas, so I found it very difficult to choose one program. Here are a few things I did:

- **“Where are they now” trick:** Look for master's programs you are interested in and then search the name of that program on LinkedIn. What this will do is show you people who have listed this program in their education, and you can see where they are and what they are working now. I did the same exact thing for my program and reached out to these people on LinkedIn. I wrote a short message telling them I was considering the program and asked whether they had a few minutes to discuss about the program. This really helped me make my decision and settle on my current program. Don't be shy to reach to people to ask them about their experience.
 - **Core modules:** This is very important. For every master's, there is always core/required modules. You have to read and know what the core modules of the program. Often, they will give you a short description of the course, a sample of the readings, and who teaches the course. I looked at the sample readings and saw which readings interested me the most or looked at the profile of the professor teaching the course. This is important because if you choose this master's, these are the courses that will consume your entire academic experience so you must have interest in them.
- **Excel master's workbook:** I created an Excel sheet to list every single master's I was even remotely interested in. For each master's, I listed the university, the reason why I was interested in the master's, the core modules of the master's and their description. I then went through a process of elimination or prioritization, where I marked in green my top options, orange my medium options, and red my low desirability options.
 - **Look beyond class:** When looking for a master's, focus also on the university's research capabilities, especially if you want to pursue a PhD. Ideally, along with your core courses you want to gain some exposure to high-caliber research. So, look for universities that have research centers in topics you are interested in and see if you can get involved via research assistant roles or attending seminars, etc. One of the key reasons for me joining LSE was that they are very well known for their research on the MENA region via their Middle East Center and Syria Conflict Program. I have now worked with both centers, and this has added so much value to my learning experience. If your university does not have research centers you are interested in, look at the profile of professors working in areas you are interested in. Often professors are working on multiple research papers and may have budgets for research assistants and other support roles you can take on to gain exposure to research.

When is the right time to start looking for universities to apply to for a master's?

Iman: There is no right time to do a master's in the grand scheme of things. I have people in my course who did their master's right after their undergraduate and those who did their master's 15 years after graduating. Some people like to gain some experience before they choose a master's, and some like to go into the master's to gain greater academic exposure to a field. For example, if you are determined to go into academia, then you might be better off doing your master's right after you graduate.

Whether now or in 10 years, once you decide when to do your master's, you need to keep an eye on the application cycle deadlines. These deadlines will differ according to the country you are applying to, and sometimes they differ in nature. For example, some schools have "rolling" deadlines; this means they will keep taking applications until they do not have spaces anymore. Other schools have set deadlines, meaning they will not allocate any spaces before the deadline closes. Sometimes a school will have an early bird deadline and later deadline (e.g., Oxford). For the rolling schools, it's always best to apply earlier because seats are filling up throughout the year; for the set deadlines you just need to apply before the deadline (and if there's an early bird deadline, you should apply by the first one because by the second one seats are more restricted and it's more competitive).

Another thing to consider is scholarship deadlines. Many scholarship deadlines close earlier in the year than the master's deadline. My LSE master's started in August 2021. I had submitted my application to LSE and other schools by December 2020 and heard back in mid-Feb to early March. I have colleagues who applied in March and still got in, so it's not a determined rule. As a general principle, the earlier you apply without compromising the quality of your application, the better.

How do you suggest students to manage their university days in order to draft a strong master's application?

Iman: Find an accountability buddy: This is someone who is also thinking of applying for a master's. Sometimes, the master's application can take time: you need to take an IELTS exam, write a personal statement, etc. In this case, it's good to have someone who is on the same journey as you to keep you motivated and in tune with your deadlines. When I started my application process, I found a friend who was also applying, and we agreed to meet once a week for an hour to update each other on our application progress and read through our applications.

Did you look for scholarships? What was your process for finding them?

Iman: There are many scholarships focused on MENA students. Here are some in the UK:

1. Said Foundation Scholarship
2. Chevening Scholarship
3. Mohamed Al Fahim Scholarship LSE
4. Jusoor for Syrians
5. University Scholarships (SOAS has many of these)
6. Twitter: search for Scholarship and your area of interest in tweets i.e., development, scholarship, master's. Often academics will post links to scholarship on Twitter, particularly for economics and development scholarships.
7. You may find these portals useful:
 - <https://www.scholarshipportal.com/>
 - <https://www.scholarshipportal.com/scholarships/united-kingdom>
 - <https://gradschoolhelp.notion.site/gradschoolhelp/Scholarship-Database-3b19c4223a9844bcbb07c429a512ae26>

EVENTS SPOTLIGHT

International Studies Events

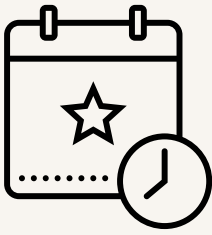
Department Colloquia:

- Dr. Meghan Tinsley: On April 6, Dr. Tinsley, a fellow in Ethnicity and Inequalities at the University of Manchester, presented her paper, “Remembering the Empire and Unsettling the Nation during the First World War Centenary.” She provided an overview of the history of Muslims in the First World War. She highlighted that amidst the increasing politicization of history and commemoration, remembering the past might pave way for more critical and less cohesive understanding of the present.
- Mohammad Amaan Siddiqui: On April 19, Amaan Siddiqui, a second-year INS student, presented preliminary findings of his research project titled “The Impact of Online Feminism on Instagram and Twitter Users Aged 18-24.” His paper seeks to understand how young adults perceive online feminism and how different kinds of rhetorical approaches that online feminists use affect them. It also examines online feminism’s propensity to create change.

Psychology Events

- The Psychology Club held an event about comparative psychology as a part of the Week of Psychology, initiated in collaboration with Psi Chi to introduce the lesser-known fields of psychology to students. Dr. Rachel Blaser spoke about comparative psychology and how it relates to the other fields of psychology.
- Psi Chi’s Induction Ceremony: Annually, Psi Chi holds an Induction Ceremony to induct and celebrate the achievements of its new members. This year, the AUS Psi Chi Chapter held its induction ceremony on April 21 in the Main Building.. Psi Chi officers held a candlelight ceremony as part of the event, giving inductees certificates of their membership. The installation officer, Haneen Maree, announced and installed the newly elected Psi Chi officers (2022-2023): Rashed AlGhazali, Ilya Mustapha, Mareena Deeb, Taline Dia, Shireen Tausif, and Maryam Al-Khayatt. The ceremony included closing remarks by Dr. Yuting Wang, Head of the Department of International Studies; Dr. Angela Maitner, Psychology Program Coordinator; and Rashed AlGhazali, the newly elected Psi Chi President. Following the ceremony, the inductees and their guests shared Iftar for Ramadan in the Main Building Rotunda.





UPCOMING EVENTS!

Events listed below are subject to change

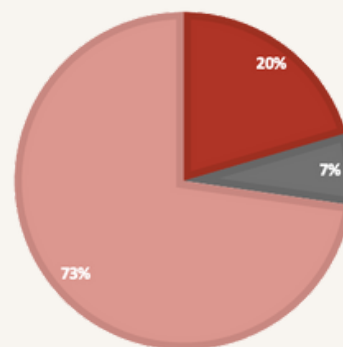
Student Research Presentation
(PSY)
Monday, May 9 | 5:00 – 6:00pm



EID MUBARAK

With two major programs, 24 faculty members, and around 350 students, the Department of International Studies has had a busy and productive year. Our faculty and students hosted more than 40 events for the department and the university at large.

We look forward to bringing you more more student-centered events events next year!



- Department Colloquia
- Alumni Series
- Student Activities

Contact Us!



INSA - [@insa_australia](https://www.instagram.com/insa_australia)
Psi Chi - [@psichi_australia](https://www.instagram.com/psichi_australia)
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Psychology Club - [@auspsychclub](https://www.instagram.com/auspsychclub)
AUS Model Congress - [@ausmodcongress](https://www.instagram.com/ausmodcongress)
Department of International Studies - [@institudiesaus](https://www.instagram.com/institudiesaus)



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