

# Curriculum Vitae

## Seema Lisa Clifasefi, Ph.D.

### Personal Data

Address: University of Washington  
Addictive Behaviors Research Center  
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### Education

PhD Psychology, Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand  
(May 2003)  
*Dissertation:* The effects of placebos on eyewitness  
memory distortions  
*Advisors:* Maryanne Garry, David Harper

BS Psychology (with distinction), University of Washington, 1995.  
*Undergraduate Advisor:* Elizabeth F. Loftus

### Research interests

Memory, memory distortion, placebo effects, visual cognition, thought suppression, perceptual processes, psychosocial models of addiction, state-dependent learning

### Positions Held

Year	Position
2003-present	<b>Senior Postdoctoral Fellow</b> , Addictive Behaviors Research Center, Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences/Department of Psychology, University of Washington, Seattle, USA.
2001-2003	<b>Teaching Assistant</b> , <i>Popular Psychology</i> (PSYC 101), Department of Psychology, Victoria University of Wellington, Wellington New Zealand.
2001-2002	<b>Guest Lecturer</b> , <i>Introductory Psychology</i> (PSYC 122), Department of Psychology, Victoria University of Wellington, Wellington New Zealand.
1999 –2001	<b>Teaching Assistant</b> , <i>Memory &amp; Cognition</i> (PSYC 322), Department of Psychology, Victoria University of Wellington, Wellington New Zealand.
1998-2000	<b>Research Officer</b> , <i>Royal New Zealand Police College</i> , Wellington New Zealand.

### **Positions Held (Continued...)**

- 1997**                      **Research Assistant**, *Criminal Justice & Behavior Research Center*, Department of Psychology, Victoria University of Wellington, Wellington New Zealand.
- 1997**                      **Teaching Assistant**, *Learning (PSYC 222)*, Department of Psychology, Victoria University of Wellington, Wellington New Zealand.
- 1993-1995**                **Research Assistant**, Department of Psychology, University of Washington, Seattle.

### **Grants**

- PI*. National Research Service Award (NRSA-F32). Postdoctoral Fellowship awarded by the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse And Alcoholism (NIAAA), 2005-2006. "The effects of alcohol and alcohol placebos on eyewitness memory distortions, \$48,296.
- Co-PI*. Alcohol and Drug Abuse Institute (ADAI), UW, 2004 - 2006. "The effects of alcohol and alcohol placebos on eyewitness memory distortions," \$19,649.73.
- Consultant*. The Royal Society of New Zealand, Marsden Fund, Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand, 2005-2008, "The role of placebo effects in enhancing cognitive functioning and preventing memory errors," \$500,000.

### **Publications**

#### **Research Papers**

- Assefi (Clifasefi), S.L.**, & Garry, M. (2003). Absolut® memory distortions: Alcohol placebos affect the misinformation effect. *Psychological Science*, 14, 77-80.
- Lonczak, H., **Clifasefi, S.L.**, Marlatt, G.A., & Blume, A. & Donovan, D. M. (2005). Religious coping and psychological functioning. *Mental Health, Religion & Culture*, 1-22.
- Clifasefi, S.L.**, Takarangi, M.K.T, & Bergman, J.S. (in press). Blind drunk: The effects of alcohol on inattentional blindness. *Applied Cognitive Psychology*.

#### **Book Chapters (in press)**

- Clifasefi, S.L.**, Garry, M. & Loftus, E.F. Setting the Record (or Video Camera) Straight on Memory: The video camera model of memory and other memory myths. To appear in Della Sala, S. (Ed.). *Mind myths II: exploring popular assumptions about the mind and brain*, Chichester, UK: Wiley.
- Strange, D., **Clifasefi, S.L.**, & Garry, M. (in press). False Memories. To appear in M. Garry & H. Hayne (Eds). *Retrospection: Elizabeth Loftus and her contributions to science, law and academic freedom*. Hillsdale NJ: Lawrence Erlbaum Associates.

### **Manuscripts under review**

**Clifasefi, S.L.**, Garry, M., Harper, D., Sharman, S.J., & Sutherland, R., (under review). Psychotropic placebos create resistance to the misinformation effect. *Psychonomic Bulletin & Review*.

### **Documents produced for government agencies**

Garry, M., Frame, S. & **Assefi (Clifasefi), S.L.** (1997). Recovered/Repressed memories. Document prepared for the New Zealand Law Commission.

### **Manuscripts in preparation**

**Clifasefi, S.L.**, Marlatt, G.A., Garry, M., Ostafin, B. & Fernandez, A. (invited manuscript). The distorted road to addiction: the role of memory distortion research in the study of addiction. *Addiction Research & Theory*.

Sharman, S.J., **Clifasefi, S.L.**, Barnier A., & Mitchell, C. (manuscript in preparation). The effects of context on retrieval induced forgetting.

Sharman, S.J., Wade, K.A., **Clifasefi, S.L.**, Gerrie, M. & Garry, M. (manuscript in preparation). Memory errors. *Review of General Psychology*.

### **Editorial Consultation**

The American Journal of Psychology (2005)

Applied Cognitive Psychology (2005)

Behavior Research and Therapy (2003).

Cognition and Emotion (2003) Special Issue of *Emotional Memory Failures*.

### **Papers Presented at International, National and Regional Conferences**

**Clifasefi, S.L.**, Takarangi, M.K.T, & Bergman, J.S. (November, 2005). Blind drunk: The effects of alcohol on inattentional blindness. Poster presented at the NIAAA supported NRSA Trainee workshop, Indianapolis.

**Clifasefi, S.L.**, Takarangi, M.K.T, & Bergman, J.S. (May, 2005). Blind drunk: The effects of alcohol on inattentional blindness. Poster presented at the 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention of the American Psychological Society, Los Angeles, CA.

**Clifasefi, S.L.**, Takarangi, M.K.T, & Bergman, J.S. (January, 2005). Blind drunk: The effects of alcohol on inattentional blindness. Paper presented at the 6<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Society for Applied Research in Memory & Cognition (SARMAC), Wellington, New Zealand.

Garry, M. & **Clifasefi, S.L.** (April, 2004). How to improve your memory using a common kitchen product. Paper presented at the 17<sup>th</sup> International Symposium on the Forensic Sciences, Wellington, New Zealand.

**Clifasefi, S.L.** (November, 2003). The effects of placebos on eyewitness memory distortions. Poster presented at the NIAAA supported NRSA Trainee workshop, Indianapolis.

**Clifasefi, S.L.** (June, 2003). Na(HCO)<sub>3</sub> + H<sub>2</sub>O: The memory distortion cure?  
Poster presented at the 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention of the American Psychological Society, Atlanta.

**Assefi (Clifasefi), S.L.** (August, 2002). Drug fiction: Cognitive enhancing pseudo-drugs create resistance to misleading suggestions. Paper presented at the meeting of the New Zealand Psychological Society, Christchurch, New Zealand.

**Assefi (Clifasefi), S.L.**, Garry, M & Harper, D. (July, 2001). Enhancement or expectancies? The effects of Ginkgo Biloba on memory and memory distortions. Paper presented at the 3<sup>rd</sup> International Conference on Memory, Valencia, Spain.

**Assefi (Clifasefi), S.L.**, Garry, M & Harper, D. (June, 2001). Enhancement, expectancy or distortion? The effects of Ginkgo Biloba on memory. Poster presented at the 13<sup>th</sup> annual meeting of the American Psychological Society, Toronto, Canada.

**Assefi (Clifasefi), S.L.**, Garry, M & Harper, D. (June, 2001). Enhancement, expectancy or distortion? The effects of Ginkgo Biloba on memory. Paper presented at the 4<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Society for Applied Research in Memory and Cognition, Kingston, Ontario, Canada

**Assefi (Clifasefi), S.L.** & Garry, M. (July, 1999). Absolut® Memory Distortion. Paper presented at the 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the Society for Applied Research in Memory & Cognition (SARMAC), Boulder.

**Assefi (Clifasefi), S.L.** & Garry, M. (August, 1998). Alcohol placebos and memory distortions. Paper presented at the meeting of the New Zealand Psychological Society, Wellington, New Zealand.

**Assefi (Clifasefi), S.L.** & Garry, M. (May, 1998). Alcohol placebos and memory distortions. Paper presented at the 10<sup>th</sup> meeting of the American Psychological Society, Washington DC.

## **Media**

### ***Alcohol placebos and memory distortions***

- "Gimmish another tonic," *Capital Times*, Wellington, New Zealand, December 18, 2002
- "'Drunk' on tonic water," *Dominion Post*, New Zealand, December 21, 2002
- *BBC Radio interview*, Good Morning Wales, January 8, 2003
- *4BC Radio interview*, Brisbane, Australia January 8, 2003
- *Radio 3 AW interview*, Melbourne, Australia, January 8, 2003
- "Even 'vodka-free' vodka and tonics impair memory," January 3, 2003 *picked up by 201 online media outlets including Reuters, Yahoo news, Stanford University Medical Center Library, and many local newspapers/radio stations/web sites*

### Honors and Awards

- American Psychological Society (APS) Travel Award, 2001.
- Victoria University of Wellington Graduate Award, 1997

### Professional Affiliations

- American Psychological Society
- American Psychological Association
- Society for Applied Research in Memory and Cognition
- New Zealand Psychological Society
- Research Society on Alcoholism

### Professional Service

- American Psychological Society Student Caucus (APSSC), *Past President*, 2003-2004
- American Psychological Society Student Caucus (APSSC), *President*, 2002-2003
- American Psychological Society Student Caucus (APSSC), *Travel Award and Volunteer Coordinator*, 2001-2002

### University community service

- Faculty of Science Committee on Graduate Supervision (Student Representative from Psychology Department), 2000

### General Community Service

<b>Year</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Description</b>
<b>2001-2002</b>	<b><i>Program Coordinator, Choices Wellington, Inc.</i></b> Wellington, New Zealand	Mentoring program for 13-17 year old "high risk" adolescents
<b>2000-2001</b>	<b><i>Supervisor, Youthline Wellington Inc.,</i></b> Wellington, New Zealand	Supervised telephone counselors at a youth crisis hotline
<b>1998-2000</b>	<b><i>Crisis Telephone Counselor, Youthline Wellington Inc.,</i></b> Wellington, New Zealand	Provided telephone counseling support for crisis callers