

# the inkblot

## TRANSFORMERS EDITION



### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- Editor's Note
- Psych Week
- Volunteer Forum
- Prof Interview
- Movie Night
- Internship Forum
- Autobots
- Decepticons



**January 23:**

Chinese New Year

**January 24:**

UPA Volunteer Forum  
CCIS 1-140

**January 25:**

Internship Forum  
CCIS 1-140

**January 25:**

Movie Night  
*One Flew Over  
The Cuckoo's Nest*  
CCIS 1-140

Oh weird. It's another Inkblot.

Yes, there was supposed to be another one earlier. But then two things happened.

One, I got really busy.  
Two, I didn't get fired.

So finally, here it is. Big thing to take note of: Psychology Week. This is the big one, and includes the very culpable Volunteer Forum. As many as 8 panellists are going to come out and sell some great volunteer opportunities from organizations on and off campus.

Your interests: that's what the Inkblot is about.  
Oh, and it's Transformers-themed.

Love,  
**Stephen Cook**  
Campus Communications

# UNDERGRADUATE PSYCHOLOGY ASSOCIATION PRESENTS

## Psych Week

### \*VOLUNTEER FORUM

WHEN: JANUARY 24TH, 5PM TO 7PM

WHERE: CCIS 1-140

### \*INTERNSHIP FORUM

WHEN: JANUARY 25TH, 5:30PM

WHERE: CCIS 1-140

### \*MOVIE NIGHT

WHEN: JANUARY 26TH

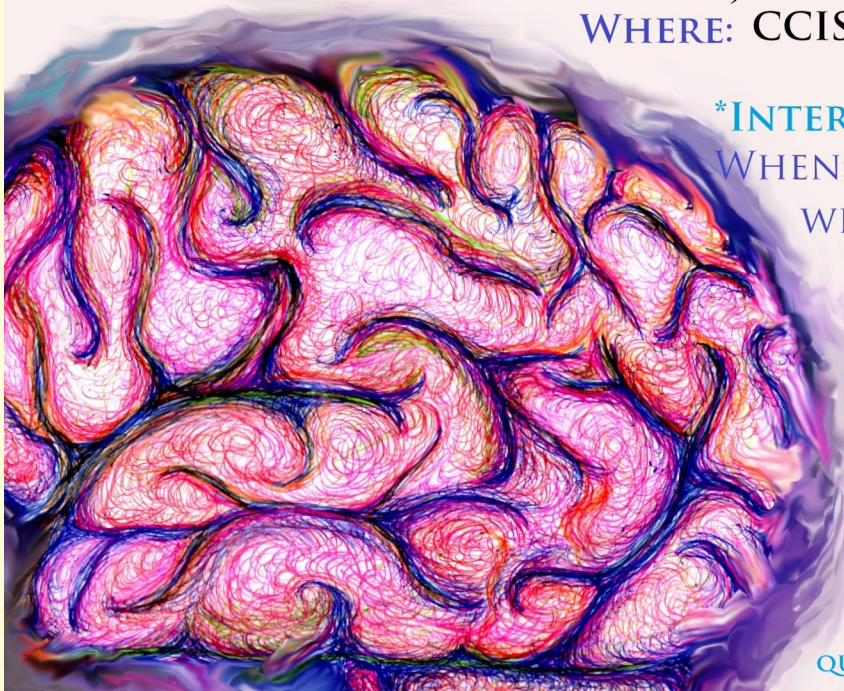
5:30 PM

WHERE: CCIS 1-140

SHOWING: ONE FLEW  
OVER THE CUCKOO'S  
NEST

FREE POP AND PIZZA!

QUESTIONS? [upa@ualberta.ca](mailto:upa@ualberta.ca)



# AN INTERVIEW WITH



## NORMAN BROWN

PhD (University of Chicago 1985)

PSYCO 350, 458 and 560

### Research Specializations:

#### Cognition

- Autobiographical memory, basic memory processes, judgment and decision making, cognitive aspects of survey methodology.

### When did you know a career in psychology was for you?

I got attracted to linguistics originally. In the 70s when Chomsky and the transformation of grammar held a lot of swag. In my last year of undergrad, I stumbled on a course of psycholinguistics and it completely destroyed Chomsky and the process theory and I thought this is powerful and robust and then I took a cognitive psychology course, literally in my last term and I realized I was a natural to experimental psychology. I was an empiricist and I liked something concrete.

### What is your research focus?

Much of my research is related to the organization of autobiographical memory and how historically life-changing events like war, terrorism and natural disasters impact autobiographical memory. Autobiographical memory and historical memory are interrelated when major events like wars have a dramatic impact on a population over an expanded period of time. There is one theory related to this and it is wrong. My research is focused very much on establishing a new approach investigating autobiographical memory termed, the Transition Theory.

This approach assumes that autobiographical memory is organized by transition based events which can be self initiated. Transitional events are graded, some may affect one aspect of an individual's life while other events will affect many.

### How long have you taught at the U of A?

19 years.

### What courses do you teach at the U of A?

This term, I'm teaching Psyc 305 which is a course in human memory. I'm also teaching a special topics, psyc 405 course on collective memory and a graduate level course on collective memory as well.

### What is the best thing about your job?

My Research Lab.

### What is the worst thing about your job?

It can be hectic sometimes. I have a family too, certainly the hardest thing is to balance the family and the teaching and the research. One of the things is the family and teaching are front and center; there's always deadlines and kids are relentless, so it can be frustrating because the research has to be given a second priority sometimes. This is a good gig actually, it's nice work if you can get it.



**What is one achievement you have yet to accomplish?**

What I want to do is establish the transition theory, there is only one theory in autobiographical memory and it's wrong. I want to de-structure things a little bit. My collaborators and I, Peter Lee who is a popular instructor here, and my graduate students, we're on to something and that is motivating. Sometimes when you do this type of work it comes in waves.

**If you could get on a plane today and go somewhere, where would you go?**

I like warm places. I spend a lot of time in Mexico, I enjoy that.

**Is there any advice you have for students?**

The best advice is to get good grades. Working hard is a good thing. The better your grades the better your options. Second, get into a lab. The honours program is good, and grossly undersubscribed.

**Any last words?**

Don't go into forensic psychology. I see some of these students who are watching too much CSI. One thing I would advise for undergraduate psychology majors is to find themselves as many writing intensive courses, there's far too little of that. Writing is a life skill, which is an important practice in psychology.

**Is there any advice you have for students?**

The best advice is to get good grades. Working hard is a good thing. The better your grades the better your options. Second, get into a lab. The honours program is good, and grossly undersubscribed.

**Any last words?**

Don't go into forensic psychology. I see some of these students who are watching too much CSI. One thing I would advise for undergraduate psychology majors is to find themselves as many writing intensive courses, there's far too little of that. Writing is a life skill, which is an important practice in psychology.

Thanks to Dr. Bown for his time,  
and to Aisha Qureshi for conducting the interview!

If you'd like to interview a professor for the Inkblot, send us an email at [upa@ualberta.ca](mailto:upa@ualberta.ca)



*Sexual Assault Centre*  
UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA



- Free, confidential and anonymous support services for individuals affected by sexual assault, sexual harassment, and/or stalking
- Short-term counseling, information, accompaniment services, advocacy and referrals



780-492-9771

[sexualassaultcentre@ualberta.ca](mailto:sexualassaultcentre@ualberta.ca)

[www.ualberta.ca/sac](http://www.ualberta.ca/sac)

University of Alberta Sexual Assault Centre, 2-705 SUB

*Feeling overwhelmed?*



The Peer Support Centre, formerly the Student Distress Centre, is a Students' Union service that offers the University community a place to talk to someone for support.

780-492-4357 (HELP)

[psc@su.ualberta.ca](mailto:psc@su.ualberta.ca)

SUB 2-707

Monday to Friday

9am - 8pm





# **I WANT YOU**

## **to do some volunteer work**

When Optimus Prime isn't busy defeating the evil forces of the Decepticons, he contributes his leisure time to helping out a variety of reputable volunteer organizations.

Isn't it your turn to transform and roll out?

# **UPA VOLUNTEER FORUM**

## **JANUARY 24th @ 5PM**

### **CCIS 1-140**



# The UPA



## Mentorship Program

*Starscream was once a noble Cybertronian scientist. If only he had known the right classes to take, he might not have ended up a despicable Decepticon with a penchant for failure.*

The UPA is still looking for volunteers for the Mentorship Program. Whether you want to guide some young psychologist on his journey, or else need a little guidance yourself, this is the program to apply to.

Mentors and Mentees alike email us at [upa@ualberta.ca](mailto:upa@ualberta.ca)

## The Inkblot

*Starscream is my favourite Transformer. I actually have a \$100, top-of-the-line partially diecast figure of him adorning a fireplace. Why can't he be real? Then he could write for the Inkblot.*

The Inkblot is in serious need of content. And I will take anything. I am looking for anybody willing to interview professors, write psychology-related articles or even conduct highly unprofessional experiments and publish them. If any of these interest you, or you simply like attention, email me at [sdcook@ualberta.ca](mailto:sdcook@ualberta.ca)

