

Jennifer Vonk

Assistant Professor of Psychology
University of Southern Mississippi Gulf Coast
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Research Interests

Human and Animal Cognition: Concept Formation, Metacognition, Memory, Reasoning,
Cognitive Evolution, Theory of Mind, Social Cognition, Causal Reasoning

Previous Academic Appointments

2002- 2005 Post-doctoral Research Fellow and Study Director
 Advisor: Dr. Daniel J. Povinelli
 Cognitive Evolution Group/University of Louisiana

Education:

Ph.D. Psychology York University 1998 – 2002
 Thesis: *Abstract Concept Formation in a Group of Captive Orangutans (*Pongo pygmaeus abelii*) and a Juvenile Gorilla (*Gorilla gorilla gorilla*)*
 Advisor: Dr. Suzanne E. MacDonald

MA Psychology Wilfrid Laurier University 1996 - 1998
 Thesis: *Attentional, Instructional and Depth Effects on Retrieval Estimates*
 Advisor: Dr. Keith D. Horton

Honours BA Psychology McMaster University 1990 - 1994
 Thesis: *Effects of Intrauterine Position on Morphological and Behavioral Development in Mongolian Gerbils*
 Advisors: Dr. Mertice M. Clark and Dr. Bennett G. Galef

External Scholarships and Awards:

Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada- PostGraduate Scholarship B (NSERC PGSB) 1999
Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada- PostGraduate Scholarship A (NSERC PGSA) 1997
Ontario Graduate Scholarship (OGS) 1996
Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada NSERC summer research scholarship 1994

Internal Scholarships

Dean's Academic Excellence Award, York University	1999
York University entrance scholarship	1998
Wilfrid Laurier University entrance scholarship	1996
Dean's Honour roll, McMaster University	1994

Teaching Experience

2005 - present	Assistant Professor, Psychology, University of Southern Mississippi: Research Methods, Animal Behaviour, History & Systems Introduction to Statistics, Child Development, Developmental Psychology Adolescent Development, Research in Psychology, Undergraduate Thesis	
2001-2002	Course Instructor, Cognitive Processes	York University
2000	Teaching Assistant, Cognitive Processes	York University
2000	Teaching Assistant, Animal Behaviour (Internet)	York University
2000, 2001	Teaching Assistant, Animal Behaviour	York University
1999	Teaching Assistant, Personality Psychology	York University
1997-1998	Teaching Assistant, Graduate Statistics	Wilfrid Laurier
1996-1997	Teaching Assistant, Undergraduate Thesis	Wilfrid Laurier

Peer-reviewed Publications:

- Vonk, J.** & Subiaul, F. (2009). Do chimpanzees know what others can and cannot do? Reasoning about 'capability'. *Animal Cognition*, *12*, 267-286.
- Subiaul, F., **Vonk, J.**, Barth, J., & Okamoto-Barth, S. (2008). Do Chimpanzees Learn Reputation by Observation? Evidence from Direct and Indirect Experience with Generous and Selfish Strangers. *Animal Cognition*, *11*, 611-623.
- Vonk, J.**, Brosnan, S.F., Povinelli, D.J., Henrich, J. Shapiro, S., Richardson, A, Lambeth, S.P. & Silk, J.B. (2008). Chimpanzees do not take advantage of low-cost opportunities to deliver food to group-mates. *Animal Behaviour*, *75*, 1757 - 1770.
- Vonk, J.** & Horton, K.D. (2006). The role of automatic and conscious retrieval processes in directed forgetting. *Memory & Cognition*, *34*, 505-517.
- Silk, J., Brosnan, S.F., **Vonk, J.**, Henrich, J., Povinelli, D.J., Shapiro, S., Richardson, A, Lambeth, S.P., & Mascaró, J. (2006). Animal Behaviour: Chimpanzee choice and prosociality (reply). *Nature*, *440*, E6.
- Silk, J., Brosnan, S.F., **Vonk, J.**, Henrich, J., Povinelli, D.J., Shapiro, S., Richardson, A, Lambeth, S.P., & Mascaró, J. (2005). Chimpanzees are indifferent to the welfare of unrelated group members. *Nature*, *437*, 1357-1359.

- Horton, K.D., Wilson, D.E., **Vonk, J.**, Kirby, S.L., & Nielsen, T. (2005). A comparison of implicit memory and process dissociation with the speeded response procedure: Depth of processing and attentional effects on automatic retrieval. *Acta Psychologica, 119*, 235-263.
- Vonk, J.**, & MacDonald, S.E. (2004). Levels of abstraction in orangutan (*Pongo abelii*) categorization. *Journal of Comparative Psychology, 118*, 3-13.
- Povinelli, D.J. & **Vonk, J.** (2004). We don't need a microscope to explore the chimpanzee's mind. Jointly published in *Mind and Language, 19*, 1-28, and S. Hurley & M. Nudds (Eds.) *Rational Animals (2006)* Oxford University Press, Oxford.
- Povinelli, D.J. & **Vonk, J.** (2003). Chimpanzee Minds: Suspiciously Human. *Trends in Cognitive Science, 7*, 157-160.
- Vonk, J.** (2003). Gorilla (*Gorilla gorilla gorilla*) and Orangutan (*Pongo abelii*) understanding of first and second order relations. *Animal Cognition, 6*, 77-86.
- Vonk, J.** (2002). Can Orangutans (*Pongo abelii*) and Gorillas (*Gorilla gorilla gorilla*) acquire concepts for social relationships? *International Journal of Comparative Cognition, 15*, 257-277.
- Vonk, J.**, & MacDonald, S.E. (2002). Natural concept formation in a juvenile gorilla (*Gorilla gorilla gorilla*) at 3 levels of abstraction. *Journal of the Experimental Analysis of Behaviour, 78*, 315-332.
- Clark, M.M., **Vonk, J.M.**, & Galef, B.G. Jr. (1998). Intrauterine position, parenting and nest-site attachment in male Mongolian Gerbils. *Developmental Psychobiology, 32*, 177-181.
- Clark, M.M., DeSousa, D., **Vonk, J.**, & Galef, B.G. Jr. (1997). Parenting and potency: routes to reproductive success in male Mongolian gerbils. *Animal Behaviour, 54*, 635-642.
- Clark, M.M., **Vonk, J.M.**, & Galef, B.G. Jr. (1997). Reproductive profiles of adult Mongolian Gerbils gestated as the sole fetus in a uterine horn. *Physiology and Behaviour, 61*, 77-81.

Chapters

- Vonk, J.** & Povinelli, D.J. (2006). Similarity and difference in the conceptual systems of primates: The Unobservability hypothesis. In E. Wasserman and T. Zentall (Eds.) *Comparative Cognition: Experimental Explorations of Animal Intelligence*. Oxford University Press, England. pp.363-387.
- Vonk, J.**, & Povinelli, D.J. (in press). Preliminary Investigations of Cognitive Plasticity: Social and Physical Causality in Home-Reared Chimpanzees. In Naomi Eilan, Hemdat Lerman & Johannes Roessler (eds.), *Perception, Causation, and Objectivity. Issues in Philosophy and Psychology*. Oxford University Press.

Book Reviews

Vonk, J. (2006). The Puzzle of Great Ape Cognition: Still in Pieces. [Review of the book "The evolution of thought: Evolutionary origins of Great Ape intelligence"], *Current Anthropology*, 47, 558.

MacDonald, S.E. & **Vonk, J.** (2002). [Review of the book "The Orangutans: Their Evolution, Behavior, and Future"], *Quarterly Review of Biology*, 77, 81-82.

Submitted Manuscripts

Subiaul, F., & **Vonk, J.** (in revision). Agency-Attribution mediates cognitive imitation in a ghost control. Manuscript submitted to *Journal of Experimental Child Psychology*, Special Issue, June 20, 2007. More data is being collected.

Subiaul, F., **Vonk, J.**, & Okamoto-Barth, S. (in revision). Thirty-five-month-olds learn from others' mistakes in a cognitive imitation paradigm. Manuscript submitted to *Journal of Experimental Child Psychology*, More data is being collected.

West, S., Jett, S.E. & **Vonk, J.** (submitted). The Phylogenetic roots of cognitive dissonance. Manuscript submitted to *Journal of Comparative Psychology*, June 9, 2009.

Books in Preparation

Povinelli, D.J. & **Vonk, J.** (in preparation). *Behind appearances: Chimpanzees' understanding of weight*. Oxford University Press.

Vonk, J. & Shackelford, T. (Eds) (in preparation) *Oxford Handbook of Comparative Evolutionary Psychology*, Oxford University Press.

Manuscripts in Preparation

Beckman, T., Jett, S.E. & **Vonk, J.** (in preparation) Cognitive Dissonance in Psittacines.

Vonk, J., (in preparation). Numerical estimation by an orangutan in a delayed matching task.

Vonk, J., (in preparation). Matching based on biological categories in Orangutans (*Pongo abelii*) and a Gorilla (*Gorilla gorilla gorilla*).

Vonk, J., (in preparation). Feature matching in Orangutans and a Gorilla.

Zamisch, V. & Vonk, J. (in preparation). Spatial Memory and Foraging in Captive American Black Bears (*Ursus Americanus*).

Invited Manuscripts in Press

- Vonk, J.** (in press). Concepts, comparative perspectives. Article commissioned for *the Encyclopedia of the Mind*. Sage Publishers, Thousand Oaks, CA.
- Vonk, J. & Povinelli, D.J.** (in press). Animal Intelligence. Article commissioned for *Corsini's Encyclopedia of Psychology, 4th edition*. Wiley Publishers, Washington D.C..

Invited Conference Presentations

- Vonk, J.** (2009). Whose perspective is being taken? A critical look at experiments on perspective-taking in non-humans. Invited paper presented at "Social cognition in animals: Is it as smart as it looks?" Workshop. Haren, the Netherlands, Oct. 26.
- Vonk, J. & Povinelli, D.J.** (2005). Theory of mind in non-human primates: an Empirical Challenge. Paper presented at Human Behavior and Evolution Society 2005 Conference, June 5, Austin, TX.
- Vonk, J.** (2005). Causality in non-humans: Empirical Questions. Invited paper published online for Interdisciplines: Causality, May 23, 2005.

Invited Talks

- Vonk, J.** (2009). Cognitive continuity or discontinuity? Similarities and Differences between humans and other Species. University of St. Andrews, Fife, Scotland. Aug. 13th
- Vonk, J.** (2009). Memory and Concept Formation in American Black Bears (*Ursus americanus*). "Invited Symposium on Animal Minds: Sea Lions and Voles and Bears (and Dolphins and Monkeys), Oh My!" Southeastern Psychological Association, New Orleans, Feb 19.
- Vonk, J.** (2008). Cognitive continuity and discontinuities in humans and other primates. Hofstra University, Long Island, NY, Nov 4th.
- Vonk, J.** (2008). Similarities and differences in conceptual systems in humans and other primates. Lunch Bunch seminar, University of Southern Mississippi, Hattiesburg, MS, March 7th.

Refereed Conference Presentations:

- Beckman, T., **Vonk, J.** & Jett, S.E. (2009); Cognitive dissonance in birds. Poster presented at the 16th Annual International Conference on Comparative Cognition, CO3. March 21, Melbourne, FLA.
- Zamisch, V. & **Vonk, J.** (2009). Spatial memory in the American black bear. (*Ursus americanus*). Paper presented at the 16th Annual International Conference on

Comparative Cognition, CO3. March 18, Melbourne, FLA.

Jett, S.E., Zamisch, V. & **Vonk, J.** (2009). Natural Concept discrimination at various levels of abstraction in two chimpanzees (*Pan troglodytes*) Paper presented at the 16th Annual International Conference on Comparative Cognition, CO3. March 19, Melbourne, FLA.

Vonk, J., & Jett, S.E. (2009). Natural concept discrimination in an American black bear (*Ursus americanus*). Paper presented at the 16th Annual International Conference on Comparative Cognition, CO3. March 20, Melbourne, FLA.

Vonk, J., West, S., & Jett, S.E. (2009). The phylogenetic roots of cognitive dissonance. Poster presented at the biennial meeting of the Society for Research in Child Development, Denver CO April 3,

Zamisch, V., Jett, S.E., & **Vonk, J.** (2009). Levels of abstraction in chimpanzee concept formation. Poster presented at Southeastern Psychological Association, New Orleans, Feb 20.

Vonk, J. & West, S. (2008). The phylogenetic roots of cognitive dissonance. Poster presented at the 30th Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society, Washington D.C., July, 25.

Vonk, J. (2008). An American Black Bear on a Touchscreen Computer. Paper presented at the 15th Annual International Conference on Comparative Cognition, CO3. March 22, Melbourne, FLA.

Vonk, J. & West, S. (2008). The phylogenetic roots of cognitive dissonance. Paper presented at the 15th Annual International Conference on Comparative Cognition, CO3. March 21, Melbourne, FLA.

Subiaul, F., & **Vonk, J.** (2008). Chimpanzees (*Pan troglodytes*) Infer the Reputation of Strangers. Poster presented at the 15th Annual International Conference on Comparative Cognition, CO3. March 21, Melbourne, FLA.

Vonk, J. & Subiaul, F. (2007). Children learn from others' mistakes in a cognitive imitation paradigm. Poster presented at the 5th Meeting of the Cognitive Development Society, CDS, Oct. 27, Santa Fe, New Mexico.

Subiaul, F., & **Vonk, J.** (2007) The Ghost in the Computer: Agency-Attribution Mediates Cognitive Imitation in a Computer Ghost Control. Poster presented at the biennial meeting of the Society for Research in Child Development, Boston MA, April 1, Boston MS.

Subiaul, F., **Vonk, J.**, & Okamoto-Barth, S. (2007) Older 2-year olds (30-36 month olds) learn from others' mistakes in a cognitive imitation paradigm. Poster presented at the biennial meeting of the Society for Research in Child Development, April 1, Boston MS.

- Subiaul, F., **Vonk, J.** (2007). Chimpanzees (*Pan troglodytes*) Infer the Reputation of Strangers. Poster presented at The Mind of the Chimpanzee conference, March 24, Chicago IL.
- Vonk, J.** & Subiaul, F. (2007) Do chimpanzees know what others can do? Poster presented at the biennial meeting of the Society for Research in Child Development. Poster presented at the biennial meeting of the Society for Research in Child Development, March 31, Boston MS.
- Vonk, J.** & Subiaul, F. (2007) What chimpanzees (*Pan troglodytes*) understand about others' Capabilities. Poster presented at The Mind of the Chimpanzee conference, March 24, Chicago IL.
- Vonk, J.** & Subiaul, F. (2007) What chimpanzees (*Pan troglodytes*) understand about others' Capabilities. Poster presented at 14th Annual International Conference on Comparative Cognition, CO3. March 15, Melbourne, FLA.
- Vonk, J.** (2006). Estimation of numerosities by a zoo-housed orangutan (*Pongo abelii*) in a matching task. Paper presented at the 29th Annual Meeting of American Society of Primatologists, August 17, San Antonio, TX.
- Subiaul, F., **Vonk, J.**, Barth, J, Okamoto-Barth, S. & Povinelli, D.J. (2006) Chimpanzees Infer The Reputation of Strangers. Paper presented at the 13th Annual International Conference on Comparative Cognition, CO3. March 24, Melbourne, FLA.
- Vonk, J.**, Povinelli, D.J. & Silk, J.B. (2006). Chimpanzees do not Donate Food to Unrelated Group Members. Paper presented at the 13th Annual International Conference on Comparative Cognition, CO3. March 24, Melbourne, FLA.
- Subiaul, F. & **Vonk, J.** (2005) The Role of Agency Attribution in Cognitive Imitation. Poster presented at the 4th Meeting of the Cognitive Development Society, CDS, Oct. 22, San Diego, CA.
- Vonk, J.**, Reaux, J.E., & Povinelli, D.J. (2005). Determinants of Individual Differences in Cognitive Tasks with Chimpanzees. Paper presented at the 12th Annual International Conference on Comparative Cognition, CO3. March 18, Melbourne, FLA.
- Vonk, J.**, & Povinelli, D.J. (2004). Primate Concepts: Do Nonhuman Primates Reason about Unobservables? Paper presented at the joint 12th Biennial Meeting of the International Society for Comparative Psychology (ISCP) and 16th Congress of the Spanish Society for Comparative Psychology, Oviedo, Spain, Sept. 18.
- Vonk, J.**, Reaux, J.E., Castille, C.M., & Povinelli, D.J. (2004). What Human-Enculturated Apes Know about Seeing: Preliminary Results. Paper presented at the 11th Annual International Conference on Comparative Cognition, CO3. March 24, Melbourne, Fla.
- Vonk, J.** & Horton, K.D. (2003). Automatic and Conscious Retrieval in Directed Forgetting.

Poster presented at the 44th annual meeting of the Psychonomics society, November, Vancouver, B.C.

- Vonk, J.** (2002) Abstract concept formation in non-language trained orangutans (*Pongo pygmaeus abelii*) and gorillas (*Gorilla gorilla gorilla*). Poster presented at “Why Language Matters for Theory of Mind” conference, Toronto, April 26.
- Vonk, J., & MacDonald, S.E.** (2001). Using a touch-screen to test the conceptual abilities of Orangutans and Gorillas. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the AAZK, Oct. 1, 2001, Toronto, On. Published in the proceedings of the AAZK annual meeting, 2001.
- Vonk, J., & MacDonald, S.E.** (2001). Abstract natural concept formation in captive orangutans (*Pongo pygmaeus abelii*) and one captive gorilla (*Gorilla gorilla gorilla*). Paper presented at the 24th annual meeting of the American Society of Primatologists, Aug 11, 2001, Savannah, GA. Abstract published.
- Vonk, J., & MacDonald, S.E.** (2001). Abstract concept formation in a young captive Gorilla (*Gorilla gorilla*) using a touch-screen. Paper presented at the 8th Annual International Conference on Comparative Cognition, CO3. March 17, Melbourne, Fla.
- Vonk, J., & MacDonald, S.E.** (2000). Natural concept formation in Orangutans (*Pongo pygmaeus*) using a touch-screen. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the Animal Behaviour Society, August, Atlanta, GA.
- Vonk, J., & MacDonald, S.E.** (2000). Natural concept formation in Orangutans (*Pongo pygmaeus*). Paper presented at the 7th Annual International Conference on Comparative Cognition, CO3. March 16, Melbourne, Fla.

Media Coverage

- Interview on the Discovery channel for Animal Talk, 2000
Interview by Cableone, summer 2007
Interview by Kenneth Krause May 2008
Interview by APA Monitor May 2009

Grants Awarded

- Levels of Abstraction Underlying Concept Formation in American Black Bears (*Ursus americanus*)
Aubrey Keith Lucas and Ella Ginn Lucas Endowment for
Faculty Excellence Awards for the 2009-10 Academic Year
\$5000

Grants Applied For

Concept Formation and Memory in American Black Bears (*Ursus Americanus*)

NSF PACS Grant

\$694,822, Submitted Aug 1, 2009

Core Domains of Thoughts in Primates and Parrots (*Psittacines*)

NSF CAREER Grant

\$504,395 Submitted July 23, 2009

The Comparative Effects of National and International Travel on Inexperienced Travelers'

Psychological Attributes

HHMI Experiment Grant June 2009

Submitted June 29, 2009

The Evolutionary Origins of Emotions and Aesthetics and Implications for Autism

NIH Innovation Award Pre-proposal

submitted Jan 15 2009,

not funded

The Evolutionary Origins of Emotions and Aesthetics

Wenner Gren Post PhD award

\$24 879, submitted Nov. 1, 2008,

Not funded

Semantic Processing Without Language: A Comparative Approach

James S. McDonnell Foundation

\$428,955, submitted March 2006

Not funded

Semantic Processing Without Language : A Primate Model of Human Cognition

The NIMH Cognitive Science Program 72-NB

\$952,485, submitted Nov. 2006

Not funded

Cognitive Continuity And Discontinuity: The Evolution Of Abstraction,

Wenner Gren Post PhD award

\$25000, submitted May 1, 2007,

Not funded

A Comparative Study of Nonverbal Abstraction

NSF Early Career Award

\$508, 121, submitted July 19, 2007, Not funded

Faculty Summer Research Grant

University of Southern Mississippi

Submitted fall 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008
Not funded

Journal and Granting Agency Reviews

Animal Cognition	Child Development
Animal Behaviour	Behavioral Processes
Journal of Experimental Child Psychology	Psychological Science
Journal of Comparative Psychology	Science
Psychonomic Bulletin & Review	Behaviour Research Methods
Brain and Behavioral Sciences	Developmental Science
Trends in Cognitive Science	Mind and Language
Leakey Foundation	National Science Foundation
Proceedings of Royal Academy of Science	Nature
British Journal of Developmental Psychology	Ethology
International Journal of Comparative Psychology	Journal of Anatomy

Professional Associations:

Animal Behaviour Society	Human Behavior and Evolution Society
Society of Comparative Cognition	American Society of Primatologists
International Society of Comparative Psychology	Cognitive Development Society
Society for Research on Child Development	

University Service

Gulf Coast Faculty Council, College of Education and Psychology Representative, Secretary Elect
QEP Advisory Board, College of Education and Psychology Representative

Department Service

2008	Search committee, School Psychology
2008	Co-chair Faculty Search, Experimental Psychology
2007 - 2008	Chair Search Steering Committee
2007 – present	Coordinator, PSY 361 Report
2006 - present	Student Awards Committee

Professional Development

Quality Enhancement Planning Seminar Spring 2007
NIH Grant Writing Seminar Fall 2006
Grant Proposal Writing Workshops
Budget Preparation Writing Workshop
Career Grant Writing Seminar

References

Dr. Suzanne MacDonald
Associate Professor, Psychology
Associate Vice President, Research
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Dr. Daniel Povinelli
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Dr. Francys Subiaul
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