

Niamh MacSweeney

Division of Psychiatry ♦ Centre for Clinical Brain Sciences ♦ University of Edinburgh, EH10 5AF

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EDUCATION

University of Edinburgh January 2019 - present

Ph.D. Psychiatry

Supervisors: Dr Heather Whalley (primary), Prof. Stephen Lawrie, Dr Alex Kwong

Thesis: Understanding biological and psychosocial factors associated with adolescent depression.

Trinity College Dublin

2014 – 2018

B.A. (Joint-Hons) Psychology with English Literature

Double First Class

Dissertation: Active coping and depressive symptoms in female adolescents.

AWARDS AND HONOURS

Highly Commended , British Neuroscience Association Student Credibility Prizes	2022
Winner , Delegates' Choice Award, MQ Mental Health Science Summit (£200)	2021
Representative , University of Edinburgh, LERU Doctoral Summer School	2021
Winner , Emerald Publishing Literati Award (for paper, MacSweeney et al., 2019)	2020
Finalist , University of Edinburgh 3 Minute Thesis Competition	2019
Scholar , Mental Health Research UK Children and Young People PhD Scholarship (£90k)	2019
Awardee , First place in graduating class, Trinity College Dublin	2018
Winner , Global Undergraduate Awards, Psychology Regional Winner (for dissertation)	2018
Winner , Undergraduate Poster Presentation, Psychological Society of Ireland	2018
Awardee , Health Research Board Summer Studentship (€3000), Trinity College Dublin	2017
Awardee , Trinity College Dublin Entrance Exhibition (€200)	2014
Winner , Biological Sciences (Intermediate Category), Irish BT Young Scientist and Technology Exhibition (€300)	2012

GRANTS

Student Experience Grant, University of Edinburgh	2022
Edinburgh Open Research Initiative and ReproducibiliTea Conference (Co-I)	£5,000
Guarantors of Brain Travel Grant	2021
Invited research visit to Prof. Christian K. Tamnes Research Group, University of Oslo	£600
Travel Grant, Mental Health Research UK	2021
To support research visit to Prof. Christian K. Tamnes Research Group, University of Oslo	£225
Royal Society STEM Partnership Grant	2019
Does our biology influence our mood? Collaboration with Musselburgh Grammar School (PI)	£3,000

PUBLICATIONS

(*joint-first)

Saragosa-Harris, N.*, M., Chaku, N.*, **MacSweeney, N.***, Guazzelli Williamson, V.*, Scheuplein, M., Feola, B., ... Mills, K. L. (under review). A practical guide for researchers and reviewers using the ABCD Study and other large longitudinal datasets. *Developmental Cognitive Neuroscience. Open Access Version*

Shen, X.*, **MacSweeney, N.***, Chan, S. W., Barbu, M. C., Adams, M. J., Romaniuk, L., McIntosh, A.M. & Whalley, H. C. (2021). Brain Structural Associations with Depression in a Large Early Adolescent Sample (The ABCD Study®). *EClinicalMedicine. Open Access Version*

O'Rourke, S., Whalley, H., Janes, S., **MacSweeney, N.**, Skrenes, A., Crowson, S., MacLean, L., & Schwannauer, M. (2020). The development of cognitive and emotional maturity in adolescents and its relevance in judicial contexts. Scottish Sentencing Council UK. *Commissioned report. Online Version*

MacSweeney, N., Bowman, S., & Kelly, C. (2019). More than just characters in a story: effective and meaningful involvement of young people in mental health research. *Journal of Public Mental Health. Online Version*

UNDER REVIEW AND PREPRINTS

(*joint-first)

MacSweeney, N., Shen, X., Chan, S. W. Y., Cullen, B., Reynolds, R., Kwong, A., Lawrie, S., Romaniuk, L., Whalley, H. C. (under review). The role of neurobiology in the association between pubertal timing and depression risk in early adolescence: A registered report. *Stage one registered report*.

INVITED TALKS

MacSweeney, N. Understanding biological and psychosocial factors associated with adolescent depression. Invited talk at the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services National Academic Programme Research Away Day, Scotland. 9th May 2022.

MacSweeney, N. Registered reports: What are they, and how to do one? Invited talk for Edinburgh ReproducibiliTea Open Science Journal Club. University of Edinburgh, 18th March 2022

MacSweeney, N. "An elsewhere world": Understanding biological and psychosocial factors associated with adolescent depression. Invited lecture at PROMENTA Research Centre at the University of Oslo. Hosted by Prof. Christian K. Tamnes. 6th November 2021.

MacSweeney, N. Brain structural associations with depression in a large early adolescent sample (the ABCD cohort). Presentation given at Division of Psychiatry's Journal Club, University of Edinburgh. 9th December 2020.

MacSweeney, N. Understanding adolescent depression. Presentation given as part of the Clinical Psychology Postgraduate Research Seminar Series. April 2020.

MacSweeney, N. Depression familial risk: Parent-child reporter differences and the association with cortical and white matter microstructural measures in the ABCD dataset. Presentation given at Division of Psychiatry's Journal Club, University of Edinburgh. 20th April 2020.

MacSweeney, N. Understanding adolescent depression. Presentation given at Mental Health Research UK Scholars' Day. 4th March 2020.

MacSweeney, N. The value of open science research practices: A registered report approach. Presentation given at Division of Psychiatry's Journal Club, University of Edinburgh. 31st May 2019.

MacSweeney, N. In search of biopsychosocial markers for the recurrence of adolescent depression. Presentation given at Mental Health Research UK Scholars' Day. 22nd February 2019, London, UK.

MacSweeney, N. The whirlwind of adolescent depression. Lecture given at the Neuroscience on Tap public engagement event, BNA Festival of Neuroscience. 14th April 2019, Dublin, Ireland.

MacSweeney, N., Kellaghan, B., Lahert, N., Goncerz, E., Gallagher, L., & Kelly, C. Translating active avoidance: A novel investigation of the neurocognitive bases of active coping in female adolescents with depressive symptoms. Oral presentation given at the British Neuroscience Association (BNA) Festival of Neuroscience. 14th-19th April 2019, Dublin, Ireland.

MacSweeney, N. & Kelly, C. Active coping and depressive symptoms in female adolescents. Oral presentation given at the Psychological Society of Ireland, All-Ireland Student Congress. 7th April 2018.

CONFERENCE POSTERS

MacSweeney, N., Shen, X., Chan, S. W. Y., Cullen, B., Reynolds, R., Kwong, A., Lawrie, S., Romaniuk, L., Whalley, H. C. The role of neurobiology in the association between pubertal timing and depression risk in early adolescence: A registered report. Poster presented at Flux 2021 Virtual Conference. September 2021.

Shen, X.*, **MacSweeney, N.*,** Chan, S. W., Barbu, M. C., Adams, M. J., Romaniuk, L., ... & Whalley, H. C. Brain structural associations with depression in a large early adolescent sample (The ABCD Study). Poster presented at the Organisation for Human Brain Mapping 2021 Virtual Conference. June 2021.

MacSweeney, N., Barbu, M. C., Zafar, S., Atkinson, K., Louvet, P., Lawrie, S., Chan, S. W. Y., Romaniuk, L., Whalley, H. C. Understanding irritability in adolescent depression: Development of a novel fMRI task using a co-produced youth-research design. Poster presented at MQ Mental Health Science Summit. May 2021.

MacSweeney, N., Kellaghan, B., Lahert, N., Goncerz, E., Gallagher, L., & Kelly, C. Translating active avoidance: A novel investigation of the neurocognitive bases of active coping in female adolescents with depressive symptoms. Poster presented at the British Neuroscience Association (BNA) Festival of Neuroscience. April 2019, Dublin, Ireland.

MacSweeney, N. & Kelly, C. Active coping and depressive symptoms in female adolescents. Poster presented at the Psychological Society of Ireland, All-Ireland Student Congress. April 2018.

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT AND OUTREACH

Panellist, Adolescent Brain Development and Mental Health event as part of the UKRI Youth Mental Health Citizen Science Project, April 2022

Panellist, Love, Heartache and Hope event at Explorathon, September 2021.

Panellist, *Depression Detectives* Online Q&A Event, June 2021. Online.

Panellist, *Your Depression, My Depression* Event at BNA 2021 Festival of Neuroscience, April 2021, Online.

The Whirlwind of Adolescent Depression, Your Depression, My Depression — Same Name Different Story. Digital Stories Project, December 2020, Online digital story.

The Whirlwind of Adolescent Depression, *3 Minute Thesis* presentation, University of Edinburgh, YouTube Video, June 2019.

COMMITTEES AND BOARDS

Co-founder and member of Edinburgh Open Research Initiative Steering Committee, University of Edinburgh (2021 – ongoing)

Co-founder and organiser of Edinburgh ReproducibiliTea Open Science Journal Club, University of Edinburgh (2020 – ongoing)

Co-founder of Division of Psychiatry Coding Club, University of Edinburgh (2020-ongoing)

Founder and co-ordinator of IMMA Lab Young Persons' Advisory Group, Trinity College Institute of Neuroscience (2018-2020)

MEDIA

Postgraduate Life Q&A Instagram Takeover (blog post) for Edinburgh Medical School. Online, Instagram takeover, August 2021

Establishing a 'ReproducibiliTea' Open Science Journal Club at The University of Edinburgh (blog post) for Teaching Matters Blog, Online, August 2021

Life as a PhD Student in a Pandemic (blog post) for Mental Health Research UK. Online, July 2021

WORKSHOPS AND TRAINING

McCormick, E., Mills, K., Byrne, M., Flournoy, J., **MacSweeney, N.**, Huffman, L., & Kellij, S., Longitudinal Modelling Pre-Conference Workshop to be held at the Flux: The Society for Developmental Cognitive Neuroscience Congress, Paris, September 2022

MacSweeney, N. & Wolfe, K. How to do a Registered Report: from preparation to publication, Workshop held at the Edinburgh Open Research Conference, May 2022

MacSweeney, N. University of Edinburgh Representative, LERU Doctoral Summer School, Trinity College Dublin. Theme: Re-evaluating the Role of the Expert. August 2021 (Held remotely due to Covid-19 pandemic)

MacSweeney, N. Invited attendee at the Modelling Developmental Change ABCD Study Workshop, July 2021 (Held remotely due to Covid-19 pandemic)

MacSweeney, N. *Project Soothe in Low- and Middle-Income Countries.* Delivered workshops to staff at the Faculty of Medicine, Prince of Songkla University, Thailand. July 2019

EVIDENCE FOR POLICY AND TRANSLATION

New sentencing guidelines for young people (effective 26 January 2022) informed by literature review (co-author) commissioned by the Scottish Sentencing Council (February 2020). Online versions of sentencing guidelines and literature review.

SUPERVISION

Undergraduate Students

Perrine Louvet, 2021

High School Students

Simal Zafar (Nuffield Research Summer Studentship, 2020)

LECTURING AND SMALL GROUP TEACHING

Course organiser and lecturer, *How to make your dissertation more reproducible*, 4th Year, BA Psychology, 6 hours, Department of Psychology, University of Edinburgh (2021- 2022)

Teaching assistant, *Psychology 2A and 2B*, 2nd Year, BA Psychology, (22 weeks), Department of Psychology, University of Edinburgh (2021 – 2022)

Teaching assistant, *Critical Analysis*, 3rd Year, BA Psychology, (22 weeks), Department of Psychology, University of Edinburgh (2021 – 2022)

OTHER RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Research assistant, *Project Soothe: Young Citizen Science Project*, Department of Clinical Psychology, University of Edinburgh. PI: Dr Stella Chan 2019 - 2020

Research assistant, *Imaging Mind Architecture (IMMA) Lab*, Institute for Neuroscience, Trinity College Dublin. PI: Dr Clare Kelly 2017 - 2018

RESEARCH SKILLS

Coding software: Proficient in R, R Studio, Unix, SPM, CONN Toolbox

Data management: Department Data Manager for ABCD Study Data. Github: niamhmacsweeney