

## Forum Insights

### PLATFORM FOR PSYCHOLOGICAL SCIENCE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF LIMERICK (PPS-UL)

The **Platform for Psychological Science at the University of Limerick (PPS-UL)** is a network of academics at UL interested in psychological science and in promoting psychological science in research and in teaching in academia and beyond academia.

PPS-UL spans across different departments and faculties at UL. PhD students, post-docs, and faculty members are invited to join the network.

PPS-UL organizes events for discussions around research trends, new and advanced research methods, funding options, and the teaching of psychological science.

PPS-UL received funding from the **National Forum for the Enhancement of Teaching & Learning in Higher Education** to organize Master Classes on new trends in advanced statistics in psychology. We are happy to announce that 3 master classes with highly recognized leaders in research methods were organized for the spring and the autumn of 2015.

#### Steering Committee

Dr. Eric Igou, Department of Psychology, University of Limerick  
Dr. Deirdre O'Shea, Kemmy Business School, University of Limerick  
Dr. Mark Campbell, Physical Education & Health Sciences, University of Limerick  
Dr. Tadhg MacIntyre, Physical Education & Health Sciences, University of Limerick

#### Contact Information:

Website: <http://www.pps-ul.com>  
E-mail: [pps.unioflimerick@gmail.com](mailto:pps.unioflimerick@gmail.com)  
For more news about PPS-UL follow us on Twitter: <https://twitter.com/PPSUniLimerick>

#### Mission Statement

Psychological principles are relevant to many applied areas of study, including health, engineering, business, education, sports as well as counselling and clinical populations. As a result, academic psychologists in third level institutions often reside in diverse departments and faculties, and are thus frequently geographically dispersed. Although psychologists may collaborate within the departmental structures to which they belong, limited interaction across departments and faculties hinder communication on up-to-date research and teaching in psychological science. For example, despite occasional information exchange at various events at the University of Limerick (UL), no formal or informal structure

exists that systematically facilitates information exchange and collaborations for the purpose of promoting psychological science. PPS-UL is the first platform in Ireland to address such an issue and may serve as a model for similar future initiatives.

The superordinate goal of PPS-UL is to facilitate information exchange among academics interested in psychological science. It is thus designed as a network that spreads across departments and faculties at UL. In the future, we envisage that this will become a model for knowledge exchange and dissemination at other third level institutions. The platform is an open forum with the goal to empower individual academics to discuss and develop paradigms and particular research or teaching ideas via the platform and to create links to other academics. This novel network structure does not fall into the usual categories of research units, centres or institutes at our university; however, it will promote engagement in them.

#### PPS-UL Master Classes 2015 at the University of Limerick on New Trends in Advanced Statistics in Psychology:

Meta-Analysis (First Master Class)  
Bayesian Statistics (Second Master Class)  
Mediation and Moderation (Third Master Class)  
for Faculty in- and outside of UL, PhD Students and Master Students

#### First PPS-UL Master Class by Professor George A. Kelley (West Virginia University)

The topic of the first master class is "**Meta-analysis and Meta-analytic Research**" and will be given by renowned Biostatistics Professor George A. Kelley on 29 April 2015. His master class will cover the whole process of conducting and running a meta-analysis and promises to be an excellent training initiative for all. Professor Kelley is Director of the Meta-Analytic Research Group in the School of Public Health, Department of Biostatistics, at West Virginia University. Prof. Kelley teaches graduate biostatistics classes, including a meta-analysis course. His research includes, but is not limited to, use of the meta-analytic approach for examining the effects of physical activity on health-related disease. He has published more than 80 research papers in peer-reviewed biomedical journals.

Professor Kelley holds his Ph.D. in Exercise Science from Middle Tennessee State University (1992) and a Master of Arts degree in Exercise Science from Washington State University (1981).

### Second PPS-UL Master Class by Dr. Richard D. Morey (Cardiff University)

On 4 September 2015, the second PPS-UL-organized master class will take place at UL. The topic of this class is **“Bayesian statistics: theory & practice”** and will be given by Dr. Richard D. Morey.

Dr. Morey is Senior Lecturer at the School of Psychology of the renowned Cardiff University. He is part of the Cognitive Science Research Group and his primary line of research is developing Bayesian hierarchical models for applications in psychological research. Dr. Morey is currently working on several research projects, including beyond others “Bayes Factors for Inference”, “Statistical Models for Psychophysical Thresholds” and “Statistical Models for Working Memory Capacity”. Moreover, Dr. Morey has published numerous research papers in peer-reviewed journals such as “Psychonomic Bulletin & Review” and “Statistics & Probability Letters”.

Dr. Morey holds his Ph.D. in Psychology (2008) and two M.A. degrees in Psychology (2004) and Statistics (2008) from the University of Missouri-Columbia.

### Third PPS-UL Master Class by Professor Andrew F. Hayes (Ohio State University)

Prof. Andrew F. Hayes will present an open lecture, followed by a one-and-a-half day workshop on the topics **“Mediation and Moderation”** as part of the Platform for Psychological Science (PPS-UL) Advanced Analysis 2015 master class series on 9-10 October 2015.

Professor Hayes is Professor of Quantitative Psychology at the Ohio State University. His research focuses on linear models, with an emphasis on resampling methods of inference. Specific areas of investigation include statistical approaches to assessing mediation and moderation.

His methodology work is published in Psychological Methods, Multivariate Behavioral Research, Behavior Research Methods, Psychological Science, British Journal of Mathematical and Statistical Psychology, Journal of Educational and Behavioral Statistics, and the Journal of Statistical Computation

and Simulation, amongst others. In May 2013, he released his third book, “Introduction to Mediation, Moderation, and Conditional Process Analysis: A Regression-based Approach” through Guilford Press.

In 2016, Guilford Press will be releasing his fourth book, “Regression and Linear Models” (2nd Ed), coauthored with Richard Darlington.

Professor Hayes holds his Ph.D. in Psychology from Cornell University (1996) and a B.A. in Psychology from San Jose State University (1991).

The master class series is sponsored by the **National Forum for the Enhancement of Teaching and Learning in Higher Education.**