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Feb 3: MIND Mentoring Network with Keith Perkins

Keith Perkins is a third-year PhD student at the Psychology Department at Rutgers University

- Currently researching at The McGann Laboratory on the Neurobiology of Sensory Cognition
- He has studied the neurobiology of different perceptual systems— from the visual and auditory to his current project in the olfactory system
- Founded the MIND Mentoring Network, inspired by the mentors in his own life and aimed to serve underrepresented minorities interested in studying various aspects of the physical and abstract mind and nervous system
Dr. David Zald is the Director for the new Center for Advanced Human Brain Imaging Research at the Rutgers Brain Health Institute

- Also serves as a Henry Rutgers Term Chair in department of psychiatry at Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School
- International leader in the field of human brain imaging, conducting pioneering work in how the brain regulates emotions.
- He uses functional neuroimaging and neuropsychological techniques to examine and map the cognitive, affective and sensory functions of the orbitofrontal cortex, amygdala and the mesolimbic dopamine system, which regulate motivation and the desire for reward.
Feb 17: Dr. Anthony Tobia

Dr. Anthony Tobia, MD is a Professor of Psychiatry at Rutgers University

- He analyzes popular films from a psychiatric lens. He offered his medical students "31 Knights of Halloween" a month of infusing horror films into the curriculum.

- Tune in to to his fascinating discussions on Periscope @atobiamd and on Instagram @thepsychiatristslens

- Dr. Tobia will tell us more about his career and journey as a psychiatrist. We will be discussing the movie Donnie Darko as well!
Dr. Adam Aron is a Professor at the Dept. of Psychology at UC San Diego

- His research has two parallel streams: cognitive neuroscience and social psychology of the climate crisis
- At the Aron Lab, researchers study how people control themselves. In experimental psychology, this is the field of “executive function” or “cognitive control”.
- He is also involved in Teaching, Organizing and Researching around the climate crisis.
- In April 2020, Professor Aron also published a paper in Neuron on how neuroscientists need to put emissions reduction into the fabric of all their operations.
- In order for urgent action at a large societal scale to prevent the worst consequences of climate change, there are many cognitive questions that need answering and studying. Better understanding the prospects for such action can come from human psychology.
Lucie Vleugels is a Rutgers alumnus working at Microsoft

- She graduated from Rutgers in 2018 back when her "Cognitive Science Major" wasn't even a button in degree navigator!
- She majored in Spanish and Cog Sci (with a specialization in Linguistics)
- Now, she is working on one of Microsoft's various Conversational AI teams (Semantic Machines) doing computational linguistics/product analysis.
March 10: Dr. Steve Ramirez

Dr. Steve Ramirez is an Assistant Professor of Neuroscience at the Department of Biomedical Engineering at Boston University

The mission of his lab is twofold: to reveal the neural circuit mechanisms of memory storage and retrieval, and to artificially modulate memories to combat maladaptive states.

He presented an amazing TED talk with Dr. Xu Liu titled ‘A mouse. A laser beam. A manipulated memory’

Check out a recent paper he worked on, ‘Hippocampal cells multiplex positive and negative engrams’
March 24: Dr. Derrick Darby

Dr. Derrick Darby is a Henry Rutgers Professor of Philosophy

- He is the founding director of the Rutgers Social Justice Solutions Research Collaboratory and also directs its renowned Summer Institute for Diversity in Philosophy founded by Howard McGary, Jr.

- Dr. Darby discovered his passion for philosophy growing up in the Queensbridge public housing projects in Long Island City, NY. For the backstory see his TEDx talk, aptly titled “Doing the Knowledge.”

- In social and political philosophy, he writes about rights, inequality, and democracy. He thinks about how race and racism bear on theoretical, normative and practical philosophical questions.

- Recently launched a podcast ‘A Pod Called Quest’, where he analyzes justice issues.
March 31: Jai Amanda

Jai Amanda is a UX Researcher pursuing her Master’s in International Psychology.

- Passionate about women empowerment, artificial intelligence, and research in the technology space, Jai uses her platform to provide a fresh perspective of what an Engineer and a Psychologist looks like.

- She also co-hosts the Youtube series of shows by STEMBassy, a science communication organization that involves the public in conversations with accomplished STEM professionals and discussions about socio-cultural issues and events that impact the STEM community. Guests include Hank Green and Emily Calandrelli!
April 7: Allysa Kemraj

Allysa Kemraj is a Rutgers alumnus and PhD Student at SUNY Upstate Medical University

- She has been researching Ehlers-Danlos Syndrome, a rare disorder that she has as well. She believes that every weakness is also a strength, and hopes to spread her love of life to others.
- She was an Ignite Speaker at the Mark Conference!
- Fun Fact: She made Rare Disease Day—which is observed worldwide on the last day of February—an annual tradition at Rutgers
Dr. Daniel Dennett is the co-director of the Center for Cognitive Studies and the Austin B. Fletcher Professor of Philosophy at Tufts University

He is an American philosopher, writer, and cognitive scientist whose research centers on the philosophy of mind, philosophy of science, and philosophy of biology—particularly as those fields relate to evolutionary biology and cognitive science.

He wrote many research papers and books like ‘From Bacteria to Bach and Back: The Evolution of Minds’, which was about consciousness.
April 21: Jordan Harrod

Jordan Harrod is a PhD Student in the Harvard-MIT Health Sciences and Technology program.

- Her research focuses on neuroengineering, brain-machine interfaces, and machine learning for medicine.
- Outside the lab, she is a prominent Youtuber with 60K subscribers, who creates amazing videos related to artificial intelligence (AI) and the ways that we increasingly interact with AI and algorithms, from social media and education to the military.