

Shannon Skov-Rackette

Teaching Portfolio Summary

Current Summer 2004

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Teaching Specialization

I specialize in teaching psychological theories of learning, animal behaviour and cognition, and animal behaviour research techniques. Specifically, I am interested in animal spatial cognition and research techniques.

Teaching Philosophy and Assumptions

- 1) The role of the educator is to facilitate learning.
- 2) Information and access to information should be available to all.
- 3) The role of the educator goes beyond providing information, it also includes challenging students to learn the information and to learn about themselves.
- 4) Each student is an individual, bringing to the class a variety of experiences which can help the entire class (educator included) to grow and become more aware of the environment in which we exist.
- 5) Learning does not work on a set schedule, an “Open Door” office policy contributes substantially to the learning process.

University Teaching Experience

Teaching Assistant for:

Psychology 202

Statistics II

(Summer 2003) Dr. Robindra Sidhu

Duties included: marking of weekly assignments and exams, providing feedback and statistical instruction to students, assisting students with data entry and computerized statistical analyses

Psychology 260

Introduction to Learning

(Winter 2004) Dr. Eve DeRosa

(Summer 2004) Dr. Cary Kogan

Duties included: marking of exams, weekly interactions with students, explanation of theoretical material, and exam proctoring.

Psychology 369

Learning and Conditioning Laboratory
(Fall 2002, 2003) Dr. Sara Shettleworth

Duties included: course preparation, monitoring of experiments conducted by students, demonstration of animal handling for students, leading of class data analysis, and misc. assistant duties as required

Psychology 362

Animal Cognition

(Winter 2003) Dr. Jennifer Sutton

Duties included: course preparation, assisting with exam development, marking of exams, marking of term papers, guest lecturing on: a) Roles of Exploratory Behavior, and b) Primate Diversity and Ecology

Psychology 401

A Biobehavioural Approach to
Psychobiological Theories and
Applications

(Winter 2003, 2004) Dr. John Furedy

Duties included: marking term papers

Student Evaluations of Teaching

1001-55 Charles St. W.
Toronto, Ontario
M5S 2W9
(416) 712-4029

April 28, 2003

To Whom It May Concern:

It is my pleasure to write a reference letter on behalf of Shannon Skov-Rackette. Last semester I was fortunate enough to have Shannon as the teaching assistant my fourth year undergraduate psychology learning lab. In addition to demonstrating how to handle the animals (rats and pigeons) and how to use the different apparatus for our learning experiments, Shannon always attended our seminars and enriched the discussion about animal learning and behaviour. He was consistently available and very willing to help all of the students with any of our questions pertaining to the experiments we were performing.

During the course of the lab, there was an occasion when Shannon met with me outside of the scheduled lab time to help me understand the specific statistical method used to analyze the data from one of the experiments. His explanation was very clear and he answered all of my questions; he even brought additional textbooks as reference. Shannon was a very effective teaching assistant and I feel that he would also be an excellent teacher.

Sincerely,
Allison Guy

April 25, 2003

To whom it may concern:

Shannon was the teaching assistant in two of my classes this year, PSY369H: Learning and Conditioning Lab, and PSY362H: Animal Cognition. He was very knowledgeable in the subject areas of the courses, and he was available for extra help and consultation. He was always prompt in his responses to course email questions. Shannon lectured during several of the Animal Cognition classes on his area of research, exploratory behavior. He presented his material in a clear and organized manner. Shannon is capable of leading class discussions and conveys enthusiasm about course material.

Sincerely,

Leigh Botly, 3rd Year Undergraduate Student in Psychology Research Specialist Program

Curriculum Vitae

Shannon Skov-Rackette

Apt 715 35 Charles Street West
Toronto, Ontario, CANADA
416-978-3399
Shannon.Skov.Rackette@UToronto.ca

Research Interests

I conduct research in comparative cognition. I am currently investigating the rats' use of the "geometric module" to perceive changes in position of environmental stimuli. I am interested in the cognitive abilities of non-human animals and their theoretical and applied applications to human cognition.

Education

Ph.D. Psychology (Animal Learning & Behaviour)
University of Toronto – IN PROGRESS

M.A. Psychology (Animal Learning & Behaviour)
University of Toronto - 2004

B.Sc. Psychology
University of Calgary - 2001

B.Sc. Anthropology - Primatology
University of Calgary – 2001

Volunteer Work

2003-2005 Academic Representative of the Psychology Graduate Students
Association

2003-2004 Website Administrator of the Psychology Graduate Students
Association

Teaching Experience

Teaching Assistant for:

Psychology 202

Statistics II

(Summer 2003)

Dr. Robindra Sidhu

Duties included: marking of weekly assignments and exams, providing feedback and statistical instruction to students, assisting students with data entry and computerized statistical analyses

Psychology 260	Introduction to Learning (Winter 2004) Dr. Eve DeRosa <i>Duties yet to be determined</i>
Psychology 369	Learning and Conditioning Laboratory (Fall 2002, 2003) Dr. Sara Shettleworth <i>Duties included: course preparation, monitoring of experiments conducted by students, demonstration of animal handling for students, leading of class data analysis, and misc. assistant duties as required</i>
Psychology 362	Animal Cognition (Winter 2003) Dr. Jennifer Sutton <i>Duties included: course preparation, assisting with exam development, marking of exams, marking of term papers, guest lecturing on: a) Roles of Exploratory Behavior, and b) Primate Diversity and Ecology</i>
Psychology 401	A Biobehavioural Approach to Psychobiological Theories and Applications (Winter 2003) Dr. John Furedy <i>Duties included: marking term papers</i>

Invited Talks

- Skov-Rackette, S.I. (2004, March) *Reinforcement & Behavior Control*. Invited Presentation. University of Toronto, Toronto, ON
- Skov-Rackette, S. I. (2003, March). *Roles of Exploratory Behaviour*. Invited Presentation. University of Toronto, Toronto, ON
- Skov-Rackette, S. I. (2003, April). *Primate Diversity and Ecology*. Invited Presentation. University of Toronto, Toronto, ON
- Skov-Rackette, S.I. (2003, November) *To Explore or Not to Explore; A question of Spatial Navigation*. Invited Presentation. University of Toronto at Scarborough, Toronto, ON

Conference Presentations:

- Skov-Rackette, S. I., & Shettleworth, S. J. (2004, March) *Senseless Spatial Learning*. Paper presented at the 11th Annual Conference on Comparative Cognition, Melbourne, FL.
- Skov-Rackette, S. I., & Shettleworth, S. J. (2003, September). *Exploration and the Geometric Module* Poster presented at the 2003 University of Toronto Program in Neuroscience Departmental Conference

Skov-Rackette, S. I., & Shettleworth, S. J. (2003, March) *Geometric Knowledge in the Rat: Tests with Exploratory Behaviour*. Paper presented at the 10th Annual Conference on Comparative Cognition, Melbourne, FL.

Skov-Rackette, S. I., & Shettleworth, S. J. (2003, June) *Use of Exploratory Behaviour to Detect Positional and Geometric Changes*. Poster presented at the 13th Annual Meeting for the Canadian Society for Brain, Behaviour and Cognitive Science Conference

Skov-Rackette, S.I. & Bodner, G. (2001) *Contextually Mediated Recognition*. Paper presented at the 2001 University of Calgary Psychology Departmental Conference

Professional Memberships

Canadian Society for Brain, Behaviour and Cognitive Science

International Society of Comparative Cognition

Comparative Cognition Society