Research and practicum placements for the Ph.D. program in Clinical Psychology at USF is committed to the **clinical-scientist training mentor model**, and this commitment is reflected in our membership in the Academy of Psychological Clinical Science. We are also accredited by the American Psychological Association and the Psychological Clinical Science Accreditation System. Graduate students are actively involved in research throughout their residency in the program. Therefore, it is important for applicants to consider the research opportunities available at USF to ensure that there is a good match between their interests and the research programs of the Clinical faculty. The research interests of the Clinical faculty are described below. Our faculty members have diverse interests within clinical psychology, and we urge applicants to read the descriptions carefully before deciding whether to apply to our program. In addition to the research foci of the individual faculty members, we would like to highlight a few general areas that cut across faculty, and are therefore particular strengths of the clinical training program at USF. Please note, however, that these general themes do not represent all of the areas of research carried out by our faculty and students.

**Health Psychology.** This is the fastest-growing area within the field of clinical psychology, and it is a clear strength of our department. Areas of health psychology studied by our faculty include, addictive disorders (Bornovalova, Brandon, Goldman, Verona), eating disorders and obesity (Rancourt), and behavioral oncology and risk factors for cancer (Brandon). Research in health psychology is enhanced by the presence of a medical school and large medical center on campus. Among the hospitals in the medical center are the H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center and Research Institute and the James A. Haley Veterans Affairs Medical Center. Both of these facilities often serve as sites of clinical students.

**Substance abuse.** Substance use issues are some of the most prevalent behavioral problems in our country today, impacting society in a multitude of ways. Although mentioned above as a sub area within health psychology, research on addictive behaviors can also be considered a strength of our department in its own right. Clinical faculty conducting research in this area include Mark Goldman (alcohol expectancies), Marina Bornovalova (drug use disorders and comorbidity with externalizing psychopathology), and Edelyn Verona (gender differences in pathways to drug use, drug use links to anti-sociality and psychopathy), Thomas Brandon (tobacco use and cessation), and Robert Schlauch (individual differences in alcohol and drug use behavior).

**Psychopathology.** The study of mental illness and disordered behaviors continues to serve as a foundation for much of clinical psychology. Faculty whose research falls in this area include Marina Bornovalova (externalizing disorders and behaviors, borderline personality disorder), Peter Clayson (adaptive control in healthy and clinical populations), Marc Karver (self-harm and suicidal behavior), Vicky Phares (developmental psychopathology), Diana Rancourt (eating disorders), Jon Rottenberg (individual differences in the experience of emotions, especially depression), Edelyn Verona (psychopathy, personality disorders, aggression/violence).

**Clinical Child Psychology.** Clinical child psychology has been one of the most popular and expanding areas of study over the past decade. Department research spans the prevention-treatment continuum from studies of etiology, assessment, and treatment of child/adolescent disorders to primary and secondary prevention efforts to reduce rates of disorder and promote healthy functioning. Clinical faculty conducting research in this general area include Vicky Phares (developmental psychopathology, parenting), Marc Karver (treatment processes and suicidal adolescents), and Diana Rancourt (peer influence and adolescents’ weight-related behaviors). Research and practicum sites include the USF Psychological Services Center, three local school districts, and the Rothman Center for Pediatric Neuropsychiatry in the USF Department of Pediatrics.
Clinical Faculty

Marina A Bornovalova, Ph.D.
(University of Maryland-College Park) Associate Professor

Research Interests: In general, my research focuses on externalizing psychopathology, substance use disorders, and their interrelationship. Additionally, a large part of my work focuses on borderline personality disorder (BPD). I am especially interested in how problems with inhibitory control (a.k.a. “impulsivity”) underlie the development of these phenomena, and how these vulnerabilities interact with environmental stressors (i.e., childhood trauma). In my research, I use several methods of examining etiology and causal influences. Specifically, I use a) correlational studies in clinical populations to identify risk factors associated with externalizing behaviors, substance use, and BPD; b) Laboratory analogue studies to further “tease out” the nature of underlying vulnerabilities (e.g., tasks tapping emotion dysregulation); c) treatment development studies to try to alter these vulnerabilities; and d) investigations of the genetic and environmental contributions to these phenomena (via twin studies, in collaboration with the Minnesota Twin and Family Study).

Representative Publications
(* student authors):


Peter Clayson, Ph.D.
(University of California, Los Angeles) Assistant Professor

Research Interests:
My research applies findings from cognitive and affective neuroscience to examine adaptive control in healthy participants and psychopathology. Adaptive control refers to how the brain coordinates
cognitive, emotional, and physiological processes to identify problems in the environment and optimize goal-directed behavior. Adaptive control dysfunction is evident in numerous clinical disorders, and my research cuts across diagnostic boundaries to understand this dysfunction and its impact on behavior. My research examines healthy and clinical populations to answer these questions: How well do models of adaptive control predict performance? How do variations in adaptive control contribute to psychopathology? Can adaptive control be improved in psychopathology, leading to benefits in functional outcome? I primarily answer these questions using studies of event-related brain potentials (ERPs). I also have a strong interest in improving research methodology in clinical neuroscience, and I embrace open science practices.

Representative Publications:


*Social Cognitive and Affective Neuroscience, 7,* 677-688.


Mark S. Goldman, Ph.D.
(Rutgers University)
Distinguished Research Professor

Research Interests: This laboratory investigates the influences of cognitive factors on behavior and physiological responses to addictive drugs. Our specific research area is alcohol expectancies and how they influence alcohol consumption and behavior while under the influence. To this end, we develop alcohol expectancy instruments, develop assessment techniques for alcohol related cognitions, and design preventive and therapeutic strategies for undermining the links between cognition and behavior. We are currently funded by grants from the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism.

Representative Publications
(* student authors):


Fallon Goodman, Ph.D.
(George Mason University)
Assistant Professor

I study how people—especially those with anxiety disorders—experience and regulate their emotions in daily life and why these processes matter for subjective well-being. My research examines how mental illness intersects with well-being to reduce risk and promote resilience. I use an affective science approach by examining daily patterns of emotion and emotion regulation. I am particularly interested in emotion processes in anxiety disorders, and much of my research is conducted with clinical samples of people diagnosed with social anxiety disorder. I use advanced mobile technology to capture people in their everyday lives (e.g., experience-sampling, mobile sensing). My research on resilience aims to refine conceptual and measurement models of well-being, and better understand the psychological strengths (e.g., curiosity) and individual differences (e.g., personal strivings) that promote resilience. By examining how people react to everyday events, my research aims to improve adaptive coping, decision-making, and subjective well-being.


Marc Karver, Ph.D.
(Vanderbilt University)
Associate Professor

Research Interests: My research interests include understanding core processes (e.g. therapeutic alliance) in mental health services research for youths/young adults and youth/young adult suicide risk assessment, prevention, and management. I look at how mental health clinicians make decisions, what treatment techniques they use, and how they form therapeutic relationships. I am interested in learning how to improve the work of
experienced clinicians and to discover better ways
to train novice clinicians. I am particularly
interested in studying the provision of mental health
services to “high risk” populations such as suicidal
adolescents. I have been involved with several
studies of adolescent and young adult suicidality. I
examined mental health professionals’ ability to
evaluate high risk individuals and make placement
decisions. I have examined crisis line counselors’
ability to predict suicide related behaviors. I have
also been involved in several studies looking at
treatment processes related to engaging depressed
and suicidal adolescents. I have had 9 federally
funded suicide prevention grants (3 currently
funded) to examine means (gatekeeper training,
care coordination, screening, professional training,
social marketing, family involvement activities,
postvention) to increase knowledge and
identification abilities of students, parents, and staff
while also tracking the processes and outcomes of
linkage of school, agency, and parent referrals as
aided by case management services of suicidal
individuals to mental health assessment and
treatment (e.g. CBT, DBT)

Representative Publications
(* student authors):

Chen, J. I., Bozzay, M. L., Monahan, M. F.,
Gryglewicz, K., Romero, G., Steding, L. H.,
Gleason, L. L., & Karver, M. S. (2019). Life
after loss: Comparing student service
member/veteran and civilian mental health
characteristics among individuals exposed to
death by suicide. *Journal of American

perception: An investigation into the
components of emotional invalidation.
*Personality and Mental Health, 12*(1), 59-72.

Hangartner, R., Totura, C., Labouliere, C.,
Benchmarking the "Question, Persuade,
Refer (QPR)" Program against Evaluations
of Established Suicide Prevention
Gatekeeper Trainings. *Suicide and Life
Threatening Behavior, 49*(2), 353-370.

Gryglewicz, K., Chen, J. I., Romero, G. D., Karver,
M. S., & Witmeier, M. (2017). Online
Suicide Risk Assessment and Management
Training: Pilot Evidence for Acceptability
and Training Effects. *Crisis: The Journal of
Crisis Intervention and Suicide Prevention,*
38, 186-194

Gryglewicz, K., Kutash, K., Elzy, M. B.,
Engaging families: A pilot evaluation to
examine the utility of a health promotional
resource on youth suicide prevention.
*Journal of Family Social Work, 21*(4-5),
399-412.

Gryglewicz, K., Monahan, M., Chen, J. I., Bozzay,
M., Bender, A., Gleason, L. L., Witmeier,
M., & Karver, M. S. (2019). Examining the
Effects of Role Play Practice in Enhancing
Clinical Skills to Assess and Manage
Suicide Risk. *Journal of Mental Health, 11*,

Karver, M. S., De Nadai, A. S., Monahan, M., &
prospective relation between alliance and
outcome in child

and adolescent psychotherapy.

Labouliere, C. D., Reyes, J. P., Shirk, S., & Karver,
M. (2017). Therapeutic alliance with
depressed adolescents: Predictor or
outcome? Disentangling temporal confounds
to understand early improvement. *Journal of
Clinical Child and Adolescent Psychology,*
46(4), 600-610.

Peterson, A. L., Chen, J.I., Karver, M.S., &
Labouliere, C.D. (2019). Frustration with
Feeling: Latent Classes of Non-Suicidal
Self-injury and Emotion Regulation
Difficulties. *Psychiatry Research,* 275,
61-70.

Polk, S., Horwitz, R., Longway, S., Bonilla, A.,
Fothergill, K., Karver, M. S., Salmon, P., &
Wissow, L. (2017). Surveillance or
engagement: Children’s conflicts during
health maintenance visits. *Academic
Pediatrics, 17*, 739-746.

Totura, C.M. Wienke, Labouliere, C.D.,
Gryglewicz, K., & Karver, M.S. (2019).
Adolescent Decision-Making: The Value of
Perceived Behavioral Control in Predicting
Engagement in Suicide Prevention


**Vicky Phares, Ph.D.**  
(University of Vermont)  
Professor

Research Interests: My research group has explored a variety of issues related to child, adolescent, and family functioning. In particular, we have been interested in exploring the connections between psychopathology in fathers, mothers, and children. A focus of our work remains on gender in relation to parenting, with particular interest in parenting in relation to anxious youth. Projects include the exploration of fathers’ and mothers’ involvement in therapy, mother blaming, and racial/ethnic differences and similarities in families. We are in the beginning stages of exploring connections between parents’ and children’s prosocial behavior, with a specific focus on volunteerism.

Representative Publications  
(* student authors):  


**Diana Rancourt, Ph.D.**  
(University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill)  
Assistant Professor

Research Interests: My program of research spans the eating disorder and obesity worlds by investigating patterns of weight-related behaviors across healthy and pediatric populations (e.g., youth and young adults with type 1 diabetes, an eating disorder diagnosis, bariatric surgery candidates). I have two specific lines of work 1) the experience of appetite (e.g., food craving, hunger, satiety) as a common risk factor for eating disorders and obesity, and 2) the influence of social norms on weight-related behaviors (e.g., dieting, uncontrolled eating, muscle-gaining behaviors). My work is interdisciplinary and draws from theory and methods from clinical, health, social, and developmental psychology. I use cross-sectional and longitudinal correlational designs, experimental paradigms (e.g., cue reactivity), and daily diary approaches (e.g., ecological momentary assessment). Current topics of interest include food craving as a transdiagnostic factor across eating disorders and obesity, glycemic variability in disordered eating behaviors, how athletes may differ from non-athletes in their weight-related attitudes and behaviors, weight status perception and social comparison processes, food and alcohol disturbance (FAD), the role of peer popularity and victimization in weight-related behaviors, and gender and age differences in the correlates, functions, and outcomes of weight-related behaviors.
Recent publications
(*indicates student author).

*Lang, B., *Verzijl, C. L., *Ahlich, E.,
Thompson, J. K., & Rancourt, D. (2019). The role of drive for thinness in
the association between weight status
misperception and disordered eating
attitudes and behaviors of young adults.
Eating Behaviors. Pre-proof ahead of
print 2019 Aug 10. doi:

Rancourt, D., Foster, N., Bollepalli, S.,
*Fitterman-Harris, H. F., Powers, M. A.,
Test of the modified dual pathway model
of eating disorders in
individuals with type 1 diabetes.
International Journal of Eating
Disorders, 52(6), 630-642.

*Ahlich, E., *Choquette, E., & Rancourt, D.
(2019). Body talk, athletic identity, and
eating disorder symptoms in men.
Psychology of Men & Masculinity,
20(3), 347-355. doi:
10.1037/men0000168.

*Choquette, E., Rancourt, D., & Thompson, J.
K. (2018). From fad to FAD: A
theoretical formulation and proposed
name change for “Drunkorexia” to Food
and Alcohol Disturbance. International
Journal of Eating Disorders, 51(8), 831-

Rancourt, D., Barker, D. H., & Jelalian, E.
(2018). Sex as a moderator of
adolescents’ weight loss treatment
outcomes. Journal of Adolescent Health,
62, 591-597. doi:

Rancourt, D., *Schaefer, L. M., Bosson, J. K., &
Thompson, J. K. (2016). Differential
impact of upward and downward
comparisons on diverse women’s
disordered eating behaviors and body
image. International Journal of Eating
Disorders, 49, 519-523. doi:
10.1002/eat.22470.

Jonathan Rottenberg, Ph.D.
(Stanford University)
Professor, Director of Clinical Training

Research Interests: Work in my laboratory is in the
area of emotional pathology, particularly as it
applies to Major Depressive Disorder. Using both
experimental and naturalistic designs, we have been
pursuing the hypothesis that a core dysfunction in
depression involves a loss of the capacity to respond
to changes in stimulus valence, a phenomenon we
term emotion context insensitivity (ECI). Recent
studies have examined ECI as a function of stimulus
meaning in depressed individuals. Other projects in
my laboratory examine biological markers of
emotion dysregulation in depression, such as heart
rate variability. Our work is funded by the National
Institutes of Health. For more info, visit the lab site
https://sites.google.com/mail.usf.edu/moodandemotionlab/home

Recent publications
(*indicates student author).

Turning quickly on myself: Automatic

Morris, B. H.*, Bylsma, L. M., Yaroslavsky, I.,
Reward learning in pediatric depression and
anxiety: Preliminary findings in a high
sample. Depression and Anxiety, 32(5), 373-
381.

Panaite, V., Bylsma, L. M., Kovacs, M., O'Leary,
K., George, C. J., Baji, I., . . . Rottenberg, J.
(2019). Dysregulated behavioral responses
to hedonic probes among youth with
depression histories and their high-risk

Rottenberg, J. (2014). The Depths: The
Evolutionary Origins of the Depression
Robert C. Schlauch, Ph.D.
(Florida State University)
Assistant Professor

Research Interests: My research interests focus broadly in understanding the role of individual differences in alcohol and drug use behavior. Specifically, I am interested in applying multidisciplinary approaches to the study of: a) processes associated with positive treatment outcomes for substance use disorders (e.g., craving), including pretreatment change and mechanisms of behavior change, b) risk factors for the development of substance use disorders (e.g., personality variables, comorbid disorders), and c) the moderating role of individual difference variables in alcohol related disinhibited behaviors. Secondary interests include methodological issues in substance use research, and in collaboration with Dr. Diana Rancourt, examining the applicability of addiction models to disordered eating and compensatory behaviors.

Representative Publications
(*indicates student author)


Edelyn Verona, Ph.D.
(Florida State University)
Professor

Our lab covers a lot of ground in the areas of criminal behavior, psychopathy, substance use and violence. Some of our work considers biological (e.g., genes, neurophysiology) and psychosocial factors (e.g., stress, early adversity) involved in the development and maintenance of such problems, including laboratory experimentation with a focus on emotion and cognition. At another level, we have begun to address intervention, prevention, and structural factors in regard to pathways to incarceration and recidivism, as well as intersections between mental health and criminal justice system involvement. In terms of methods, we conduct both experimental and naturalistic (e.g., diagnostic interview and personality self-report) studies with community, clinical or forensic samples; and work closely with criminal justice agencies or community organizations to evaluate or develop evidence-based programming.


Affiliated and Courtesy Faculty

Thomas H. Brandon, Ph.D.
(University of Wisconsin- Madison)

Research Interests: My general research interest is in health psychology with a focus on addictive behaviors. Tobacco use has the greatest total negative health and economic impact of any addictive substance, so it is the primary focus of our research. Our laboratory uses two convergent research approaches. One is human laboratory research on addiction motivation, focusing on affective and cognitive variables involved in drug use and relapse. Variables studied include affective state, outcome expectancies, task persistence, cue reactivity, and self-efficacy. The second approach involves large-scale treatment-outcome studies in which basic theory and research are applied to smoking cessation and relapse prevention. Treatment strategies investigated include: cue exposure, coping skills training, supportive counseling, cognitive/mood-management therapies, and pharmacotherapies. We also conduct nationwide randomized controlled trials of cost-effective minimal interventions for smoking cessation and relapse prevention. We have
developed a series of Forever Free booklets that have been found to produce substantial reductions in smoking relapse, and consequently have been adopted by the National Cancer Institute and various health organizations throughout the country. We are now extending this research to special populations at risk for smoking relapse, such as pregnant/postpartum women, Spanish-speaking smokers, and e-cigarette users. In addition, we have recently been conducting a range of research on the use of e-cigarettes. Our laboratory is the Tobacco Research & Intervention Program at the H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center and Research Institute. Our research has been funded by grants from the National Institute on Drug Abuse, the National Cancer Institute, the American Cancer Society, the Florida Biomedical Research Institute, and other foundations.

Representative Publications
(* trainee authors)


