

# Melissa F. Colloff

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## RESEARCH

My broad area of expertise is applied cognitive psychology, with a focus on forensic applications. My research predominantly examines the efficacy of witness identification and interviewing procedures and investigates novel techniques and technologies to elicit accurate witness testimony. In my research, I aim to understand the underlying memory mechanisms when witnesses make identifications or provide testimony, in order to provide a knowledge-base to develop successful evidence-based recommendations for policy and practice.

## EDUCATION

2013–2017 **PhD Psychology.** University of Warwick, UK.  
2012–2013 **MSc Forensic Psychology. First Class (Distinction).** University of Leicester, UK.  
2008–2012 **BSc Psychology. First Class (Hons).** University of Bath, UK.

## PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

2018–present **Lecturer in Forensic Psychology.** University of Birmingham, UK.  
2017–2018 **Postdoctoral Research Associate.** Loughborough University, UK.

## AWARDS & HONOURS

2019: The Light of Understanding, Excellence in Public Engagement. University of Birmingham, UK.  
2018: Thesis Award (Runner Up). American Psychology-Law Society, US.  
2017: Best Poster. Society for Applied Research in Memory and Cognition, Australia.  
2017: Best Publication Award. Department of Psychology, University of Warwick, UK.  
2016: Runner up, Three Minute Thesis (3MT®). National Final, UK.  
2015: Best Poster, Science Faculty, People's Choice, and Overall. Postgraduate Research Showcase. University of Warwick, UK.  
2013: The Wiley Prize for the highest credit-weighted average in MSc Forensic Psychology, School of Psychology. University of Leicester, UK.  
2013: The Clive Hollin Prize for the highest dissertation portfolio mark in MSc Forensic Psychology, School of Psychology. University of Leicester, UK.  
2008: Alumni Fund Scholarship for Academic Excellence. University of Bath, UK.  
2008: Highest Achievement at A Level: One of the top five marks in the country in Psychology. AQA Exam Board, UK

## PUBLICATIONS

Seale-Carlisle, T., **Colloff, M. F.**, Flowe, H.D., Wells, W., Wixted, J. T., & Mickes, L. (in press). Confidence and response time as indicators of eyewitness identification accuracy in the lab and in the real world. *Journal of Applied Research in Memory and Cognition*.  
**Colloff, M. F.**, & Wixted, J. T. (in press). Why are lineups better than showups? A test of the filler siphoning and enhanced discriminability accounts. *Journal of Experimental Psychology: Applied*. doi:10.1037/xap0000218  
Jores, T., **Colloff, M. F.**, Kloft, L., Smailes, H., & Flowe, H.D. (2019). A meta-analysis of the effects of acute alcohol intoxication on witness recall. *Applied Cognitive Psychology*, 33, 334-343. doi:10.1002/acp.3533  
Benedict, J., et al. (2018). Social perception of faces around the world: How well does the valence-dominance model generalize across world regions? (Registered Report Stage 1). *Nature Human Behavior*.  
**Colloff, M. F.**, Wade, K. A., Strange, D., & Wixted, J. T. (2018). Filler siphoning theory does not predict the effect of lineup fairness on the ability to discriminate innocent from guilty suspects: Reply to Smith, Wells, Smalarz, & Lampinen (2018). *Psychological Science*, 29, 1552-1557. doi:10.1177/0956797618786459

- Colloff, M. F.**, Wade, K. A., Wixted, J. T., & Maylor, E. A. (2017). A signal-detection analysis of eyewitness identification across the adult lifespan. *Psychology and Aging*, *32*, 243–258. doi:10.1037/pag0000168
- Flowe, H. D., **Colloff, M. F.**, Karoğlu, N., Zelek, K., Ryder, H., Humphries, J. E., & Takarangi, M. K. T. (2017). The effects of alcohol intoxication on accuracy and the confidence-accuracy relationship in photographic simultaneous lineups. *Applied Cognitive Psychology*, *31*, 379–391. doi:10.1002/acp.3332
- Colloff, M. F.**, Wade, K. A., & Strange, D. (2016). Unfair lineups make witnesses more likely to confuse innocent and guilty suspects. *Psychological Science*, *27*, 1227–1239. doi:10.1177/0956797616655789
- Colloff, M. F.**, & Flowe, H. D. (2016). The effects of acute alcohol intoxication on the cognitive mechanisms underlying false facial recognition. *Psychopharmacology*, *233*, 2139–2149. doi:10.1007/s00213-016-4263-4
- Colloff, M. F.** (2016). The real mark of madness? *PsyPAG Quarterly*, *100*, 6–8.
- Flowe, H. D., Klatt, T., & **Colloff, M. F.** (2014). Selecting fillers on emotional appearance improves lineup identification accuracy. *Law and Human Behavior*, *38*, 509–519. doi:10.1037/lhb0000101
- Alogna, V. K., Attaya, M. K., Aucoin, P., Bahnik, S., Birch, S., Birt, A. R., et al. (2014). Registered Replication Report: Schooler & Engstler-Schooler (1990). *Perspectives on Psychological Science*, *9*, 556–578. doi:10.1177/1745691614545653

**Pre-prints or In Prep** (please contact me for information).

- Colloff, M. F.**, Flowe, H. D., Windsor, A., Seale-Carlisle, T. M., Hett, D., Jores, T., Lee, B., Stevens, L., & Condruz, N. (under review). *Children's expressions of certainty are informative*. [Preprint]. Available at: <https://tinyurl.com/yyyeqs7>
- Colloff, M. F.**, Seale-Carlisle, T. M., Karagolu, N., Maltby, J., Smith, H. J., Smith, L., & Flowe, H. D. (in prep). *Criminal identification viewed from a different angle: Enabling witnesses to reinstate study pose during a lineup test increases accuracy*.
- Colloff, M. F.**, Smith, H. J., Seale-Carlisle, T. M., Meissner, C. A., Pande, B., Kujur, P., Parveen, N., Chandel, P., Singh, M. M., Pradhan, S., Parganiha, A., & Flowe, H. D. (in prep). *Active exploration of faces in police lineups increases discrimination accuracy for own- and other- race faces*

**Book Chapters**

- Flowe, H. D., & **Colloff, M. F.**, Kloft, L., Jores, T., & Stevens, L. M. (2019). The impact of alcohol and other drugs on eyewitness memory. In R. Bull & I. Blandon-Gitlin, (Eds.), *Handbook of Legal and Investigative Psychology* (pp. 149–162). London, UK: Routledge.
- Wade, K. A., Nightingale, S. J., & **Colloff, M. F.** (2016). Photos and Memory. In R. Nash & J. Ost, (Eds.), *False Memories* (pp. 39–54). Hove, UK: Psychology Press.

**RESEARCH GRANTS**

- 2019: **ESRC Global Challenges Secondary Data Analysis**. The CARE project: Building sexual violence survivors' capacity to evidence and research (C)rimes and (A)dvocate for effective (Re)sponses. (Co-I with Dr Rockey, Dr Njoroge, PI Dr Flowe) **£200,000**.
- 2019: **British Academy/Leverhulme Small Research Grant**. Understanding and assessing the reliability of memory evidence from children (PI, with Co-Is Dr Heather Flowe, Dr Sarah Beck) **£9,715**.
- 2019: **College Internationalisation Fund, University of Birmingham**. Examining memory reports from survivors of sexual violence in Nairobi **£1,000**.
- 2019: **Alumni Fund Grant, University of Birmingham**. Examining the reliability of children's eyewitness memory at Thinktank museum (PI, with Co-I Dr Heather Flowe) **£3,557**.
- 2019: **Institute for Global Innovation, University of Birmingham**. Empowering survivors to tell their stories: Using Technology and Innovation Towards Preventions and Response to Sexual Violence in Kenya (Co-I with Dr Caroline Bradbury-Jones, Prof Jessica Woodhams, Prof Julie Taylor, PI Dr Heather Flowe) **£9,539**.
- 2018: **Pump Priming Fund, University of Birmingham**. How should the police select fillers for identification parades? (PI) **£1,130**.
- 2018: **Networking Award, Women in Cognitive Science**. Eyewitness memory collaborations. **\$1,000**.
- 2018: **Small Grant, Experimental Psychological Society**. Understanding reject decisions from lineups (PI) **£3,500**.
- 2018: **Undergraduate Summer Scholarship, Experimental Psychology Society**. Testing theories of witness memory (with Dr Heather Flowe). **£2,000**.
- 2018: **College Internationalisation Fund, University of Birmingham**. Developing research on child memory reliability (PI, with Co-I Prof John Wixted) **£1,000**.

- 2018: **Pump Priming Fund, University of Birmingham.** 3D technology for eyewitnesses (PI) **£1,283.**
- 2018: **Alumni Fund Grant, University of Birmingham.** Science live: Are you a good eyewitness? Conducting witness research with children at Thinktank museum (PI, with Co-I Dr Heather Flowe) **£5,524.**
- 2018: **Engagement Grant. Centre for Crime, Justice, & Policing, University of Birmingham.** Assessing the reliability of children's memory (PI) **£450.**
- 2018: **Public Engagement Grant. PERCAT Career Development Fund, University of Birmingham.** Conducting witness research with children at public engagement events **£450.**
- 2017: **Laura and John Arnold Foundation.** Examining whether a novel 3D interactive lineup procedure can reduce own race bias (with PI Dr Heather Flowe and Co-I Dr Chris Meissner) **£228,000.**
- 2015: **Postgraduate Study Visits Awards, British Psychological Society.** Signal detection theory and eyewitness identification (to collaborate with Distinguished Prof John Wixted) **£600.**
- 2015: **Study Visit Grant, Experimental Psychology Society.** Applying signal detection theory to eyewitness memory (to collaborate with Distinguished Prof John Wixted) **£2,000.**
- 2013: **Postgraduate Research Fellowship, University of Warwick.** The influence of distinctive facial features on witness memory **£56,637.**

## **OTHER FUNDING**

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- 2019: **ESRC Impact Acceleration Account Mentoring Scheme.** University of Birmingham, UK. **£1,000.**
- 2017: **Student Travel Grant, Society for Applied Research in Memory and Cognition.** To attend SARMAC **\$700.**
- 2016: **Student Travel Grant.** Prof. Maylor, University of Warwick, UK. To attend ICOM **£1,000.**
- 2015: **International Conference Bursary, PsyPAG, UK.** To attend SARMAC **£300.**
- 2015: **Grindley Grant, Experimental Psychology Society, UK.** To attend SARMAC **£500.**
- 2010: **Alumni Fund Placement Grant, University of Bath, UK.** To visit The Sellenger Centre, Edith Cowan University, WA **£500.**
- 2010: **Study Grant, QMHS Old Girls' Fund, UK.** To visit The Sellenger Centre, Edith Cowan University, WA **£200.**

## **DISSEMINATION, CONFERENCES & INVITED TALKS**

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### **Conference Presentations**

- Colloff, M. F.,** Wixted, J. T., Wilson, B., Seale-Carlisle, T., & Flowe, H. (2019, May). *Using psychological theory to build a better police lineup.* Centre for Crime Justice & Policing Annual Conference, University of Birmingham, UK.
- Colloff, M.F.,** Smith, H. M. J., Seale-Carlisle, T. M., Meissner, C. A., Pande, B., Kujur, P., Parveen, N., Chandel, P., Singh, M. M., Pradhan, S., Parganiha, A., & Flowe, H. D. (2019, June). Active exploration of faces in police lineups increases discrimination accuracy for own- and other- race faces. Meeting of the Society for Applied Research in Memory and Cognition (*SARMAC*), Massachusetts, US.
- Colloff, M. F.,** Smith, H. M. J., Smith, L., Meissner, C. A., & Flowe, H. D. (2018, May). *Can a novel interactive lineup procedure attenuate the own-race bias?* Psychonomics International, Amsterdam, Netherlands.
- Colloff, M. F.,** & Wixted, J. T. (2017, August). *Why are lineups better than showups? A test of the filler siphoning vs. enhanced discriminability accounts.* British Psychological Society Cognitive Section Conference, Newcastle University, UK.
- Colloff, M. F.,** Smith, L., Karoğlu, N., Maltby, J., Smith, H., & Flowe, H. D. (2017, August). *Criminal identification viewed from a different angle: Can a novel 3D interactive lineup procedure improve accuracy?* British Psychological Society Cognitive Section Conference, Newcastle University, UK.
- Colloff, M. F.,** Wade, K. A., Wixted, J. T., & Maylor, E. A. (2017, January). *Eyewitness identification across the adult lifespan.* Meeting of the Society for Applied Research in Memory and Cognition (*SARMAC*), Sydney, Australia.
- Colloff, M. F.,** Wade, K. A., Wixted, J. T., & Maylor, E. A. (2016, December). *A signal-detection analysis of eyewitness identification across the adult lifespan.* Internal Seminar Series, Department of Psychology, University of Warwick, UK.
- Colloff, M. F.** (2016, September). *Blame it on the beard.* Three Minute Thesis (3MT®) National Final at the Vitae Researcher Development International Conference, Manchester, UK.
- Colloff, M. F.,** & Wade, K. A. (2016, July). *Enhancing identification performance in lineups for distinctive suspects.* In C. Dodson (Chair), *Eyewitness Identification: Confidence, Accuracy, and Justifications* conducted at the International Conference on Memory (ICOM6), Budapest, Hungary.
- Colloff, M. F.,** & Wixted, J. T. (2016, July). *Why are lineups better than showups?* Joint meeting of the Experimental Psychology Society (EPS) and Sociedad española de psicología experimental (SEPEX), St Anne's College,

University of Oxford, UK.

- Colloff, M. F.** (2016, June). *Blame it on the beard*. Three Minute Thesis (3MT®) Final, University of Warwick, UK.
- Colloff, M. F.** (2016, May). *Police suspects with distinctive facial features*. Flash Talk Competition, Department of Psychology, University of Warwick, UK.
- Colloff, M. F.**, Wade, K. A., & Strange, D. (2015, June). *Lineup composition: Accommodating suspects with distinctive features*. In N. Brewer (Chair), Eyewitness Identification's Young Scientists Symposium conducted at the meeting of the Society for Applied Research in Memory and Cognition (SARMAC), Victoria, BC, Canada.
- Colloff, M. F.**, & Wade, K. A. (2015, May). *Constructing lineups for suspects with distinctive facial features*. Internal Seminar Series, Department of Psychology, University of Warwick, UK.
- Colloff, M. F.**, & Wade, K. A. (2014, May). *A receiver operating characteristic analysis of lineup procedures for suspects with distinctive features*. Paper presented at Postgraduate Research Day, University of Warwick, UK.

### Invited Talks

- Colloff, M. F.** (2019, May). *Using psychological theory to enhance eyewitness identification*. National VIPER Bureau. Police Headquarters Wakefield, UK.
- Colloff, M. F.** (2017, November). *Enhancing eyewitness identification accuracy*. Forensic Seminar Series, School of Psychology, University of Birmingham, UK.
- Colloff, M. F.** (2015, January). *Eyewitness identification procedures*. Psychology & Law Interdisciplinary Seminar Series, Criminal Justice Centre, University of Warwick, UK.
- Colloff, M. F.** (2013, October). *The police response to rape complaints in Northamptonshire: Attitudes and opinions of police officers and victim support workers*. Report presented at Northamptonshire Force Headquarters, UK.

### Posters

- Colloff, M. F.**, & Wixted, J. T. (2018, November). *Why are lineups better than showups? A test of the filler siphoning vs. enhanced discriminability accounts*. 59<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Psychonomic Society, New Orleans, US.
- Colloff, M. F.**, Meissner, C. A., Smith, L., & Flowe, H. D. (2018, March). *Can a novel interactive lineup procedure attenuate the own race bias?* Poster presented at the Annual Conference of the American Psychology-Law Society, Tennessee, US.
- Colloff, M. F.**, Meissner, C. A., Smith, L., & Flowe, H. D. (2018, April). *Can a novel interactive lineup procedure attenuate the own race bias?* Poster presented at the meeting of the Experimental Psychology Society (EPS), University of Leicester, UK.
- Colloff, M. F.**, Smith, L., Karoğlu, N., Maltby, J., Smith, H., & Flowe, H. D. (2017, August). *Criminal identification viewed from a different angle: Can a novel 3D interactive lineup procedure improve accuracy?* Poster presented at Face Recognition at its Best, London, UK.
- Colloff, M. F.**, & Wade, K. A. (2017, January). *Replicating distinctive features in police lineups*. Poster presented at the meeting of the Society for Applied Research in Memory and Cognition (SARMAC), Sydney, Australia.
- Colloff, M. F.**, & Wade, K. A. (2016, July). *How should the police replicate a suspect's distinctive feature across foils?* Poster presented at the International Conference on Memory (ICOM6), Budapest, Hungary.
- Colloff, M. F.**, & Wade, K. A. (2015, June). *Constructing police lineups for suspects with distinctive facial features*. Poster presented at the Postgraduate Research Showcase, University of Warwick, UK.
- Colloff, M. F.**, & Wade, K. A. (2015, June). *Presenting suspects with distinctive facial features in lineups*. Poster presented at the Postgraduate Research Day, Department of Psychology, University of Warwick, UK.
- Colloff, M. F.**, & Wade, K. A. (2015, May). *Presenting suspects with distinctive facial features in lineups*. Poster presented at the inaugural International Convention of Psychological Science (ICPS), Amsterdam, The Netherlands.
- Scott, A. J., Sheridan, L., **Colloff, M. F.**, McElhone, R. L., & Groves, J. E. (2011, June). *International perceptions of stalking*. Poster presented at the BPS DFP Annual Conference, Portsmouth, UK.
- Kraemer, S., Groves, J. E., **Colloff, M. F.**, McElhone, R. L. (2011). *Problems & fears of prisoners returning to the community*. Poster presented at the Annual Research Day, Edith Cowan University, WA.

## TEACHING

### Postgraduate

- Assessment (Offenders and Victims)**, University of Birmingham. Module lead. Forensic Psychology Doctorate.
- Research supervisor for six trainees**, University of Birmingham. Forensic Psychology Doctorate.
- Research methods**, University of Birmingham. Forensic Psychology Doctorate.

### Undergraduate

**Forensic Psychology**, University of Birmingham. Lectures.

**Psychology and the Law**, University of Warwick. Lectures, reading groups, & assessment.

**Research Methods in Psychology**, University of Warwick. Lectures & research project supervisor

**Psychology in Context**, University of Warwick. Memory seminars.

**Perception, Planning & Action**, University of Warwick. Cognitive neuroscience seminars.

### Outreach

**Research in the heart of Brum**. Eyewitness memory demonstrations.

**Thinktank Museum, Birmingham**. Interactive eyewitness exhibit for children.

**IGGY**. "Face Recognition". Video lecture series for gifted and talented school students.

**University of Warwick**. Research demonstrations for prospective students.

**Alcester Grammar School**. Research demonstrations.

**Solihull Sixth Form**. "Distinctive Features and Memory". A-Level research workshops.

### IMPACT WORK & RESEARCH IN THE MEDIA

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The Parliamentary Office of Science and Technology (2019). *Improving Witness Testimony*. POST PN 607. Retrieved from <https://researchbriefings.parliament.uk/ResearchBriefing/Summary/POST-PN-0607> (Consulted expert, external reviewer, and my research is cited within).

Wells, G., Kovera, M. B., Douglass, A. B., Brewer, N., Meissner, C., & Wixted, J. T. (under review). *Policy and Procedure Recommendations for the Collection and Preservation of Eyewitness Identification Evidence*. American Psychology-Law Society White Paper. (My research is cited within).

Flowe, H. D. & Colloff, M. F. (2018). Alcohol and Sexual Offenses: Is testimony less accurate if the complainant was intoxicated during the offense? *Garda Review*.

Fair distinction. *Police Professional*, August 2016. (An article about our distinctive feature research).

Witnesses confuse innocent and guilty suspects with 'unfair' lineups. *Association for Psychological Science' ScienceBlog; PsyPost; MedicalXpress*, July 2016. (Print: News reports about our distinctive feature research).

Tattoo Removal: Case Shines Light On Cop Photoshopping, *Law360*, August 2019. (Print: Asked for comment on case).

The police photoshopped his mug shot for a lineup. He's not the only one, *The New York Times*, August 2019. (Print: Consulted expert and our distinctive feature research is cited within).

### PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

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2018: **Open Science Seminar Co-Ordinator**. School of Psychology, University of Birmingham, UK.

2018: **Assignments Tutor (Forensic Psychology Doctorate)**. University of Birmingham, UK.

2016–2017: **Assistant to the Board and Executive Director**. The Society for Applied Research in Memory and Cognition (*SARMAC*).

2015–2017: **Administration & Communications Assistant**. The Centre for Operational Police Research (COPR), University of Warwick, UK.

2015–2016: **Journal Manager**. Applied Cognitive Psychology (Wiley).

### PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

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American Psychology-Law Society; Association for Psychological Science; Division of Cognitive Psychology, British Psychological Society; Psychonomics; Society for Applied Research in Memory and Cognition; Women in Cognitive Science.