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This document contains a list of some of our currently available PhD opportunities within the School of Psychology and Clinical Language Sciences (PCLS). It is updated with new PhD opportunities as they become available, so please check back regularly.

You can also propose your own project that aligns with our research. Find out more about How to apply for a PhD, and please see the PCLS Sta f webpage for a full list of academic sta f. For general enquiries about PhD applications in the School of Psychology and Clinical Language Sciences, please email pclsphdadmissions@reading.ac.uk.

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## g p l p g g j l L p l

(Neurodiversity; psychopathology; neurodegenerative diseases; emotion regulation and emotional disorders; a f ective neuroscience; reward processing)

Dr Samrah Ahmed

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**P p** Dr Samrah Ahmed

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**p** Brain Health and Dementia Lab

My research focuses on better characterisation of dementia syndromes, including

this gap in specialist resources, we have been developing apps to measure diverse aspects of neurodevelopment, which can be used by non-specialists,

We are looking for interested PhD students to build on this e f ort by helping validate these apps in and outside the laboratory environment. You would be working alongside a wider international interdisciplinary team. The ideal student/s will be familiar and comfortable with the use of quantitative methods. Prior experience in testing children would be an advantage.

2) Studying empathy, emotion regulation, and social motivation in real world social interactions

Our group has been studying empathy and related processes in autistic and nonautistic adults. Nearly all of these studies take place in the lab, under tightly controlled circumstances. We are looking to develop a repertoire of experiments to measure these constructs in real world social interactions. The ideal student will have a background in Psychology, and be comfortable in the use of empirical and quantitative methods. Prior experience in working with adult humans will be an advantage.

**P p** Professor Anastasia Christakou

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and can lead to significant disability in education, employment, and relationships. Excessive avoidance behaviour is a defining characteristic of anxiety disorders, including SAD, and cognitive models of SAD propose that individuals with social anxiety engage in various "in situation or subtly safety behaviours", such as avoiding eye contact or talking. Cognitive Behavioural Therapy (CBT) is used for the treatment of SAD and includes exposure therapy as a main component. Although exposure therapy has been found to be effective in the treatment of social anxiety, it often does not lead to full remission and relapse of symptoms after treatment is common.

Our lab has conducted laboratory-based research on safety learning (i.e., learning that

develop research in early intervention in these areas, including cognitive stimulation and personhood in dementia and self-referential processing in psychosis. Our team emphasises interdisciplinary collaboration and seeks to generate evidence using a variety of methods, including therapeutic session behavioural and language observational studies, ecological momentary assessment, clinical trials, imaging, and qualitative approaches. We are particularly interested in addressing the need for evidence from non-Western populations. The ultimate research goal is to advance early intervention services for people with these conditions.

**P p** Dr Tom Loucas

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I can supervise PhD students interested in