

Jennifer MacCormack, PhD

Principal Investigator, Virginia Affect and Interoception Lab (VAIL)
Assistant Professor, Social Psychology
Department of Psychology, University of Virginia

This brief infographic is provided to help applicants learn about the kinds of research and methodological training I can provide, current research areas of focus in the lab, and my mentorship style.

Research Areas

• Emotion • Stress • Wellbeing • Interoception • Neurobiology of arousal • Role of metabolism and inflammation in social affective processes • Aging and lifespan development • Social affective neuroscience •

Methods Expertise

• Social cognitive experimental designs • Affect inductions and measurement • Experience sampling • Multimodal interoception assessments • Peripheral psychophysiology (e.g., cardiac, respiratory, gastric, hormonal measures) • Psychopharmacology (e.g., randomized control trials) • Psychoneuroimmunology • Human neuroimaging (structural, functional) • Advanced quantitative methods and modeling techniques •

New Projects & Aims

• Identify the neurobiological and interoceptive pathways by which metabolic states can impact emotion, stress reactivity, perceptions of risk and effort, and social dynamics • Understand the physiological, neural, and cognitive components underlying interoceptive aging •

Mentorship Style

• Tailored to students as whole individuals • View students as junior colleagues • Passionate about scientific discoveries, the research process, and mentorship • Organized • Respectful and supportive • Transparent, warm communication • Rigorous, careful thinking • Open to feedback •