

**Columbia University Undergraduate Series in
Psychology, Neuroscience, & Cognitive Science
Fall 2026**

Now in its second year, the Undergraduate Series is an interdisciplinary forum open to all members of the Columbia community. Undergraduates majoring in these 3 areas, Postbacs in Psychology, minors in Justice: Theory and Practice, and students with interests in related fields are especially encouraged to attend. The aims of the series are to explore a wide variety of academic and practical topics; to hear from current students, faculty, alumni, and others in the field; and to build community. For questions, suggestions, or to get involved, please reach out to Nora M. Isacoff, PhD, Director of Undergraduate Research & Engagement (ni2237@columbia.edu).

Academic Resource Fair

Wednesday, Sept 2, 2p, Lerner Hall

First-year and transfer students, come find our table at the ARF, as we welcome you to Columbia and answer your questions about our department.

Lab Preview

Wednesday, Sept 9, 4:30p, Schermerhorn 200B

Learn about Research Assistantships at Columbia Psychology and Neuroscience labs. Hear presentations from labs across the department before introducing yourself to labs you might like to join. Plus pizza!

Justice: Theory & Practice Open House with Professor Isacoff

Thursday, Sept 17, 6p, Schermerhorn 200B

Learn how to apply to the Psychology department's new (and only!) minor, open to students from all majors. Admitted students will take classes and build connections across the university and NYC, grapple with complex and contested ethical and practical questions, build intellectual humility, and learn from practitioners with real-world and lived experience, culminating in a substantial capstone project.

The Real Pain of Punishment: Prison, Belonging, & the Quest for Humanized Justice

Thursday, Sept 24, 6p, Jerome Green Hall

Join legal scholars and formerly and currently incarcerated scholars to discuss a new book using neuroscientific evidence to challenge the legitimacy of standard interpretations and practices of carceral punishment through the lens of the fundamental human need to belong. Contact Professor Isacoff to RSVP.

Neuroscience Poster Session

Wednesday, Sept 30, 1:45p, Kavli Auditorium

Come to a poster session featuring research by Columbia Neuroscience undergraduates. Discover what it's like to do research at the Zuckerman Institute, hear about new findings, and learn how to get involved.

Pre-clinical Workshop with Professors Jeff Cohen and Hannah Hoch

Thursday, Oct 8, 5:30p, Schermerhorn 501

Meet your pre-clinical advisors and learn about the path to pursuing a career in clinical psychology. Plus pizza!

The Psychology of Categories: How do Minds Represent?

Friday, Oct 23, 6p, Schermerhorn 200B

How does the mind decide where one category ends and another begins? From colors and objects to concepts and language, categorization is fundamental to how we make sense of the world, but what makes a category good or efficient? Join NYU doctoral candidates Feng Cheng and Nathaniel Imel to learn about their research and paths to becoming Psychology graduate students.

BEYOND: Film Screening & Discussion

Monday, Oct 26, 5p, IAB 1501

At Sing Sing Correctional Facility, a group of incarcerated men organize and prepare for a TED-style event, featuring personal narratives and bold ideas for changing the prison system. Following the screening, stay for a discussion with featured speakers from the film and Columbia faculty and researchers.

Punishment and Repair: Justice Innovations in Global Perspective

Thursday, Oct 29, 6p, Faculty House

This panel event, moderated by Dr. Peter Dixon, brings together four expert practitioners whose institutions all navigate the border between punishment and repair: Elizabeth Evenson, International Justice Director at Human Rights Watch; Aude Le Goff, Head of Programme - Trust Fund for Victims at the International Criminal Court; Justice Ana Maria Mondragón Duque, Auxiliary Judge at Colombia's Special Jurisdiction for Peace; and Meg Reiss, formerly Chief Assistant District Attorney in Manhattan and now a Senior Fellow at Columbia's Center for Justice. Stay for a networking reception!

In Session: Research, Training, & the Path to a Clinical PhD

Friday, Nov 6, 8p, Schermerhorn 200C

Join Xi Pan & Austin Barkhorn, PhD candidates in Columbia's Loss, Trauma, & Emotion Lab, to learn about their paths to becoming clinical psychologists and hear about their current research.

Senior Thesis Advanced Research (STAR) Info Session

Wednesday, Nov 4, 6p, Schermerhorn 200B

Join Maya Holloman, peer advisor and senior, for an introduction to the Department of Psychology's Senior Thesis Program. We will discuss the program application, finding a research topic, what to expect from seminars, and more!

Cognitive Science Majors Forum

Thursday, Nov 5, 6p, Schermerhorn 200B

Cognitive Science majors and prospective majors, join us to meet some of your professors and peers, learn about course requirements, hear about research and teaching assistantships, and ask questions about how to make the most of your time in the department.

Psychology & Neuroscience Majors Forum

Monday, Nov 16, 4:10p, Schermerhorn 200B

Psychology and Neuroscience majors and prospective majors, join us to meet some of your professors and peers, learn about course requirements, hear about research and teaching assistantships, and ask questions about how to make the most of your time in the department.

How to Get into Grad School: Cognitive Science Edition

Thursday, Dec 3, 6p, Schermerhorn 200B

Meet with our cognitive science graduate student advisors to explore grad school options as well opportunities to consider between undergrad and grad school. This workshop will break down requirements, timelines, and strategies for putting together strong applications, while also helping you reflect on your own goals.