**Research Infrastructures - Laboratories and Equipment at the University of Cyprus**

**Department of Psychology**

1. [**Neurocognitive Research Lab**](https://www.ucy.ac.cy/psych/en/research/research-centres-and-laboratories)

The Neurocognitive Research Lab, directed by [Fofi Constantinidou](http://www.ucy.ac.cy/en/people/constaf%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank) is housed in the Department of Psychology at the new wing of the central campus. The lab is part of a newly designed laboratory suite that houses the Neuro Cognitive Research Laboratory, the Experimental Psychology Laboratory, the Psychophysiology Laboratory, and the Social Psychology Laboratory. The lab consists of one large room with a one-way observation window and is equipped with current neuropsychological/cognitive tests, research protocols and materials required for the ongoing projects, as well as networked computers. There is an adjacent observation room (shared with the Psychobiology Laboratory) used for data recording and observation.

Currently the following research projects are being conducted in collaboration with local research centers such as the Cyprus Institute of Neurology and Genetics and international organizations including Miami University (USA), the Centre for Neuro Skills (USA), and Special Tree Rehabilitation Center (USA):

- The Effectiveness of a systematic categorization program in patients with traumatic brain injury: Clinical trials.

- Effects of native language, age, and education on cognitive performance.

- The effects of neurological disease on memory abilities.

Several undergraduate and graduate students participate in research projects each year via independent studies, undergraduate and master's theses, and doctoral research. For more information go to [http://www.ucy.ac.cy/goto/neurocognitive/en-US/HOME.aspx](https://www.ucy.ac.cy/psych/en/research/research-centres-and-laboratories).

1. **University of Cyprus Centre for Field Studies**

The University of Cyprus and the Department of Psychology, in an attempt to strengthen the institution's contribution to the wider public and to enhance the research culture in Cyprus, as well as advance the relationship among cultural, educational and social institutions in Cyprus, founded the University of Cyprus Center for Field Studies (UCFS).

UCFS offers a wide range of [Research](https://www.ucy.ac.cy/pakepe/en/research-services)and[Consultancy](https://www.ucy.ac.cy/pakepe/en/consultancy-services)**Services** both to the academic community and to the wider public. Making use of both the academic personnel and the scientific knowledge produced in academia, the Centre aims to provide high quality research and consultancy services to the wider community.

UCFS aspires to become a connecting bridge between the scientific community and the cultural, social and economic institutions of the country. Based on the principle that research allows one to ascertain the conditions and factors that shape behaviors, attitudes and values, UCFS invests in the development and establishment of Research as a decisive tool that can offer important insights and answers to fundamental questions.

The basic pillar and core mission of UCFS is to invest in the development and establishment of research as a tool able to provide important insight and answers on vital social issues and to distribute valid empirical data assisting institutions and organizations when it comes to important decision-making processes.

* **Field Research**

UCFS provides field research services that include interview preparation, data collection and processing of the questionnaires.

* **Public Opinion Analysis (Polls, "Barometers") And Panel Discussions**

UCFS offers the possibility of designing and implementing opinion and behaviour barometers on various aspects of political and social life. The value of barometers lies in the creation of time series or longitudinal data and therefore allowing for the prospect of long-term assessments of the political and social trends. At the same time, we offer the opportunity of designing and implementing research panels, i.e. panel surveys enabling precise time determination of behavior/attitude (political or social) changes.

* **Research on Specific Populations**

This field consists of research/investigations made within firms/organizations, populations of a specific professional category (e.g. lawyers, doctors, journalists), and special investigations "power groups" (such as the country's political elite, the business elite, etc.). These surveys are called "specific" because they require different sampling design, different (and often simultaneous) data collection methods and specialized questionnaires.

* **Field Observations**

Field observation method stems from Anthropology and it belongs to Ethnographic methods. It consists of observing a behavior (or a phenomenon) in the environment in which it occurs. In this case, the subjects of the investigation are not being questioned in relation to their behavior, but instead observed by the researcher. Field observation is especially suitable for investigating topics that may not be assessed as important by the respondent and hence not suitable for the interview process.

* **Organizations, Programme & Interventions Evaluation**

UCFS has both the scientific knowledge and the appropriate scientific tools that enable the Center to evaluate programs, actions and interventions implemented by various organizations as well as the impact of these actions to the target population. In addition, the Centre provides services relating to the assessment of an organization or its members.

**(3)** [**Social and Developmental Psychology Labs**](https://www.ucy.ac.cy/sdp/en/genetic-social-psychology-lab)

Human beings are social-psychological subjects from birth to death. To the extent that we are interested in the development of individuals, we are interested in how the cognitive and psychosocial development of individuals is affected by social interactions and the historical and sociocultural context of a society. On the other hand, social processes often studied in social psychology like intergroup relations, interpersonal processes, social influence, social representations, attributions, cooperation and competition cannot be taken as given and uniform irrespective of the developmental level of the person.

The Social and Developmental Psychology Labs are the following:

* [**Genetic Social Psychology Lab**](https://www.ucy.ac.cy/sdp/en/genetic-social-psychology-lab)

The Genetic Social Psychology Lab at the University of Cyprus is run by Dr. Charis Psaltis and Dr. Irini Kadianaki. Our research projects seek to understand the social-psychological processes that underlie issues of change, inter-subjective contact and communication, especially with regards to the contexts of immigration and divided societies as well as learning and cognitive development in the educational context. Some of the issues we are particularly interested in are: microgenesis, ontogenesis and sociogenesis of social representations, coping with stigma and racism, symbolic mediation in human change and development, links between social representations and identity, collective memory and history teaching, the social dynamics of asymmetries in social interaction and cognitive development, nationalism, co-operation and conflict. To approach our questions we employ both quantitative and qualitative methodology.

* [**Developmental Psychopathology Lab**](https://www.ucy.ac.cy/sdp/en/developmental-psychopathology-lab)

The Laboratory of Developmental Psychopathology was founded in the Department of Psychology by Dr. Costas A. Fantis. The Lab combines questions about developmental change and psychopathology. Research focuses primarily on investigating the development of various psychopathological problems, such as attention deficit disorder and behavioral disorders, from preschool to adolescence. The research methodology we employ is a combination of longitudinal, psychophysiological, and neuropsychological research as well as intervention studies.

* [**Developmental Psychology Lab**](https://www.ucy.ac.cy/sdp/en/developmental-psychology-lab)

The Developmental Psychology Lab was established in the Department of Psychology at the University of Cyprus by Dr. Panayiotis Stavrinides and Professor Stelios Georgiou. The lab is currently involved in a number of research projects related to the development of problem behaviour and adjustment difficulties during childhood and adolescence (i.e. bullying and victimization, externalizing and internalizing problems, adolescent substance use and delinquency), childhood and adolescent psychopathy, and parent-child interactions.

Most our studies utilize short-term and long-term longitudinal designs but we also employee experimental, quasi experimental, and qualitative methods. Currently a selected number of doctoral and master students actively work in our lab completing their graduate dissertations, and a number of undergraduate students work as research assistants completing their undergraduate theses.

1. [**Clinical Psychology & Psychophysiology Lab**](https://www.ucy.ac.cy/psychophysiology/en/)

The Clinical Psychology & Psychophysiology Lab, directed by Georgia Panayiotou and George Spanoudis, is located at the new wing of the central campus.

**Main Equipment:**

* one large room with an oneway observation window
* BIOPAC system for psychophysiological recording
* networked computers
* a high-density EEG/ERP recording system (an unshielded 128-channel BIOSEMI Active-Two) for data acquisition with typical and atypical populations,
* the latest software in modeling source generators.
* the analysis software packages used for processing EEG/ERP data are: BESA, EEGlab, and Matlab routines
* Stimuli are presented to the participants through the Presentation or E-prime software. This equipment is used to study behavioural measures (response times, error rates), and psychophysiological markers (ERPs).

Other physiological measures used routinely in research include electrodermal and cardiovascular acivity, facial muscle (EMG) response, and startle reflex. There is an adjacent observation and control room (shared with the Neurocognitive Research Lab) used for data recording and observation. The lab is primarily focused on investigating individual differences that underlie clinical symptoms and behavior, primarily through examination of psychophysiological indicators. Currently, the following research projects are being conducted, with funding by the Research and Innovation Foundation.

1. [**Experimental Psychology Laboratory**](http://experimentalpsych.com/home/)

The Experimental Psychology Lab (EPL) is directed by Marios Avraamides and has been established with funding from the European Research Council. The EPL employs several scientists at various points in their careers including postdoctoral scientists, graduate and undergraduate research assistants, and other students interested in conducting research in topics relating to spatial cognition, attention, and perception.

**Main Equipment:**

* Research is conducted with a variety of tools including personal computers and Virtual Reality (VR) technology.
1. [**Clinical and Health Psychology Lab**](https://www.ucy.ac.cy/acthealthy/el/)

Το εργαστήριο δημιουργήθηκε με σκοπό την επιστημονική μελέτη διαφόρων φαινομένων που σχετίζονται με την δημιουργία και διατήρηση ψυχολογικών δυσκολιών. Έμφαση δίνεται στην βασική και εφαρμοσμένη μελέτη προβλημάτων άγχους και σχετιζόμενες με την υγεία δυσκολίες. Επίσης κύριο στόχο αποτελεί η επιστημονική αξιολόγηση και περαιτέρω ανάπτυξη ψυχοθεραπευτικών προγραμμάτων πρόληψης και παρέμβασης, χρησιμοποιώντας μεθοδολογία και τεχνικές βασιζόμενες στη γνωστικο-συμπεριφορική προσέγγιση. Ειδική έμφαση δίνεται στο τρίτο κύμα γνωστικο-συμπεριφορικών θεραπειών όπως Θεραπεία Αποδοχής και Δέσμευσης (Acceptance and Commitment Therapy – ACT), Διαλεκτική Συμπεριφορική Θεραπεία (Dialectical Behavior Therapy – DBT) και Γνωστικο-συμπεριφορική Θεραπεία Συνειδητότητας (Μindfulness based CBT).

Το εργαστήριο χρησιμοποιεί την τελευταία επιστημονική τεχνογνωσία και αναπτύσσει νέες καινοτόμες προσεγγίσεις στην μελέτη και θεραπεία ψυχολογικών δυσκολιών.Ένας από τους βασικούς στόχους του εργαστηρίου, είναι η συνεργατική διάθεση και η ομαδική εργασία. Μέσω της συνεργατικής φιλοσοφίας του εργαστηρίου, καλλιεργούνται και προωθούνται οι σχέσεις μεταξύ των μελών του. Το εργαστήριο διοργανώνει διάφορες κοινωνικές δραστηριότητες με σκοπό την διάχυση των μελετών και των εργασιών μέσω της παράλληλης καλλιέργειας των σχέσεων των μελών της.

1. [**Center for Applied Neuroscience (CAN)**](https://www.cancyprus.org)

The Center for Applied Neuroscience (CAN) was established in 2010 and it is the only Center of its kind in Cyprus. This major infrastructure project is funded through the Research and Innovation Foundation (on the basis of European and National funding) and co-funded by the University of Cyprus.

The aim of the CAN is to study human normal and abnormal behavior and mental processes with procedures, methods, and theoretical approaches that are informed by contemporary neuroscience and biological perspectives of behavior. CAN's purpose is to develop a cutting-edge research agenda in the applied neuroscience and neurobehavioral research in Cyprus and internationally.

The CAN's mission in terms of community service focuses on providing resources and opportunities that foster critical and creative thinking through research, education, training, consulting, and program development for schools, hospitals, and other organizations in Cyprus.

CAN has developed partnerships with people both in Cyprus and abroad, specializing in the fields of Psychology, Electrical Engineering, Information Systems and Statistics, and with organizations who can offer in specialist areas, such as the Institute of Neurology and Genetics and the American Heart Institute.

CAN's research interests focus on people with neurological disorders, learning or developmental disorders, emotional reactions of children (such as aggressive behavior, social isolation, functional social behavior), and with evaluation of behavior and psychopathology in children.