



Margaret McKinnon, PhD, CPsych



HEALTH SCIENCES
Psychiatry & Behavioural
Neurosciences

Research Work

Dr. McKinnon is the Associate Chair, Research and Associate Professor in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioural Neurosciences, McMaster University. She is a Psychologist in the Mood Disorders Program at St. Joseph's Healthcare Hamilton, and a Senior Scientist at the Homewood Research Institute. Dr. McKinnon is the Inaugural Homewood Chair in Mental Health and Trauma.

Dr. McKinnon's research focuses on the interplay between cognitive and emotional processes at the neural and behavioral level. She is particularly interested in how emotion and cognition relate to autobiographical memory and social cognition, two areas of function commonly affected by neurological illness or insult. Most of her research has been conducted in special populations, including patients with frontotemporal dementia, medial temporal lobe amnesia and post-traumatic stress disorder, along with normally aging adults. With her collaborators in the Mood Disorders Program, she is interested in identifying differences in autobiographical memory for highly emotional events (e.g., an airplane accident) and in social cognitive (e.g., theory of mind and empathy) performance between people with and without mood disorders and/or trauma exposure. An additional research focus concerns the neural mechanisms underlying these differences and the testing of treatment interventions aimed at reducing cognitive dysfunction in patients with psychiatric illness.

Engagement Opportunities

Introductory Level

- Serve as a second reviewer on systematic review (20 hrs)
- Assist with data entry (50 hrs)
- Assist with scoring of clinical measures (40 hrs)
- Full-text screening of research articles (20hrs)

Intermediate Level

- Assist with administering research/clinical interviews (60 hrs)
- Neuropsychological test administration (100 hrs)
- Assist with meta-analysis (60 hrs)
- Write a section of a paper (10 hrs)

Advanced Level

- Analyze data set (50 hrs)
- Perform secondary data analysis and write manuscript (100 hrs)
- Complete systematic review and write up (100 hrs)

If you are interested in learning more, please leave your contact information with the Research Office and/or contact Dr. McKinnon at mmckinno@stjoes.ca