

# My Career in Science

Anna Wilkinson



COLD-BLOODED  
COGNITION LAB



UNIVERSITY OF  
LINCOLN

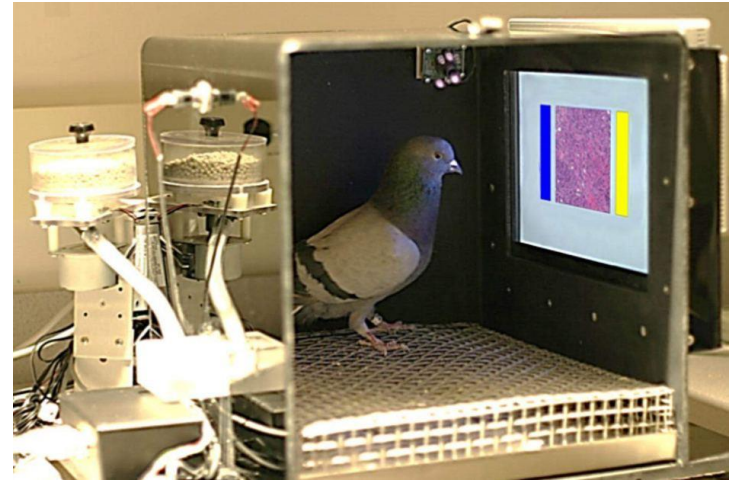






# Undergraduate Degree

- BSc Psychology
- Gathered research experience
  - Rat spatial memory
  - Gibbon research
  - Rat learning
  - Pigeon cognition



# During my degree

- BSc Psychology



*Journal of Experimental Psychology:  
Animal Behavior Processes*  
2004, Vol. 30, No. 4, 317-324

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0097-7403/04/\$12.00 DOI: 10.1037/0097-7403.30.4.317

## Assessments of Changes in the Effective Salience of Stimulus Elements as a Result of Stimulus Preexposure

C. A. J. Blair, Anna Wilkinson, and Geoffrey Hall  
University of York

Rats received exposure to 3 flavor compounds, AX and BX, presented in alternation, and CX, presented on a separate block of trials. The hypothesis that this treatment would leave B effectively more salient than C was tested in 3 ways. Experiment 1 showed that the unconditioned response evoked by B was stronger than that evoked by C. Experiment 2 showed that B was more effective than C when used as a reinforcer in a sensory preconditioning procedure. Experiment 3 showed that B was learned about more readily than C as a conditioned stimulus in flavor aversion conditioning. Alternating preexposure to 2 similar stimuli may protect their distinctive features from the loss of salience normally produced by nonreinforced exposure to a stimulus.

- Rat learning
- Pigeon cognition

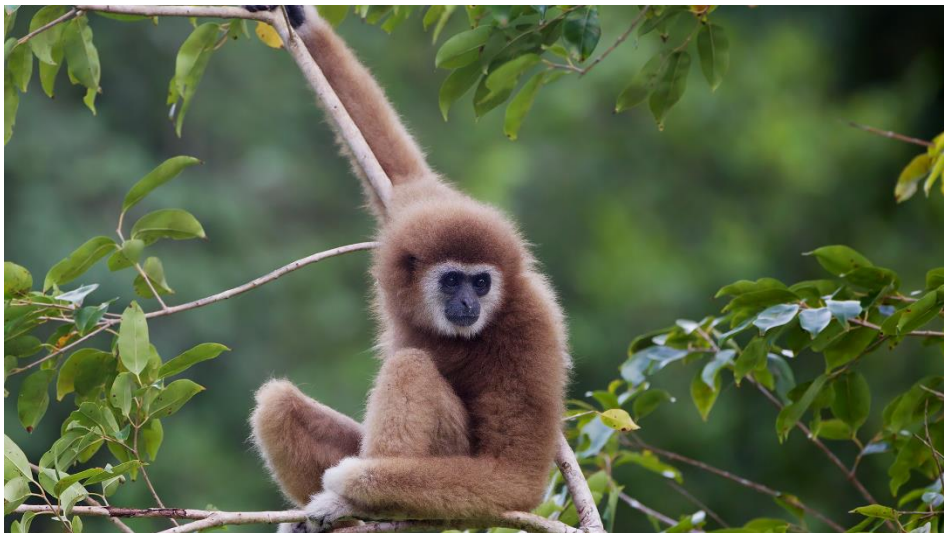




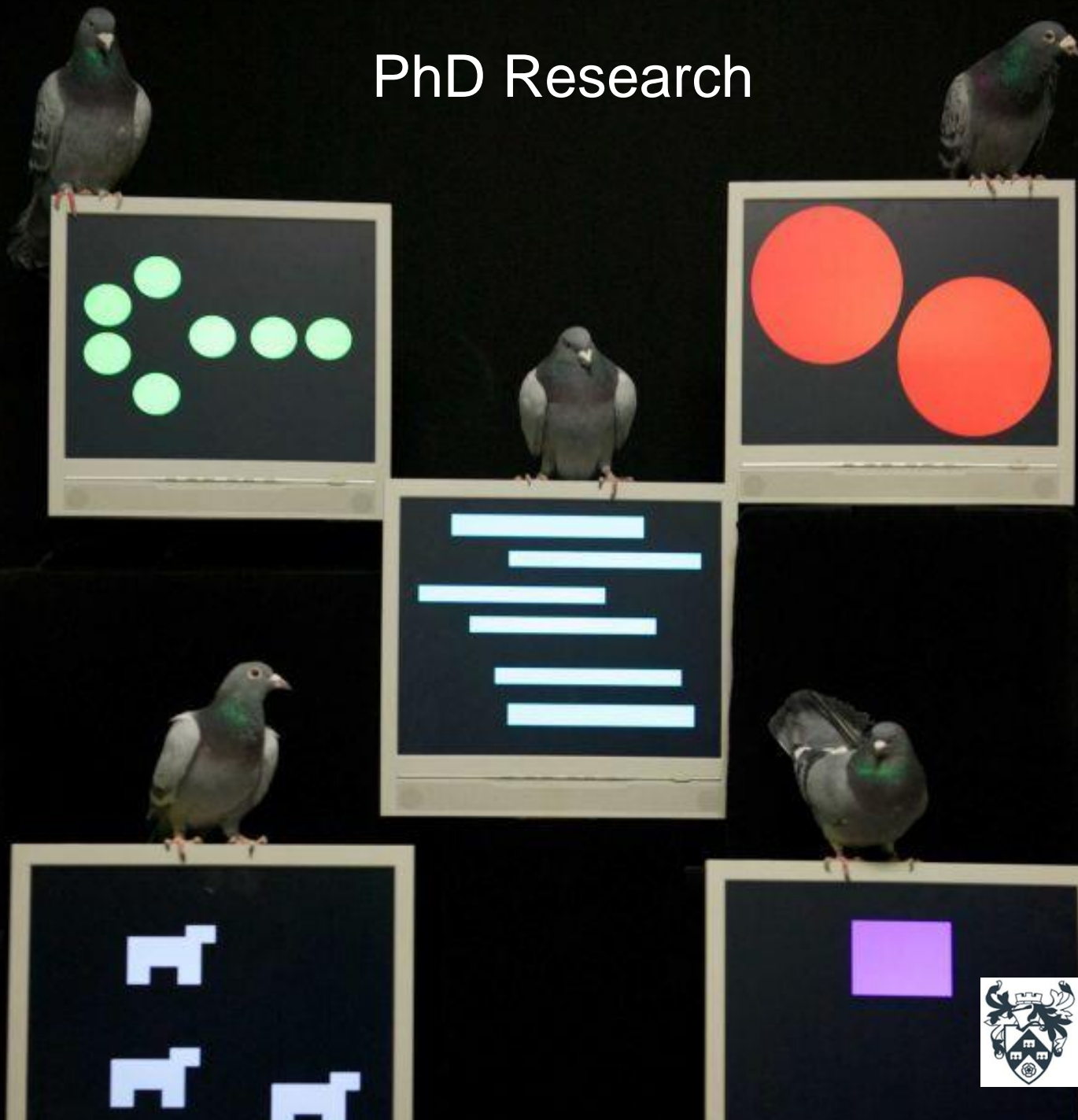
# Field research



University of  
St Andrews



# PhD Research



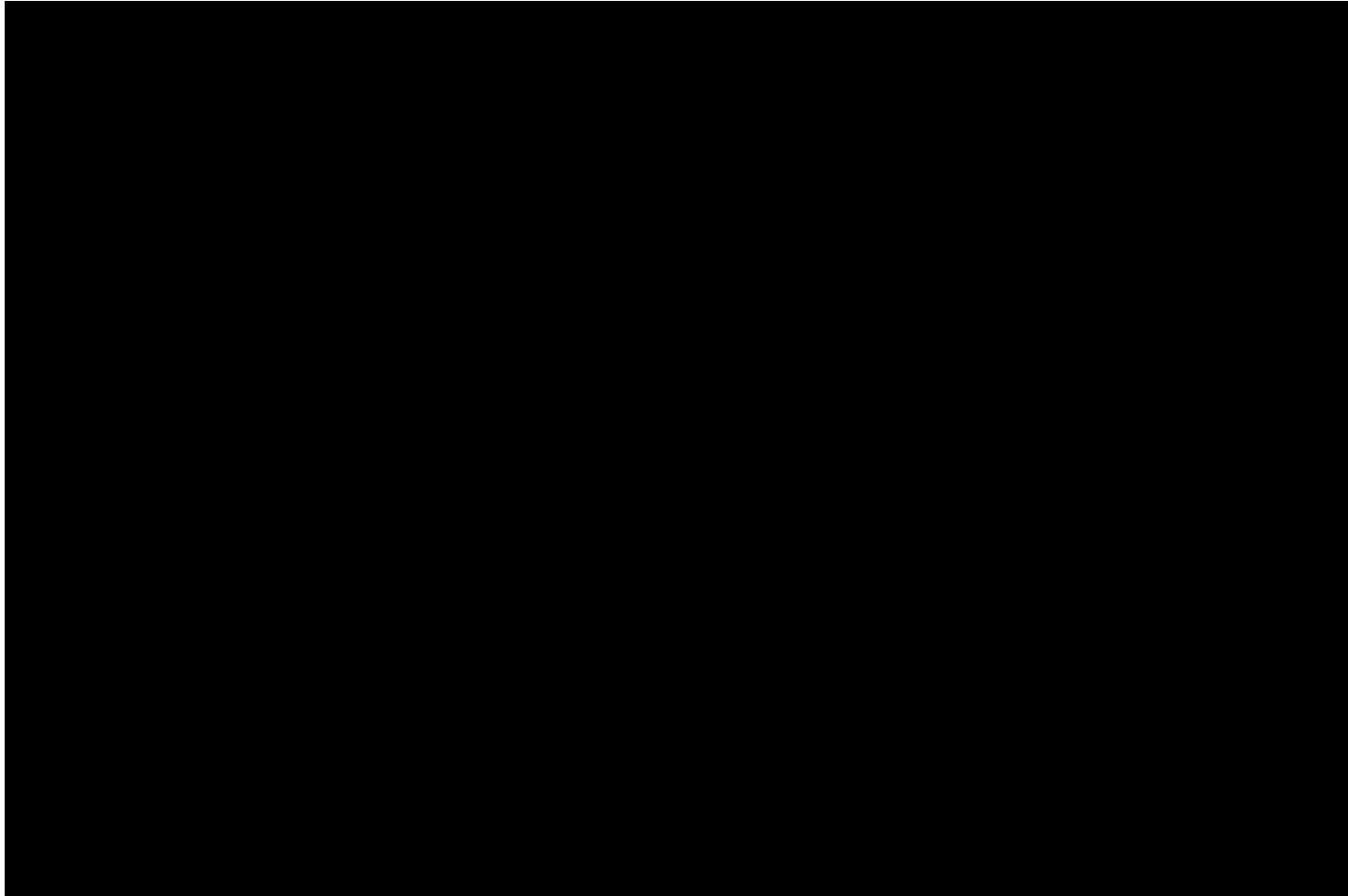
UNIVERSITY  
*of York*

# PhD teaching

- I did a lot....
  - Tutorials
  - Large group teaching
  - Marking
  - Student supervision
- Invaluable experience
- Learn a lot
- Give you ideas



# Moses





# Things to do whilst a PhD student

- Cool research
  - Publications
- Conferences
  - Network
- Small pots of funding
  - Conference, study visit, summer student
- Look to the future
- Enjoy it!

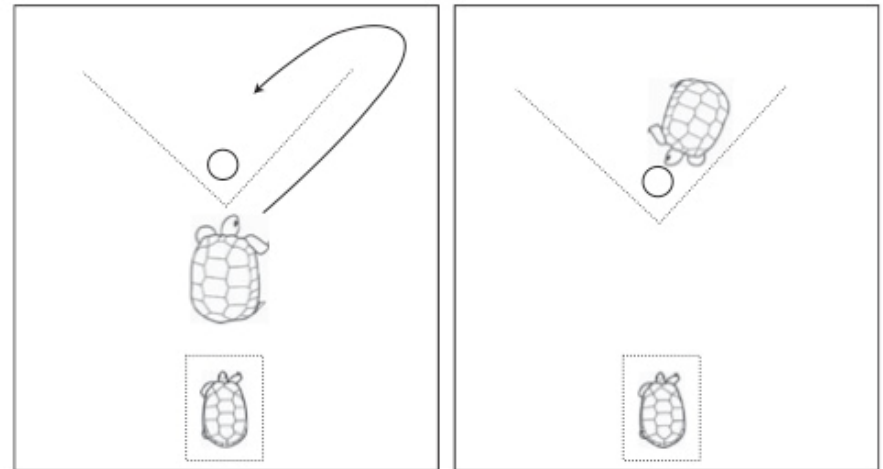
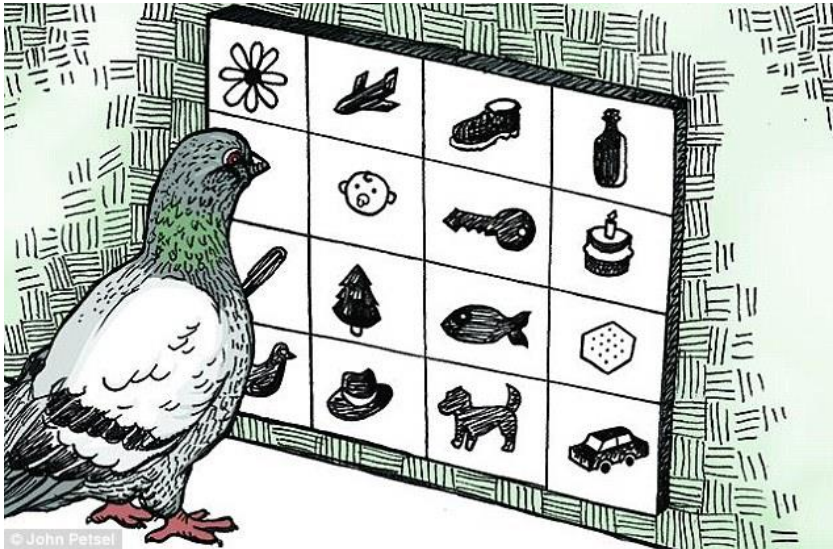


# Getting a postdoc



# Post doc

- Categorisation and concept formation
- Cold-blooded cognition





# Things to try to do in a postdoc

- Cool research
- Publish
- Bring in money
- Supervise research students
- Teaching experience
- Distinguish yourself from your supervisor
  - Develop your own research ideas



# Lectureship





# Lectureship





# Lectureship

- Research

- Maintain research profile
- Grow new areas



- Teaching

- Write and deliver lectures in a variety of areas
- Run modules



- Admin

- Forms & Paperwork
- Meetings
- Emails



# Research Areas

- **Animal Cognition**

- Understanding the processes involved in gaining, retaining and using information.



- **Applied Animal Cognition**

- Use of cognitive approaches to better improve performance of working animals.



- **Reptile Welfare**

- Reptiles are becoming increasingly popular as pets



# People matter





# People matter



# So do places

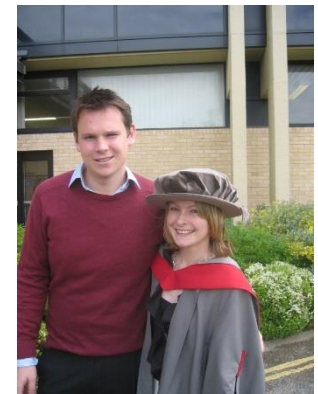


# Conclusion

- Make yourself different
- Make yourself interesting
- Embrace opportunity
- Be good to work with

# Conclusion

- Make yourself different
- Make yourself interesting
- Embrace opportunity
- Be good to work with
- Don't forget those that matter to you
- Don't push yourself too much





# Thanks

