

Harriet Johnston, PhD

Registered Psychologist

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PROFILE

Doctoral level registered psychologist with more than 25 years' experience as a school psychologist within public education and more recently, post-secondary education. Over 15 years focus on system level professional development, leadership, management, supervisory positions with a commitment to teaching and mentorship. Demonstrated ability in provision and supervision of psychological assessment, consultation, solution-focused counselling, and psycho-educational intervention services. A clinician, clinical supervisor, and sessional instructor who is enthusiastic and passionate about personal, student and staff continual professional growth. Strong oral presentation and writing skills; oral presentations to large groups (teachers, parents, and professionals) and writing of policies, guidelines, research, and popular media publications relating to psychology, neuroscience and education. Recent graduate level training in neuropsychology and neuroscience.

EDUCATION

Doctor of Philosophy in Psychology and Neuroscience

Oct 2008–
June 2013

School of Psychology and Neuroscience, University of St Andrews, St Andrews, Scotland, UK

- Thesis Title: Cognitive and brain function in adults with Type 1 diabetes mellitus: Is there evidence of accelerated ageing?

Master of Science *with Distinction* in Human Cognitive Neuropsychology

Aug 2007–
Dec 2008

School of Philosophy, Psychology & Language Sciences, University of Edinburgh, Scotland, UK

- Thesis Title: Exploring the contribution of executive function and word retrieval to verbal fluency tasks in patients with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis

Master of Education in School and Community Psychology

Sept 1993–
Nov 1995

Faculty of Education, University of Calgary, Alberta, Canada

- Specialization: Assessment and intervention for learning disabilities and attention deficit hyperactivity disorder

Bachelor of Arts *with Honours*

Sept 1987–
May 1992

School of Psychology, University of Ottawa, Ontario, Canada

- Thesis Title: The effect of children's behavior and reputation on peer evaluations of liking

PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS AND CERTIFICATION

Registered Psychologist #2332, College of Alberta Psychologists (CAP)

April 1997–
present

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Post-Secondary Instruction

Sessional Instructor, University of Calgary, Werklund School of Education

July 2013 -
present

- Live and online sessions
- Designed course content, learning tasks, grading scheme, and rubrics
- Designed and managed Desire 2 Learn course shell
- Conducted 3 hour weekly on-line classes through Adobe Connect and Zoom
- Designed and facilitated in-class interactive learning tasks
- Scored quizzes/assignments and administered grades
- Supported accessibility accommodations for students with disabilities

Courses Taught:

Brain Behaviour Relationships: Part 2 – Online – Graduate

Winter 2021

Neurobiological and Developmental Bases of Learning and Behaviour-Online-Graduate

Fall 2020 &

Winter 2021

Brain Behaviour Relationships: Part 1 – Online - Graduate

Fall 2020

Pedagogical Implications of Neuroscience – Online - Graduate

Spring 2020

Brain Behaviour Relationships: Part 2 – Online – Graduate

Winter 2019

Cognitive and Neuropsychological Assessment – Online - Graduate

Winter 2016

Psychological Measurement and Statistics – Online - Graduate

Winter 2014

Principles of Educational Psychology - In-Person – Undergraduate

Fall 2013

Understanding ADHD – Online - Graduate

Summer

2013 & 2014

Academic Experience

Postdoctoral Scholar

Aug 2013-
Aug 2014

Cumming School of Medicine & Werklund School of Education (WSE), University of Calgary, Alberta

- Facilitated ethics approval process with Calgary and surrounding area school boards
- Identified and established recruitment sites for study participants
- Administration and interpretation of neuropsychological assessment battery
- Programmed and modified neuroimaging tasks (E Prime)
- Neuroimaging analysis (functional MRI – SPM & MATLAB)
- Media, grant, and publication writing
- Collaborator in development of WSE internal guidelines for relationship between postdoctoral scholars and mentors
- Provisional Psychologist supervisor school neuropsychology

PhD Student

Oct 2008–
June 2013

School of Psychology and Neuroscience, University of St. Andrews, Scotland, UK

- Grant and publication writing
- Training and management of research assistant
- Developed and contributed to community engagement initiatives through the SINAPSE scholarship
 - “Brain Day” for local high school students organizing instructors and graduate students, including myself, to provide programming on brain related topics.
 - Initiated and made an educational video for students with an MRI physicist

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MSc Student

Aug 2007–
Dec 2008

School of Philosophy, Psychology & Language Sciences, University of Edinburgh, Scotland, UK

- Acted as student representative and initiated requests for program changes

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Senior Counsellor, Centre for Wellbeing in Education, Werklund School of Education

Sept 2022 -
present

- Continuation of previous position under a new title
- Clinical supervision to graduate students and interns (Masters and PhD) within the School and Applied Child Psychology Program
- Supervise both assessment and psychoeducational intervention
- Reviewing and rating complexity of potential clients
- Addressing emergent client service concerns

Senior Supervising Psychologist, Integrated Services in Education, Werklund School of Education

Sept 2016-
Aug 2022

- Provided clinical supervision to 20 to 25 graduate students and interns (Masters and PhD) annually within the School and Applied Child Psychology program, and occasionally for the Department of Psychology, who are training in psychological assessment of learning, behavioural, and emotional disorders in children, adolescents, and young adults.
- Supervised psychoeducational interventions including individual/group, in person and online reading intervention, brief academic and executive function interventions that complement assessment recommendations.
- Responsible for revising the reading intervention program from an in-person to an online format
- Consult and respond to complex parent and agency inquiries about current or previous service provided.
- Provide direct assessment on some cases to demonstrate or facilitate learning opportunities for students and to fulfill ISE commitments to parent or agency service.
- Scheduling of student's clinical services to balance instructor and clinic parameters
- Collaborate and create clinic protocols that promote continuous improvement of clinical services
- Revised report writing based on neuropsychology report style.
- Updated training in solution-focused therapy with Brief International –Intensive Online Certificate Course and several individual workshops from 2020-present

Private Practice, Operator and Owner, Cowtown Psychology

April 2016-
present

- Provide psychological assessment of learning, behaviour and emotional disorders for school age children, adolescents, and young adults.
- Provide solution-focused therapy for adolescents and young adults related to assessment recommendations.
- Created the "tele-positive" psychology consultation group to share learning and resources related to tele-psychology assessment services.
- Created processes and initiated tele-psychology assessment services to allow continual assessment services during Covid-19 restrictions.
- Revised report writing based on neuropsychology report style.

Manager, Psychological Services, Calgary Board of Education

Aug 2014-
March 2016

- Provided administrative and clinical supervision to over 80 staff (predominantly registered Psychologists, both assessment and counselling, and a small team of certified behaviour analysts)

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- Staff hiring and work assignments
- Ongoing staff evaluation, employee professional improvement
- Established and monitored work targets the resulted increase of services to individual students
- Established specialty networks of psychologists to ensure key areas of psychological expertise were represented in each Area across the board
- Established standards of practice for psychological services
- Wrote key system guidelines and policy for suicide intervention
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- Established a joint committee of school psychology leaders, produced a joint guideline on consent practices in schools that has been shared provincially by the College of Alberta Psychologists
- Established Desire 2 Learn site and monthly newsletter as key team communication tools allowing a refocus of team meetings on professional development
- CBE Representative on committee for practicum placements for the University of Calgary

Psychologist, Exceptional Needs Team, Calgary Board of Education

Aug 2012–
Aug 2013

- Advisor to system specialists in all areas of special education needs
- Clinical supervisor for over 18 counselling psychologists based in Mental Health and Behaviour programs
- Assisted in planning with System Assistant Principal of the Exceptional Needs Team including identification of need, research, creation, and system-wide dissemination of seclusion time out guidelines
- Facilitated meetings for Mental Health and Behaviour program teachers, psychologists, and support staff
- Update of Animals in Schools policy (Administrative Regulation)
- Clinical supervisor for certified behaviour analysts
- Psychologist advisor on special education placement committees
- Advisor to director on special education services in relation to parent concerns and legal challenges
- Coordination and supervision of University of Calgary practicum students
- Science of reading professional development for teachers and parents
- Graduate practicum supervision

Acting Supervisor, Psychological Services, Calgary Board of Education

March 2012–
July 2012

- Supervision and management of over 70 psychologists, assessment and counselling
- Completed work assignments for the coming year for all psychologists based on personal requests, FTE, and budgetary allocations
- Completed ordering of psychological assessment materials based on budget, existing supplies, and group needs
- Analyzed data and reported on assessment work of psychologists in the CBE
- Addressed employee disciplinary issues
- Facilitated monthly psychology staff meetings
- CBE Representative on committee for internships and practicum placements at University of Calgary

Specialist Psychologist, Gifted and Learning Disabilities, Calgary Board of Education

Jan 2012–
March 2012

- Collaborator on policy to ensure the allowance for service dogs in public school buildings
- Coordinated and advised on placement committees for GATE (gifted and talented education) and Dr. Oakley (Learning Disabilities) students
- Chair for gifted program principal and learning leader meetings
- CBE representative on GATE parent committee

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Area Psychologist, Calgary Board of Education

- Provided psychological assessment for identification and support of students with special education needs
- Creation of assessment Area-specific assessment referral form
- Tracking of referrals and work assignments for 4 person psychologist team
- Initiated a monthly journal club for psychologists
- Collaboration with Area Learning Leaders in school consultations
- Graduate practicum supervision

Sept 2011 –
Jan 2012

Granted an Educational Leave from the Calgary Board of Education to pursue MSc and PhD in Scotland, UK

Aug 2007–
Aug 2011

Psychologist, System Resource Team, Calgary Board of Education

- Developed and facilitated workshops and series on special education topics for resource teachers and administrators
- Organized professional development day for teachers at Dr. Oakley
- CBE representative on Learning Disability Advisory Committee
- Participated in and provided written reports for school reviews for Alberta Education compliance
- Collaborated on revision of special education policies
- Participant on revisions of middle school report card committee
- Participated in an Alberta Education Review of rural Alberta school jurisdiction
- Consultation on new web design for Student Services teams
- Initiation of newsletter to address frequently asked questions
- Completed continuing education course: Facilitating Adult Learning

Sept 2004–
Aug 2007

Psychologist, School-Based, Calgary Board of Education

- Psychological assessment, solution-focused counselling, and psycho-educational intervention for students with special education needs
- Creation of “Fast Facts” profile to provide quick summary information of student needs for teachers in residential school programs
- Supervision of University of Calgary practicum students
- Co-organizer for psychology social events

Oct 1999–
Sept 2004

Psychologist, School-Based, Calgary Catholic School District

- Psychological assessment for students with special education needs
- Advocacy for greater involvement of psychologists in the support of students with special education needs that expanded the role to include traditional Consultant work
- Creation of a “short-report” to communicate assessment results adopted by the school board
- Union representative

Sept 1997 –
Oct 1999

Counselor, Community Resource Team Woods Homes, Calgary, Alberta

- Provision of telephone and mobile counseling services
- Counseling and organization of respite through Woods services for youth and parents in crisis
- Family support services

1997-1998

Counselor and Shift Supervisor, Westside and Eastside Family Centres

- Provided solution-focused single session and brief counseling services for walk-in clients
- Supervising counsellor assigning clients and leading reflection team
- Provided community presentations on mental health to parents and students

1996-1997

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Provisional Psychologist, Wood's Homes School Programs

1995-1996

- Provided individual (Solution Focused & Brief Therapy) counselling and psychoeducational intervention groups to students
- Psychological assessment of student needs
- Co-facilitated parent support meetings
- Co-founder of a girls' support group at the William Taylor school program

Calgary Learning Centre (currently known as CanLearn Society)

1993-1997

- Variety of part-time roles
- Psycho-educational assessment
- Academic tutoring
- ADHD camp counsellor
- Research assistant

PEER REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

Cechmanek, B., Johnston, H., Vazhappilly, S., Lebel, C., & Bray, S. (Nov 2018). Somatosensory regions show limited functional connectivity differences in youth with autism spectrum disorder. *Brain Connectivity*, 8, 558-566.

Cavallo, M., Zanalda, E., Johnston, H., Bonansea, A., & Angilletta, C. (2016). Cognitive training in a large group of patients affected by early-stage Alzheimer's Disease can have long-lasting effects: A case-control study. *Brain Impairment*, 17, 182-192.

Ortiz, S.O., Johnston, H.N., Wilcox, G., Francis, S.L., & Tomes, Y. I. (2014). The primacy of IQ subtest analysis to understand reading performance for culturally diverse groups. *Learning Disabilities: A Multidisciplinary Journal*, 20, 45-54.

Borghi, M., Cavallo, M., Carletto, S., Ostacoli, L., Zuffranieri, M., Picci, R. L., Scavelli, F., Johnston, H., Furlan, P. M., Bertolotto, A., Malucchi, S. (2013). Presence and significant determinants of cognitive impairment in a large sample of patients with multiple sclerosis. *PLOS ONE*, 8, 1-9.

Cavallo, M., Cavanna, A., Harciarek, M., Johnston, H., Ostacoli, L., & Angilletta, C. (2013) "Keep up the good work!": A case study of the effects of a specific cognitive training in Alzheimer's disease. *Neurocase*, 19, 542-552.

Wardlaw, J., Brindle, W., Casado, A., Shuler, K., Henderson, M., Thomas, B., Macfarlane, J., Munoz Maniega, S., Lymer, K., Morris, Z., Pernet, C., Nailon, W., Ahearn, T., Nashirudeen Mumuni, A., Simpson, J., Stanfield, A., Johnston, H., Parikh, J., Royle, N., De Wilde, J., Bastin, M., Weir, N., Farrall, A., Valdes Hernandez, M., The SINAPSE Collaborative Group (2012). A systematic review of the utility of 1.5 versus 3 Tesla magnetic resonance brain imaging in clinical practice and research. *European Radiology*, 22, 2295-2303.

Johnston, H., McCrimmon, R., Petrie, J., & Astell, A. (2010). An estimate of lifetime cognitive change and its relationship with diabetes health in older adults with type 1 diabetes: Preliminary results. *Behavioural Neurology*, 23 (4), 165-167.

POPULAR MEDIA PUBLICATIONS

Johnston, H. N. Meaningful Conversations: Talking to your child about racism. https://werklund.ucalgary.ca/integrated-services/community-resources/ise-parent-connection/meaningful_conversation

Johnston, H. N. & Johnson, R. C. How can I help my child prepare for transitions? *Calgary's Child*, May/June 2015.

Johnston, H. N., & Johnson, R. C. Are there brain-based games that can strengthen how my child thinks and learns? *Calgary's Child*, Nov/Dec 2014.

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Johnston, H. N. & Hale, J. B. Improving school outcomes for children with ADHD: Does the brain matter? Perspectives Magazine, Fall 2013, 4-5, Learning Disabilities Association of Alberta.

ORAL PRESENTATIONS

Calgary Teacher's Convention, Calgary, Alberta (primary audience: Teachers) Johnston, H. (February 2016). The LD Brain and the 5 Pillars of Reading.	Feb 2016
Calgary Board of Education, LD Awareness Month Presentations (primary audience: Parents) Johnston, H. (October 2014). Learning Disabilities and the Brain	Oct 2014
SINAPSE Annual Scientific Meeting, Dundee, Scotland, UK Johnston, H., Nicholas, S., O'Connor, A., Houston, G., Petrie, J., McCrimmon, R., & Astell, A. (June 2011). Is there evidence of accelerated brain ageing in adults with type 1 diabetes and microvascular disease?	June 2011
Second Meeting of the Federation of the European Societies of Neuropsychology, Amsterdam, Netherlands Johnston, H. McCrimmon, R., Petrie, J. & Astell, A. (September 2010). An estimate of lifetime cognitive change and its relationship with diabetes health in older adults with type 1 diabetes.	Sep 2010
First Meeting of the Federation of the European Societies of Neuropsychology, Edinburgh, Scotland Abrahams, S. Chatterjee, D., Meade, K, & Johnston, H. Word retrieval deficits in Motor Neurone Disease.	Sept 2008

AWARDS

Excellence in Practicum Supervision Award, Werklund School of Education	August 2019
Anonymous Trust research award, Ninewells Hospital and Medical School	March 2009
University of St. Andrews & Scottish Imaging Network : A Platform for Scientific Excellence (SINAPSE) PhD Studentship (International Student tuition and monthly living allowance)	2008-2011
University of Edinburgh International Master's Scholarship	Nov 2007
Calgary Board of Education Professional Improvement Fellowship	2007/2008
University of Calgary Robert M.S. Owen Scholarship Award	Nov 1993

VOLUNTARY POSITIONS

Peer reviewer for scientific journal: Diabetes Care, American Diabetes Association	2013-2015
Science Ambassador: STEM Scotland (community science engagement)	2009-2011
Staff Student Liaison Committee, University of Edinburgh	2007-2008
Counselor and Shift Coordinator, Westside & Eastside Family Centres	1997-1999

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

College of Alberta Psychologists	1995-present
Psychologists Association of Alberta	1998-present
National Association of School Psychologists	2012-present

COMMITTEES & APPOINTMENTS

Faculty of Graduate Studies (FGS) Scholarship Adjudication Committee	2020-2021
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adjudication of cross-faculty graduate scholarship competitions 	

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Adjunct Assistant Professor, Werklund School of Education, University of Calgary

- Participation on Faculty committees
- Advocate and ambassador for the Werklund School of Education

**July 2017 to
August 2022**

Public Member (*Health Professions Act*), Council, Alberta College of Paramedics

- Appointed by the Alberta Government based on the requirements of the Health Professions Act.
- Advise and vote based on public interest in decisions of the Council of the Alberta College of Paramedics.
- Collaborated with public members to improve board functioning and maintain improvements
- Member of CEO Performance Review Committee

**March 2017-
2023**

Joint School Psychology Leadership Committee

- Established a committee of school psychology leaders in and around the Calgary Area
- Discuss issues of concern regarding psychological service teams in schools
- Collaborated on a joint statement on consent practices for psychologists in schools
- Working on a joint statement on best practices in diagnosis of learning disabilities
- Joint professional development with psychological services from member boards
- Consultation with members of College of Alberta Psychologists, Psychologists Association of Alberta, University of Calgary, Alberta Health Services, Alberta Education

**Sept 2014-
March 2016**

Continuing Education Committee, Psychologists Association of Alberta (PAA)

- Co-organizer for bi-annual conference; increased diversity of psychologists in attendance, never before attended, and total attendance
- Social media convener; established and managed Facebook page, twitter account
- Social engagement; established a book group with face-to-face (regular meetings) and online (Wikispace)
- Collaborated on search and decision on venue
- Coordinated committee consultation with experts in fund raising, social media, and psychology conference planning
- Established use of Eventbrite for advertisement, ticket sales, and event day registration management which reduced staff manual management of the process
- Article and video for advertising in PAA newsletter (Psymposium) and website
- Member survey pre and post conference

**Jan 2014 –
July 2015**

Board of Directors, Psychologists Association of Alberta

- Served a 3 year term as an elected member of the PAA Board of Directors
- Participated in regular board meetings with other elected members and PAA leadership team
- Representative of membership on initiatives of the PAA
- Organized social events across Alberta for the membership
- Founder and Chair of the PAA Social Committee to engage membership
- Direct engagement with members increased attendance at Alberta member events

1999-2001