

DAVE BROCKER

Lecturer, Department of Psychology – Farmingdale State College

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EDUCATION

M.A. Experimental Psychology

CUNY Brooklyn College, 2019

Thesis: *The Effect of Violence and Racism on Ratings of Anger and Disgust*

B.S. Applied Psychology

Farmingdale State College, 2015

Concentration: I/O Psychology

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Morbid curiosity and affective response; experimental and computational methods; data visualization and survey methodology; language and behavior in self-harm communities.

PUBLICATIONS

Olivieri, S., Macario, K., De Gula, N., Zimmerman, S. M., & **Brocker, D.** (2025). *Cardiac crisis simulations: Traditional vs. escape room learning for nursing students*. *Simulation in Healthcare*, 56(2), 237–254. <https://doi.org/10.1177/10468781251316889>

RESEARCH PROJECTS

Morbid Curiosity and Emotional Response to Negative Stimuli, **Principal Investigator**

This is an ongoing project that is multi-faceted in its approach to examine how and why we are attracted to negative and aversive stimuli. The project combines research on knowledge-led curiosity, sensation and perception, risk-taking, and the need to resolve ambiguity and uncertainty

Nature-Based Intervention for Nursing Students, **Survey and Data Analysis Technician**

This project was a collaboration with the Nursing Department at Farmingdale State College to see whether students' test performance and anxiety would be reduced after exposure to varying nature scenes.

Exploring Factors that Impact Caregiver Wellbeing, **Co-Investigator**

This was a cross-institutional and online-data collection collaboration that examined perceived caretaker burden in a sample of US adults who provided care for relatives/close friends.

Clinical Judgment Development in Nursing Students, **Survey and Data Analysis Technician**

This project is an ongoing longitudinal study to see how students in the nursing program assess their own competence and ability as a nursing student.

Advising Methods and GPA Outcomes (LAS Department), **Data Analysis Technician**

This project examines 'intrusive advising' and whether it reduces instances of Academic Probation or facilitates an increase in GPA throughout semesters of repeated measure.

Perceptions of Disabilities, **Principal Investigator/Faculty Mentor**

This project examines student perceptions of individuals with disabilities. It combines both qualitative and quantitative methodology to understand the cognitive, behavioral, emotional, and motivational perceptions towards individuals that can lead to 'othering'.

Personality, Curiosity, and Behavior, **Faculty Mentor**

This was a student-led project that examined whether ratings on the Morbid Curiosity Scale would predict behavioral choices in viewing negative depictions of images in a forced-choice design.

Perceptions of Creepiness, **Principal Investigator**

This project was a replication of a 2016 study that looked at creepiness as a psychological phenomenon and looked at creepy occupations, behaviors, hobbies, and facial characteristics.

Anger and Disgust for Violent and Non-Violent Moral Transgressions, **Co-Investigator**

This was a graduate thesis that replicated a 2016 study with an extension of judgments of wrongness and moral character to an a moral transgression that was either violent or non-violent.

Motives for Actions, **Co-Investigator**

This was a graduate study project that replicated a 1992 student by examining whether motivations for a subsequent action were enough to change attributions of causality, anger, disgust, moral character, and wrongness judgments of an action

APPOINTMENTS

Lecturer, Department of Psychology – Farmingdale State College (2019–Present)

Course: *Statistics for Psychology*

Semesters Taught: Fall 2021 – Present

Undergraduate-level course emphasizing conceptual understanding of inferential statistics in psychological research. Redesigned labs to include reproducible R-based workflows using tidyverse and ggplot2.

Developed interactive visualizations and in-class applications tied to students' research interests.

Integrated open-source software to reduce cost barriers for students.

Course: *Research Methods in Psychology*

Semesters Taught: Spring 2022 – Present

Focuses on experimental design, ethics, and data interpretation in behavioral research.

Introduced Qualtrics-based lab exercises for live hypothesis testing and data collection.

Implemented scaffolded assignments that connect conceptual design to statistical analysis.

Course: *Introduction to Psychology*

Semesters Taught: Fall 2019 – Present

General education course covering fundamental psychological principles.

Created weekly reflection prompts to increase student engagement and personal relevance.

Blended lecture and discussion with applied examples

Course: *Senior Capstone in Psychology: Senior Project I and II*

Semesters Taught: Fall 2022 – Present

Guided students through independent research or internship experiences.

Supervised data analysis, APA-style writing, and professional presentation preparation.

Designed capstone reflection assignments emphasizing career and graduate school readiness.

Prepared students for graduate-school interviews and post-graduation employment

Adjunct Instructor, Division of Undergraduate Applied Studies - New York University (2025 – Present)

Course: Senior Project

Semesters Taught: Fall 2025 - Present

Adjunct Instructor, Department of Psychology - SUNY Old Westbury (2020-2021)

Course: Research Design and Analysis I

Semesters Taught: Fall 2020 - Spring 2021

Lab Instructor, Department of Psychology - CUNY Brooklyn College (2017-2019)

Course: Statistics for the Psychological Sciences

Semesters Taught: Spring 2017 - Spring 2019

Course: Experimental Psychology
Semesters Taught: Spring 2019

TECHNICAL AND METHODOLOGICAL SKILLS

R

Used for data analysis, data visualization, lecture preparation, and workshop development. I also build interactive web applications using the Shiny framework to support teaching and research dissemination.

Qualtrics

Extensive experience designing experimental and pedagogical surveys, implementing embedded data, display logic, and random assignment. Used in both teaching (self-assessment and feedback tools) and research (participant management and data collection).

Shiny

Developed interactive dashboards and web apps for data exploration, classroom demonstrations, and student feedback visualization. Emphasizes user-centered design and reproducibility within R-based environments.

MATLAB

Used for experimental programming using the PsyToolBox framework

iMotions

Utilized for multimodal data collection, integrating eye tracking, facial expression analysis, and physiological measures (EEG) to explore affective and attentional processes.

PsychoPy

Used to design and run behavioral experiments, particularly those involving visual and timing-sensitive stimuli. Experienced in both Builder and Coder interfaces for psychological and cognitive tasks.

Excel

Used for data cleaning, descriptive statistics, and data visualization.

SPSS

Used for traditional statistical analyses and teaching demonstrations.

PRESENTATIONS

Kathryn Hauschild, Talena C. Day, Elliot G. Keenan, **David A. Brocker**, Brianna Gonzalez, Christian C. Luhmann and Matthew D. Lerner, "*Observed Relations between Intra-Individual and Real-World Outcomes in a Sample of Autistic and Non-Autistic Youth.*" Poster presented at the International Society for Autism Research, Melbourne, Australia on May 17, 2024.

Sayedul Islam, Sara Mir, **David Brocker**, Nicholas J. Vitale and Donny J. LaRosa, "*An Analysis of Dental Office and Hospital.*" Presentation to the 7th Annual Virtual Celebration of Scholarship, Farmingdale State College Farmingdale, NY USA. on December 9, 2022.

Michaela Porubanova, **David Brocker**, Erica N. Geiger, Jason Clarke, Muge Erol and Arien Mack, "*Directed inhibition of emotional scenes in iconic memory: Interference of positive information.*" Poster presented at the European Conference on Visual Perception, Berlin, Germany on August 30, 2017.

Dana G. Gerasimovich, **David Brocker**, Haaziq T. Walker, Marla Johnston and Michaela Porubanova, "*Flashbulb Memories for the 2016 Presidential Election.*" Paper presented to the Association for Psychological Science, Boston on May 27, 2017.

Michaela Porubanova, Kristine M. Lycke, **David Brocker**, Jason Clarke and Muge Erol, "*Iconic Memory for Emotional Scenes.*" Poster accepted at the Association for Psychological Science, Boston on May 26, 2017.

Marya Howell-Carter, Haaziq T. Walker, Brittany Genao, Nimra Sana and **David Brocker**, "*Feedback and Task Performance.*" Poster presented at the SURC: SUNY Undergraduate Research Conference, Suffolk Community College, Suffolk Community College on April 21, 2017.

Michaela Porubanova, Kristine M. Lycke, **David Brocker**, Jason Clarke and Muge Erol, "*Iconic Memory for Emotional Scenes.*" Poster presented at the Presentation at the Presidential Inauguration, Farmingdale State College on March 31, 2017.

Stephanie M. Santiago, **David Brocker**, Michael R. Harris and Michaela Porubanova, "*Memory for Bizarre Ideas: The Effect of Encoding Strategy and Violation Type.*" Poster presented at the Teaching of Psychology, Tarrytown, NY on April 2, 2016.

Michael R. Harris, **David Brocker**, Michaela Porubanova and Maria Kuvaldina, "*Target Congruency and Inattentional Blindness.*" Poster presented at the Teaching of Psychology, Tarrytown, NY on April 2, 2016.

David Brocker and Michaela Porubanova, "*The effect of linguistic expression on impression formation.*" Poster presented at the Association of Psychological Science Convention, New York, NY on May 22, 2015.

Karina I. Chaves, **David Brocker**, Ashley S. Corso, Nicole M. Forero and Michaela Porubanova, "*The sweetness study: The effect of physical sweetness on perceived person impression.*" Poster presented at the Long Island Psychology Conference, Farmingdale, NY on May 2, 2015.

David Brocker and Michaela Porubanova, "*The effect of priming with intelligence on creativity and language.*" Poster presented at the Teaching of Psychology Conference, Tarrytown, NY on April 4, 2015

MENTORED STUDENT PRESENTATIONS

Myra Bryant, **David A Brocker**, "You Look Familiar: Perceptual Dehumanization of Human Faces", Poster presented at the SUNY Undergraduate Research Conference, SUNY Binghamton on April 28, 2025

Daniela Orellana, **David A Brocker**, "Anger and Disgust: Emotional Reactions to Racist and Violent Acts", Poster presented at the SUNY Undergraduate Research Conference, SUNY Binghamton on April 28, 2025

Terri D. Payne, Joseph D. Devita and **David Brocker**, "*Perceptions of Creepiness.*" Poster presented at the IGNITE Symposium, Farmingdale State College on March 29, 2024

Olivia S. Butler, **David A. Brocker** and Marybeth Apriceno, "*What Was I Thinking? An Exploration of the Ick Phenomena.*" Poster presented at the IGNITE Symposium, Farmingdale State College on March 29, 2024.

Brendan I. Jaghab and **David Brocker**, "*The Relationship Between Morbid Curiosity, Anxiety, and Voluntary Exposure to Negative Stimuli: An Exploration of Horror Fandom and Clinical Implications.*" Poster accepted at the IGNITE Symposium, Farmingdale State College on March 31, 2023.

SERVICE AND ADMINISTRATION

Internship Coordinator, Farmingdale State College (2021 - Present)

Streamlined student internship placement and connected with new internship sites. At present, the Department maintains communication with 150+ sites in areas of Human Resources, Social Work, School Counseling, and Research Placements.

Webmaster, Farmingdale State College (2022 - Present)

Maintained the Department of Psychology on the student-facing and faculty/staff facing portions of the campus website. Created pages to showcase research opportunities and Faculty Bios. Added information for students looking to participate in research and updated frequently with any personnel changes or events.

SONA Systems Administrator, Farmingdale State College (2022 - Present)

Managed start-of-semester course imports and end-of-semester reports for student participation. Assisted in account creation and role addition for new researchers/faculty members. Worked with campus IT to incorporate SSO features to ease student access and involvement.

Laboratory Manager, Farmingdale State College (2019 - Present)

Trained faculty and students on research programs and peripherals. Created manuals and standard operating procedures for stimulus presentation, data collection, and analysis. Work with faculty to get their research ideas implemented in the appropriate system in a timely manner.

IRB Consultant, Farmingdale State College (2022 - Present)

Work in tandem with the IRB to ensure that new protocols have a methodological basis and follow ethical data collection procedures. When needed, create survey materials or modify existing surveys to ensure anonymity, allow for secure data deletion, and create straightforward instructions and training for new faculty/researchers.

MENTORSHIP AND STUDENT RESEARCH**Undergraduate Research Supervision**

Supervised 30+ students in empirical and applied psychology research.

Advised projects presented at the SUNY Undergraduate Research Conference, IGNITE Symposium, and APS.

Technical Training & Lab Oversight

Trained students in survey design (Qualtrics), data analysis (R, SPSS), and experimental programming (PsychoPy, iMotions).

Standardization & Documentation

Developed SOPs for data collection using eyetrackers and EEG equipment.