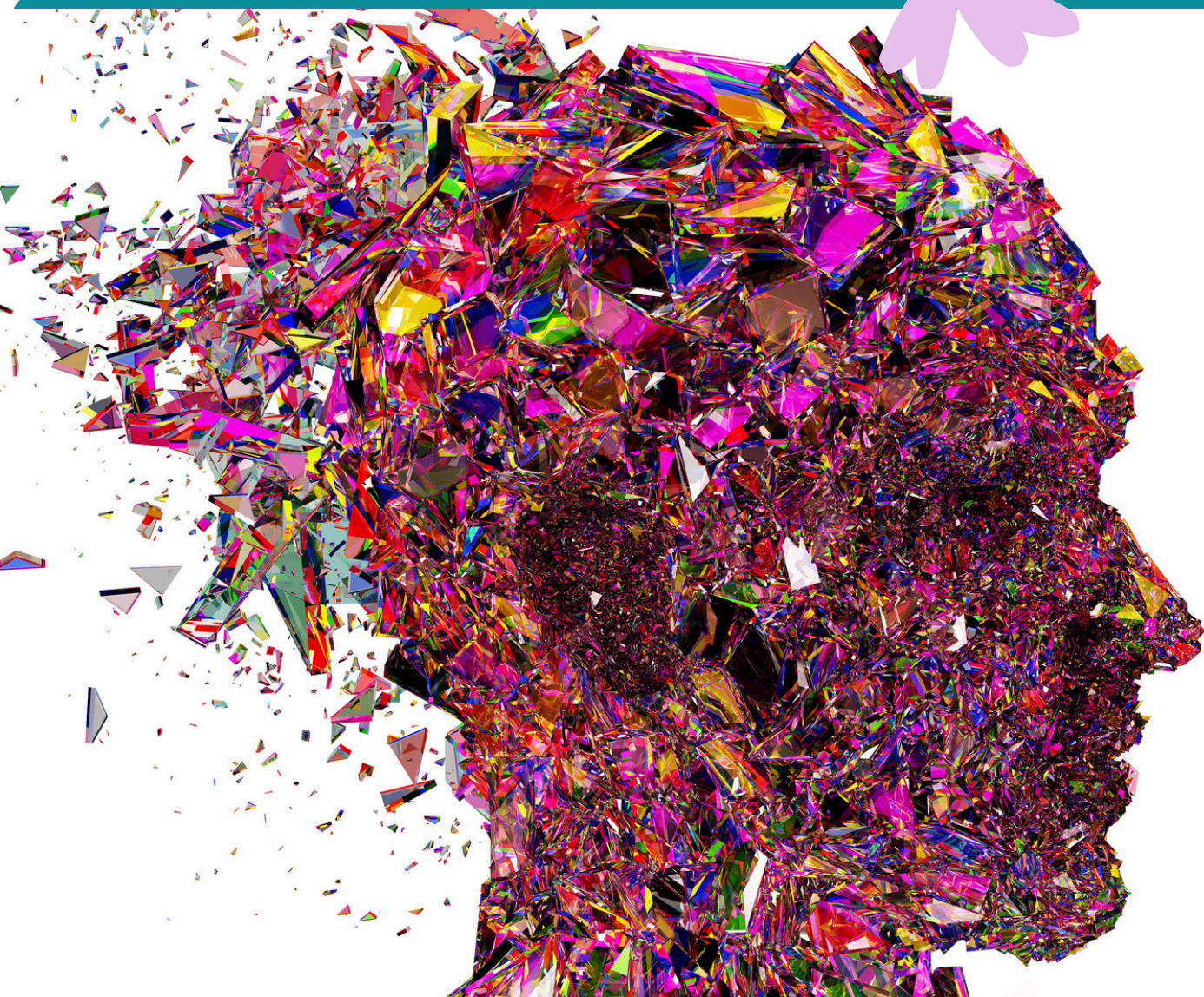




THE UNIVERSITY of EDINBURGH
Edinburgh Neuroscience

OUR MINDS PROGRAMME



MEET THE COHORT

SUCCESSFUL PROJECTS 2024

Our minds perceive and interpret the world around us. They create knowledge and devise ways of putting that knowledge to use. They have created the arts, the sciences, the structures of our societies and our beliefs.

Our cohort of students will explore these topics over the summer through their projects and engage with others, in particular the public via blogs, exhibitions, film and other creative methods.

Joshua Hew

Candidate 1 of 7



Project description:

Joshua's project aims to investigate how people judge the presence or absence of consensus, especially when discussing polarising topics such as addressing the climate crisis. These collective action problems require us to act, but when evidence doesn't favour either side of the debate, it can be difficult to decide what stance to take. Based on this framework, a set of video essays will be created on polarising topics such as climate change or conspiracy theories. These videos aim to enhance public understanding of how our minds act on uncertain information to make decisions, using relevant current events for further context.

About me:

Born and raised in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, Joshua (he/him) is a third-year undergraduate student reading Philosophy and Psychology. He is interested in examining misinterpretation and consensus-making, particularly in online discourse. Joshua explores this by combining philosophical perspectives with behavioural experiments and analysis of social media data.

Wushuang Tong

Candidate 2 of 7



Project description:

"The Mind-Body Concerto," investigates the intricate relationship between instrumental performance and visual art. Through a triptych of paintings and a series of moving images based on Haydn's *Concerto No. 1 in C Major*, the project explores how lifelong musical training influences artistic creation both physically and psychologically. This innovative approach aims to empirically present the impact of classical music on a somatic and cognitive level, enriching the collective narrative on our minds' interpretative and creative faculties.

About me:

Wushuang (she/her) is a second-year doctoral candidate in Art at Edinburgh College of Art. Her creations merge her experiences as a cellist and a painter. Her artworks have been exhibited at diverse venues and events, including London Science Museum, MRC Doctoral Partnership Symposium at KCL, Stage@Leeds, ArtExpo New York, etc. Honoured as an emerging artist by Saatchi Art in 2020, Wushuang's paintings are held in private collections worldwide.

Marie Trestail

Candidate 3 of 7



Project description:

'We Can Still Hear You' is a creative short documentary project that follows the filmmaker Marie, on a journey to manifest the internal and generational worlds of OCD in a new and intimate way. Through conversation, abstraction, and personal essay she'll be discussing mental health, coping, and the responsibility we have to take care of one another. The project includes the creation of the film as well as a screening that will focus on extending the ideas and questions in the film to the "real world", and local community."

About me:

Marie (she/her) is an MA Film Directing student with a background in public relations. Her greatest passion is art at the intersection of social activism, education, and community-building. She believes there is extreme power in not just what stories we tell, but how we tell them, and is honoured to be collaborating within Our Minds to bring her current story to life.

Jess Lonsdale

Candidate 4 of 7



Project description:

The project 'Building bridges in the autism community through art', is according to Jess, important to her because during her time in autism advocacy, many of the clashes she saw between individuals come from what is referred to as the 'Double Empathy Problem' in which neurotypical individuals and those on the autism spectrum often struggle to understand each other's perspectives. The goal of the project is to use art to improve people's understanding of each other's perspectives and thus create more cooperation within the community.

About me:

Jess (she/they), is a third-year Biomedical sciences student with an interest in neurodevelopment. As well as this, she is secretary of Best Buddies Scotland, working with adults with intellectual disabilities in the Edinburgh area.

Lea Satala

Candidate 5 of 7



Project description:

“The Edinburgh Mental Health Film Club” is a project that aims to create a safe space for discussing mental health and related topics through cinema. During each film club meeting, a different movie relating to some aspect of mental health will be screened, with a mini-lecture and post-movie discussion with an invited guest speaker. The project aspires to be a well-being intervention and community-building experience, while at the same time promoting reliable knowledge about the way our minds work.

About me:

Lea (she/her) is a graduating student completing an undergraduate degree in Psychology. Hoping to pursue a career in research, her interests lie at the intersection of individual differences and clinical psychology. Coming from a family of film-makers, Lea has always been interested in the idea of film being a reflection of unique human experiences. This project hopes to combine both of her passions and create a space for meaningful conversations.

Dora Zoi

Candidate 6 of 7



Project description:

Drawing inspiration from the intricate forms of different brain regions and the overall structure of the human brain, Dora crafts sculptural works that capture its physicality and depict the intricate connections and processes within. Through her art, she offers viewers a tangible and engaging experience, inviting them to delve into the mysteries of the mind in a visually compelling manner. By presenting alternative narratives and novel perspectives, this project bridges the realms of art and neuroscience, seeking to foster a deeper understanding and appreciation of the intricacies of the human mind and emotions.

About me:

Dora is a BA Sculpture student at the University of Edinburgh, bringing a multidisciplinary background to her art, having previously earned a BA in Physics. Rooted in her fascination with the mysteries of nature from her physics studies, she utilizes diverse mediums in her intermedia and sculptural works to present alternative narratives. Guided by principles of serenity, kindness, and honesty, her creative process conveys sincerity and authenticity. Dora strives to create work that resonates deeply with viewers, fostering connections and encouraging collective reflection.

Emily Beaney

Candidate 7 of 7



Project description:

Beginning with the mind as a site of self-realisation and identity formation, this project explores how neurological conditions can expand minds, bodies and networks of care. Emily asks how our sense of an individual self, identity and personal narrative may be threatened, and if this is always bad. In epilepsy, breaks in consciousness, loss of memory, changes to mood and behaviour can cause personal narratives to blur and control to become shared. Through creative workshops and collective filmmaking, Emily will work with young people with epilepsy and the team at the Muir Maxwell Epilepsy Centre to produce a collaborative experimental film.

About me:

Emily (she/her) is an artist-filmmaker and practice-based PhD researcher at Edinburgh College of Art. Her collaborative projects explore lived experiences of embodied difference, care, control and health inequalities, seeking to reveal the hidden / unheard. Emily has shared projects across the UK and internationally with organisations including Southbank Centre, Alchemy Film and Arts, Royal Scottish Academy, Creative Scotland, British Council and Unlimited.

Contact Information



<https://www.edinburghneuroscience.ed.ac.uk/>



<https://twitter.com/EdinUniNeuro>



<https://www.instagram.com/edinburghneuroscience/>



<https://www.facebook.com/EdinUniNeuro/>

Link to Our Mind Programme webpage



Edinburgh
Neuroscience

Follow our social media channels to get updates about the programme

