

LAURA O'TOOLE

laurajotoole@gmail.com

EDUCATION

August 2003 – December 2006

SUNY Binghamton

B.A. Psychology, B.A. Philosophy

August 2007 – Present

CUNY Graduate School and University Center

Ph.D. candidate in Biopsychology and Behavioral Neuroscience Program

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

January 2008 – Present

Research Assistant

Emotion Regulation Lab, CUNY Hunter College

Faculty Advisor: Tracy Dennis, Ph.D.

- Assist in applying electrodes for EEG recordings, run computer tasks for EEG and behavioral measurements
- Design and implement an independent study of the attentional bias to negative stimuli
- Train new RAs in EEG recording and behavioral testing procedures

June 2008 – August 2008

Research Assistant

Visual Psychophysiology Lab, CUNY Hunter College

Faculty Advisor: Jim Gordon, Ph.D.

- Collected data used to demonstrate the capabilities of a new statistical measure
- Generated spreadsheets to apply statistic to data set

August 2007 – December 2007

Research Assistant

Developmental Psychobiology, New York State Psychiatric Institute

Faculty Advisor: Christoph Wiedenmayer, Ph.D.

- Designed a paradigm to demonstrate fear conditioning in developing rats to biologically relevant stimuli
- Developed an ethogram for coding fear related behaviors in young rats

August 2006 – May 2007

Research Assistant

Learning and Representation in Cognition, SUNY Binghamton

Faculty Advisor: Kenneth Kurtz, Ph.D.

- Developed a new methodology to study the learning phase of categorization and selective attention
- Created stimulus sets, worked with computer programmers

WORK EXPERIENCE

August 2007 – Present

Teaching Assistant

Psychology Department, CUNY Hunter College

- Introduction to Psychology, Human Sexuality, Social Experimental Psychology, General Experimental Psychology
- Grade papers and exams, meet with students to address questions, give lectures

June 2006 – August 2006

Clinical Assistant

FPI Attention Disorders Clinic, Endicott, New York

Supervisor: Vincent Monastra, Ph.D.

- Administered and scored diagnostic TOVA (Test of Variables of Attention), ADDES (Attention Deficit Disorders Evaluation Scale)
- Applied electrodes for qEEG and biofeedback sessions, cleaning and upkeep of electrodes
- Participated in parenting and individual sessions

SKILLS

Microsoft Office: Word, Power Point, Excel

Experimental design and analysis: E-Prime, SPSS

POSTER PRESENTATIONS

Zemon, V.M., Gordon, J., **O'Toole**, L., Monde, K., Dozhanskaya, V., Shapovalova, V., Hu, J., Furhman, J., & Granader, Y. (2009, May). *Transient Visual Evoked Potentials (tVEPs) to Contrast-Reversing Patterns: A Frequency Domain Analysis*. Poster session to be presented at the annual meeting of the Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology, Fort Lauderdale, FL.

O'Toole, L., Reuland, M., Lamm, C., & Dennis, T.A. (2009, May). *Induced Attentional Biases Affect Performance on the Dot Probe Task*. Poster session to be presented at the 21st annual convention of the Association for Psychological Science, San Francisco, CA.

Augello, J., **O'Toole**, L., Chen, C., Hajcak, G., Bonanno, G., & Dennis, T.A. (2008, October). *The Late Positive Potential Predicts Long-Term Memory for Emotional Pictures Viewed During a Directed Emotion Regulation Task*. Poster session presented at the 48th annual meeting of the Society for Psychophysiological Research, Austin, TX.

O'Toole, L., & Lutchman, S. (2007, April). *A New Paradigm to Investigate Mode Switching and Selective Attention in Classification Learning*. Poster session presented at the Binghamton University Psychology Undergraduate Research Fair, Vestal, NY.

RESEARCH INTERESTS

I am interested in the effects of emotional stimuli on attention, particularly the electrophysiological and behavioral aspects of the attentional bias to threatening stimuli in anxiety. Additionally, I am interested in interventions, such as attention training or mindfulness meditation techniques, to alter the response patterns associated with this bias.