

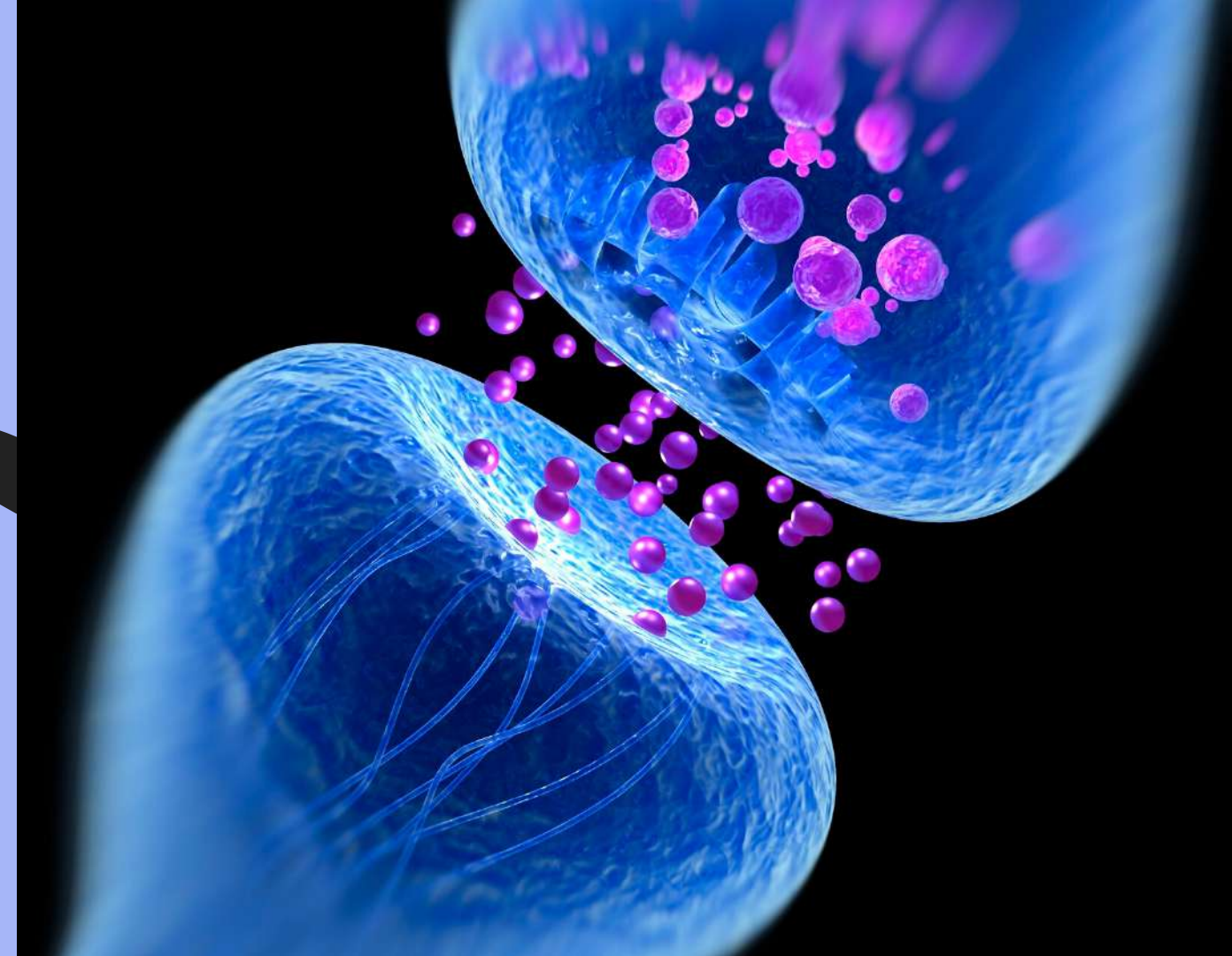
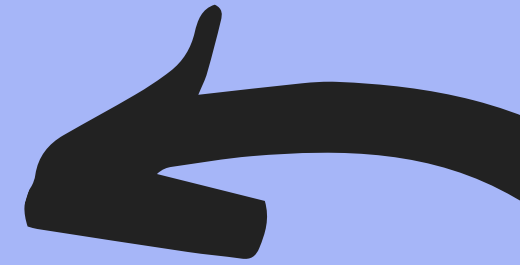


Psychology Club

EXTENSION PSYCHOLOGY/
NEUROSCIENCE SESSIONS

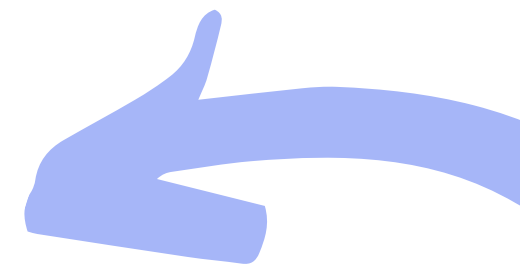
The Psychology Club

Psychology covers a broad range of issues, ranging from perception to cognitive function to language. Studying psychology gives students an insight into ourselves as humans and how we interact with the world. In Minds Underground's Psychology club, students will learn a wide range of skills, including analysis of complex psychological, and social questions. the use and interpretation of data, scientific model building, as well as logical & creative thinking.



Example Discussion Questions

How do animals think and process information in ways that are both similar and different to us humans? How can the mind be altered by changes to the brain? Can animals have a consciousness? Can we think without language? Why might we have a preference for people in the same group as us? What is more important: nature or nurture?



Key Aspects



SCIENTIFIC JOURNALS

Critically discuss Psychology journal articles from the *New Scientist*, *Nature* and more.



SCIENTIFIC DATA

Learn how to make a diagnosis/ draw conclusions when presented with a basic scientific figure.



PERSONAL STATEMENT IDEAS

For those applying for Psychology as a degree, the club aims to provide impressive talking points and content for students' personal statements.



EXPERIMENTAL PSYCHOLOGY

Focus on the experimental side of psychology, discussing real studies & the techniques and limitations involved in psychological experiments.



KEY AREAS

The club aims to provide an introduction or 'taster' to some of the different areas of psychology e.g. Developmental Psychology: Theory of Mind, Social Psychology and Neuroscience: How do we learn about the brain?

Example Sessions



ANXIETY

In this session we will discuss anxiety, with reference to evolutionary biology and clinical psychology. This will include:

- An overview of anxiety disorders
- Key brain regions, including the amygdala and anterior cingulate cortex
- The body's response to short and long-term stress

The students will be asked to apply ideas from evolutionary psychology and interpret data to learn more about the mechanisms of anxiety.



MEASURING CONSCIOUSNESS

In this session we will incorporate a definition of consciousness to consider how we can accurately measure consciousness, as well as some limitations of existing techniques.

We will make reference to:

- Brain image methodology including subtraction techniques
- Neural noise
- The default mode network

The students will also be stimulated to debate some of the 'big questions' in consciousness, including the evolutionary role of consciousness and the possibility of consciousness in artificial intelligence.



ON EMOTIONS

This session will involve an evolutionary account of emotions:

- The fight or flight response
- The two factor theory of emotion and role for interpretation
- The mechanism of antidepressant medications (SSRIs)

We will look at some complex research designs to build the students' analytical skills.



BRAIN AND BODY

In this session we will discuss the interactions between the brain and body, including:

- The biopsychosocial model
- The fight or flight response; its evolutionary advantage and implications for anxiety and chronic stress
- A critical appraisal of research into sociability and susceptibility to the common cold

Our Primary Host



RHIANNON

- Bachelor of Medicine and Surgery, University of Warwick, and 1st Class in Experimental Psychology, University of Oxford.
- Rhiannon has a range of experience in both a psychological and medical capacity, including work in the Oxford Perception Lab on Stargardt disease and with mental health charity, Restore. She is the recipient of numerous awards including the Proxime Accessit for the Weiskrantz Prize in Psychological Studies and Domus Scholarship from the University of Oxford.
- Rhiannon currently works as a doctor, holding a Psychiatry Foundation Fellow position.
- Rhiannon is a highly experienced tutor of Psychology and Medical Sciences, including preparing students for university applications.

