

Johnny Vansant

Atlanta, GA 30311
404-111-2222
jvansant@gmail.com

Department of Psychology
Box 007
Carrollton, GA

Education

Doctor of Philosophy, Psychology, University of West Georgia, Carrollton, GA May 2020
Master of Arts, Psychology, University of West Georgia, Carrollton, GA May 2014
Bachelor of Science, Biology, University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, AL May 2011

Awards, Grants, and Training

- Teaching Award for student teaching in the College of Social Science, University of West Georgia (2018)
- Three-year, merit-based fellowship, Pre-doctoral Training Consortium, National Science Foundation (2014)
- Graduate Opportunity Fellowship, one-year merit-based fellowship, University of West Georgia (2014)
- Cellular Biology of Addiction Training, Atlanta, GA (2012)
- Chope Fund Major Grant for honors research, Undergraduate Research, University of Alabama (2010)

Research Experience

Psychology Department, University of West Georgia, Carrollton, GA, 2015-Present

Doctoral thesis research conducted with Dr. B. Einstein

- Pioneered behavioral experiments investigating the neural mechanisms underlying relapse to drug seeking triggered by environmental cues.

Center for Addictions, Atlanta, GA, 2015-Present

- Member of research team of clinicians and scientists seeking to understand the neural underpinnings of drug abuse.

Psychology Department, University of West Georgia, Carrollton, GA, 2012-2014

Masters' thesis research conducted with Dr. M. King

- Investigated Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) by studying the effect of environmental risk factors for SIDS on sleep development in neonatal rats.

Biology Department, University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, AL, 2010-2011

Honor's thesis research conducted with Dr. M. Winfrey

- Analyzed the effects of stress on social behavior and on the morphology of GnRH releasing neurons in the African cichlid fish, *H.burtoni*.

Student Teaching Experience

Psychology Department, University of West Georgia, Carrollton, GA, 2018-Present

- Instructor for Personal Relationships course with 80 students. Developed and directed a course investigating motivation and emotion from a psychological perspective. Lectured, recruited guest speakers, supervised one teaching assistant, advised students, wrote exams, and oversaw group projects.
- Teaching Assistant for Introduction to Psychology course with 63 students. Led discussion sessions about the history of psychology and the contributions of key individuals in the field.
- Assistant to the Chair of the Psychology Department. Designed course materials for undergraduate courses.

Community Service

Girls Code, Atlanta, GA, 2019-Present

Design curriculum to engage girls in scientific inquiry & sponsor bimonthly science club for middle school girls

Drug Abuse Research Team, Atlanta, GA 2017-Present

Volunteer to identify grants to fund original drug abuse research projects for high school aged students.

Adventure Ropes, Marietta, GA, 2012-2013

Facilitated outdoor educational experiences with the goal of building self-esteem and community.

Youth Science Academy, Tuscaloosa, AL, 2009-2011

Developed hands-on science activities and workshops for elementary school girls.

Presentations

Vansant, J. The feeling, positioning and learning person. Invited address for William James Book Award, American Psychological Association, Division 1, Honolulu, Hawaii, July, 2013.

Vansant, J. Identity, affect, and values in interdisciplinary science. Plenary address for International History and Philosophy of Science Teaching Group (IHPST) biennial meeting, Pittsburgh, PA, June, 2013.

Vansant, J. Feeling persons and happy cells. Invited presentation for session on Team Cognition and Affect: Exploring Alternative Trajectories of Scientific Collaboration Across Organizations, People, and Technology. Science of Team Science Conference (SciTS), Chicago, IL, April, 2012.

Publications

Vansant, J. (in press). Overview and exploration of the state of play regarding health and exceptional experiences. Chapter to appear in C. Simmonds-Moore (Ed.). Exceptional experience and health: Essays on mind, body and human potential. Jefferson, NC:McFarland Press.

Vansant, J. (in press). Exploring ways of manipulating anomalous experiences for mental health and transcendence. Chapter to appear in C. Simmonds-Moore (Ed.). Exceptional experience and health: Essays on mind, body and human potential. Jefferson, NC: McFarland Press.

Vansant, J. (2009-2010). Sleep patterns, personality, and subjective anomalous experiences. *Imagination, Cognition and Personality*, 29(1), 71-86.