# Personal Statement/Faculty Profile

I am an Associate Professor in the Department of Behavioral Sciences in the Graduate School of Health Sciences of Touro College and I maintain an appointment as a Research Psychologist in the Department of Psychiatry Manhattan Psychiatric Center, a division of NYS/OMH. I am also an adjunct associate professor in the MA Clinical Psychology and Education program at Teachers College Columbia University where I serve as faculty coordinator of the neuropsychology concentration and director of the Cognitive Neuropsychology Lab.

I also maintain academic appointments as an adjunct Clinical Associate Professor in the Departments of Psychiatry at New York Medical College and SUNY Downstate Medical Center. At these academic institutions, I have taught several applied and theoretical courses that focus on the basic science and clinical pathology of neuropsychology. I have also taught applied courses in the areas of neurocognitive assessment and cognitive rehabitation, particularly related to adult clinical populations exhibiting acquired brain injury including TBI and CVA, as well as degenerative neuropsychiatric disorders including dementia, schizophrenia and schizotypal personality disorder.

In addition to my teaching responsibilities, I have worked as a neuropsychologist at several NYC metro area medical centers. As a senior psychologist and subsequently program director of neuro – rehabilitative services, my clinical interests were focused on providing assessment and cognitive rehabilitative interventions within a comprehensive team approach in order to maximize functional recovery following traumatic brain injury. Consequently my teaching and clinical neuropsychology experience serves as a unique and invaluable database from which I provide information for my courses at Teachers College.

To complement their neuropsychology learning experience at TC, students are encouraged to participate in lab activities, whether at TC, Columbia or other facilities across the NYC metropolitan area. While RA positions in our Cognitive Neuropsychology Laboratory are competitive and somewhat limited, students are encouraged to inquire about the possibility of joining our lab.

At the TC CN lab we are currently running several projects examining psychophysical, neurophysiological, electrophysical and higher order cognitive mechanisms which drive visual perceptual organization/VPO. Visual perceptual organization is the process of integrating stimulus elements into a singular visual percept and in turn into a complex dynamic visual scenario for the purpose of adaptively negotiating our proximal and distal environments. Visual perceptual organization is a ubiquitous brain process which is integrated across all levels of the visual system as well as the entire brain and is often modified by and interacting with the environment in which it operates. Because of its ubiquitous nature and complexity, it is vulnerable to threats to the CNS and as such, injuries to VPO mechanisms have been identified as biomarkers for neurocognitive disorders like schizophrenia.

While at the CN lab at the TC campus, we are focused on examining PO mechanisms in healthy young adults, we maintain a collaborative relationship with other institutions including Manhattan Psychiatric Center and the OPD division of Psychiatry at the Mt Sinai Medical Center. At these facilities, we are investigating pathological and potential rehabilitative implication of perceptual organization impairment for several populations including individuals presenting with dementia, schizophrenia, schizotypal disorder and healthy aging adults. We are also extending our scope of research to include implications of PO impairment in adult populations experiencing sequelae of acquired brain injury.

As with our on campus lab, when appropriate, RAs are offered opportunities to work at our collaborative facilities on our various extension clinical research projects.

**Select Bibliography: Posters and Papers**

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2. Kurylo, D., Waxman, R. and Silverstein, S. (2018) Remediation of Perceptual Organization Deficits in Schizophrenia. Cognitive Neuropsychiatry vol. 23 Issue 3, pgs. 267 - 283

3. Kurylo, D.D., Waxman, R., Silverstein, S.M., and Kidron,R. (2017). Visual training improves perceptual grouping based on basic stimulus features. *Attention, Perception, and Psychophysics*. *79,* 2098-2107

4. Kurylo, D., Waxman, R., Silverstein, S, Kidron, R. (2016). Visual training Improves Perceptual Grouping of Basic Stimulus Features. Presentation, Cognitive Neuroscience Annual meeting

**5.** Kurylo, D.D., Brick Larkin, G., Waxman, R., and Bukhari, F. (2014). Speed of perceptual grouping in acquired brain injury. Experimental Brain Research, 232, 2899-2905 DOI: 10.1007/s00221-014-3970-5

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6. Kurylo, D., Waxman, R. (2006) Spatial Temporal Characteristics of Perceptual Organization Following

Cerebral Vascular Accident., Brain injury March 2006; 20 (3): 237 - 244