

## **Columbia University Undergraduate Series in Psychology and Neuroscience 2025 - 2026**

New for the 2025-2026 academic year, the Undergraduate Series in Psychology and Neuroscience is an interdisciplinary forum open to all members of the Columbia community. Undergraduate majors in Psychology and Neuroscience and Behavior, Postbacs in Psychology, 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).

*Wednesdays from 6p - 7:30p in Schermerhorn 200B unless otherwise specified.*

### **Academic Resource Fair**

Wednesday, Aug 27, 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.

### **Pre-clinical Workshop with Professors Jeff Cohen and Hannah Hoch**

Tuesday, Sept 16, 6:30p, Schermerhorn 200B

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

### **Lab Preview**

Wednesday, Sept 17, 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!

### **R Coding Workshop with Professor John Thorpe**

Wednesday, Sept 17, 6:30p

Gain some fundamental data analysis skills in this introductory workshop.

### **Science Meets Social Justice Panel**

Wednesday, Oct 8, 6p

Is conducting scientific research an act of social justice? Claudia Espinoza-Heredia (doctoral candidate in Columbia's Developmental Cognitive Neuroscience Lab), Marissa Lanoff (Research Program Coordinator at Columbia's Center for Early Relational Health, Department of Pediatrics), and Professor Isacoff will discuss how they are combining their passions for science and for social justice, and share related challenges and opportunities.

### **Undergraduate Spotlight: Interdisciplinary Research**

Wednesday, Oct 22, 6p

Two current Columbia undergraduates will talk about their research, how they got involved in a lab, what it's really like to do research, and what advice they have for aspiring researchers. John Garbi will discuss his thesis at the intersection of cognitive science and philosophy, and Maya Velasco will discuss her work on evolutionary biology in the Gruber lab at the Zuckerman Institute.

### **Alumni Spotlight: Life of a Lab Manager**

Wednesday, Nov 5, 6p

Natalie Baer (Barnard '24, current Clinical Research Coordinator at the Yale Alzheimer's Disease Research Unit) and Blue Morris (Columbia '21, current Lab Manager at Texas A&M's Multimethod Affect and Cognition Lab) will share their experiences since graduating, including how they found their current positions, how their time in the department prepared them for what they're doing now, their advice for current students, and more.

### **Clinical Doctorate Application Workshop with Professor Jeff Cohen**

Friday, Nov 7, 3:30p, Schermerhorn 510

Designed for seniors and postbacs applying to Clinical Phd/PsyD Programs this cycle, this workshop will cover CVs, personal statements, and questions about applications.

### **Major Forum**

Wednesday, Nov 12, 4p

Psychology and Neuroscience 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.

### **Secrets to Academic Success Panel with Professor Nora Isacoff**

Wednesday, Jan 28, 6p

Do you ever wonder what your professors mean when they tell you to go beyond memorization and really understand the concepts? Do you question whether you're reading, taking notes, studying, or writing papers in the best possible way? What should you do if you are staring at the page, or listening in class, and nothing makes sense? Whether you're neurotypical or neurodivergent, a native English speaker or new to the English language, a recent high school graduate or a nontraditional student, this workshop is for you!

### **Pre-clinical Workshop with Professors Jeff Cohen and Hannah Hoch**

Tuesday, Feb 3, 5:30p, Location TBA

This workshop is designed for students considering programs and fields relating to clinical psychology such as clinical PhDs, PsyDs, psychiatry, and social work. Learn how to make the most of your time at Columbia while preparing for one of these paths.

### **Open House**

Wednesday, Feb 18, 4p

Considering majoring in Psychology or Neuroscience? Come meet some professors in the department and learn about the major, so you can make an informed decision.

### **Undergraduate Spotlight: Medical Humanities**

Wednesday, Feb 18, 6p

How can the sciences and humanities inform each other? Tyler Daniel will share insights as a Medical Humanities and Pre-Med student as well as a TA in the Psychology department, demonstrating the benefits of integrating these frameworks.

### **Music Therapy Workshop**

Wednesday, Feb 25, 6p

Dr. Mayron Piccolo (Harvard Dept. of Psychology and Harvard Medical School) will discuss his research on the role of communal music in contributing to sense of belonging and how it can be applied in a clinical context.

### **Psychological Science & Ending Mass Incarceration with Professor Geraldine Downey**

Wednesday, Mar 4, 6p

Is there really an alternative to incarceration? Professor Downey, Director of the Center for Justice, will share her groundbreaking research showing the effectiveness of alternative approaches, such as involving people affected by mass incarceration in leadership development and collaborative education.

### **Behavioral Science Workshop with Professor Elif Duman**

Wednesday, Mar 25, 6p

Join Professor Duman, Director of Columbia's Cognitive Science program, to learn about why behavioral scientists approach their research from an interdisciplinary perspective. In particular, she will discuss examples incorporating work from psychology, neuroscience, genetics, medicine, and more, showing how these levels of analysis inform each other.

### **Grad School Workshop with Professor Nora Isacoff**

Wednesday, Apr 8, 6p

Explore grad school options in psychology, neuroscience, and related fields, including PhD, PsyD, and master's 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.

### **Alumni & Undergraduate Spotlight: Interdisciplinary Research**

Wednesday, Apr 22, 6p

Bat Hoter-Ishay (Columbia '25, current Biotechnology Extern at Oppenheimer & Co/Columbia Medical Center) will share her experiences since graduating, including how she found her current position, how her time in the department prepared her for what she's doing now, her advice for current students, and more. Elizabeth Galles (current Columbia undergraduate) will

discuss her research at the intersection of psychology, philosophy, and physics and how crossing disciplinary boundaries has inspired new discoveries.