The state of the body has profound influences on cognition. For example, hungry rats show increased vigour when responding to non-food rewards, an example of a transference of bodily state to instrumental behaviour. In humans, there is substantial overlap between a bodily state (such as hunger) and an affective state (such as anger)—thus the colloquialism ‘hangry’.

This PhD will focus on neural and bodily encoding of affective and bodily states, potentially using multivariate approaches (e.g., M/EEG in collaboration with Dr Alex Woolgar) and/or fMRI, as well as measurements of peripheral physiology (in collaboration with Dr Edwin Dalmaijer). Additional projects could explore encoding/decoding of this overlap in patients with mental health conditions (in collaboration with Dr Tim Dalgleish) and pharmacological studies using peripherally-acting drugs.