

Welcome to the 35th Annual Western Pennsylvania Undergraduate Psychology Conference

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35th Annual Western Pennsylvania Undergraduate Psychology Conference

Conference Schedule

<u>Time</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Location</u>
8:00-9:00	Registration	HAL Atrium
8:00-10:00	Breakfast	HAL Atrium
8:30-9:50	Poster Session I	Rooms 208, 210, 212
10:00-11:30	Paper Sessions	
	One: Clinical & Counseling; Gender & Culture	Room 110
	Two: Social & Personality; Gender & Culture	Room 114
	Three: Social & Personality	Room 116
	Four: Cognition & Perception	Room 214
	Five: Developmental; School & Sports	Room 216
11:30-12:30	Keynote Address:	Sticht Lecture Hall Room 108
	<i>Ankle-Deep: Rethinking Morality in Social Cognition</i> Dr. Kevin Reimer	
12:30-1:30	– Lunch	HICKS Cafeteria
1:45-2:45	– Paper Session II	Rooms 208, 210, 212

All paper and poster sessions take place in the Hall of Arts and Letters (HAL).

Keynote Speaker: Dr. Kevin S. Reimer

Azusa Pacific University

Kevin S. Reimer serves as professor of psychology at Azusa Pacific University and research faculty in cognitive developmental psychology in the Graduate School of Psychology at Fuller Theological Seminary. Reimer graduated in biological sciences (physiological ecology) from the University of California at Davis, earned a M.Div. at Regent College in Vancouver, Canada, and took a Ph.D. in human development/family studies with highest honors from the Fuller Graduate School of Psychology in 2001. He completed a post-doctoral fellowship at the University of British Columbia where he studied moral personality—looking at altruism in L’Arche assistants working with the developmentally disabled.

From 2003-2005 he was a research fellow at the University of Oxford where he conducted research on virtue in moral functioning with an emphasis on social cognition. He has received research support from the United States Department of Justice, the Metanexus Institute/John Templeton Foundation, the Fetzer Institute, the Institute for Research on Unlimited Love, and Azusa Pacific University. His empirical work on moral identity and social cognition makes use of computational knowledge representation models including latent semantic analysis (LSA; <http://lsa.colorado.edu>).

He is currently collaborating with colleagues at the California Institute of Technology, Fuller, and Scripps College to adapt this approach to the study of moral functioning in social and developmental neuroscience. Reimer has contributed a number of articles to academic journals and chapters to volumes of collected works. His first book, *The Reciprocating Self*, was published in 2005. He is currently completing a second book entitled *A Peaceable Psychology*. He recently received the Stanford Fellowship in Ethics and Values at Azusa Pacific University to write a third book on altruistic love in L’Arche.

Dr. Reimer is a passionate cheerleader for his two daughters, Naomi and Danielle. He is married to Lynn, a middle-school math and science teacher. Together they make their home in the Mother Lode region of the Sierra Nevada mountain range not far from Yosemite National Park in California. He can sometimes be found ankle deep in coldwater Sierra streams, fly-fishing for the elusive rainbow trout.

Poster Session 1

(Gender/Culture)

1. Japanese Teachers' Attitudes Toward Recent Educational Reforms

Kimberly Sick (Dr. Cheryl Drout)
SUNY Fredonia

This study examined the attitudes of Japanese teachers toward recent educational reforms in Japan adopted during the past 5 years. Surveys were distributed to male and female elementary and middle school teachers from one prefecture on Honshu island. Teachers were asked to evaluate the impact of the shortening of the Japanese school week and to rate the effectiveness of specific reforms including integrated studies and restructuring of the curriculum. Some differences between elementary and middle school teachers were found. Perceptions also varied with gender and years of experience

2. Mental Rotation Ability of College Students

Patrick Keane (Dr. Pettijohn)
Mercyhurst

The concept of mental rotation tasks, finding differences in gender abilities, time playing video games, and practice time, was taken from the ideas of Shepard and Metzler's study. The hypothesis states that those who play video games, are male, and practice will have a higher pre-test score and final score compared to those who are female, do not practice, and do not have past video game experience. After the pre-test, half of the group, randomly sampled, is told to practice for three sessions and the other does not to compare results.

3. Perceptions of Gender Difference Among College Students

Katharine Hodder, Thomas Hershberger, Margaret Stubbs, and Cadance Hall
Chatham

Hyde (2005) reports, in a meta-analysis, that there are few significant gender differences between males and females and puts forth the gender similarities hypothesis. This study investigated perceptions of gender differences in 71 college-aged women. The participants were provided with a list of 61 characteristics and asked to indicate gender superiority and the degree of difference. Results indicated that females were underrated on twenty characteristics and overrated on twenty-nine characteristics, when compared to Hyde's results.

4. A Feminist Approach to the Role of Sex and Gender Identification in Narcissistic Entitlement in the Classroom

Emily Kachmar
Allegheny

This study demonstrated the differences in entitled behavior in the classroom between males and females, and among masculine, feminine, androgynous, and undifferentiated gender identities. Results indicated that entitled behavior differed across sex, such that males were more entitled

than females. Results also indicated that masculine and androgynous participants were more entitled in the classroom than feminine and undifferentiated participants.

5. Stigma Attached to Transgender Identity and its Diagnosis: Affects on Self-Esteem

Eva J. Stulc (Dr. Stubbs)
Chatham

Diagnosing someone with a mental disorder often serves as a foundation for the development of social stigmas. Stigmas are labels that frequently identify people as different or defective. Often, being labeled as different and defective generates feelings of displeasure with oneself; possibly lowering esteem. The primary purpose of this research is to explore the stigma that may be related to a diagnosis of Gender Identity Disorder (GID) and to investigate the perceived relationship between self-esteem and stigma in people who have a sexual identity outside of the perceived norm.

6. Individual Attitudes Related To Actors in Love Scenes

Briana Grimes, Kerry Lope
Penn State Behrend

This study analyzed the attitudes that individuals possess about non-white actors portrayed in love scenes. Previous research has shown that individuals identify and acquire higher memory recognition towards faces of their own race. We predicted that individuals will prefer viewing love scenes consistent with their own race and will feel uncomfortable viewing interracial love scenes. We also predicted that females and individuals with less sexual experience will view scenes as less intimate. This research is useful because it can be applied to understand and diminish social prejudices.

7. Perceptions of Aggressive Driving by Male and Female Drivers

Victoria Moran (Dr. Gary Levine)
Edinboro University

The present study examined whether males or females would be given a harsher punishment based on an aggressive driving scenario. Participants were given a scenario about an aggressive driver who was either male or female. After reading the scenario, participants were asked what the punishment should be for the driver and to rate the drivers' aggressiveness. No differences were found in punishment, driving ability, and several other traits between the male or female driver. However, the female driver's femininity was rated lower than the male driver's masculinity rating.

8. The Impact of Self-Objectification on Women's Disordered Eating Attitudes and Their Involvement in Satisfying Relationships

Emily Magee
Chatham College

The influence of self-objectification and disordered eating attitudes on women's involvement in satisfying relationships was evaluated within a larger study of women's eating attitudes. Fifty-six

female college students were given three questionnaires: The Objectified Body Consciousness Scale (OBC), the Eating Disorder Inventory-3 (EDI-3), and the Relationship Assessment Scale (RAS). It was predicted that high objectified body consciousness would be related to eating disorder tendencies and relationship satisfaction.

9. Implicit Stereotyping and Homosexuality

Brittany Rosko (Dr. Sandra Webster)
Westminster College

The most important contribution to this study is Blair and Banaji (1996) in their study of on automatic and control processes and stereotype priming. Much of this study follows their outline by demonstrate that stereotypes may influence responses without participants awareness of that influence. The hypothesis is that individuals with strong homosexual stereotypes will have a slower reaction time to a prime word and the corresponding male or female name. The PEAK program measures the reaction times between the prime (name male or female) and response (hitting keys one or two).

10. Self-Objectification and Contraceptive Choice

Julie Harris (Dr. Stubbs)
Chatham College

Following research showing a positive correlation between self-objectification and negative attitudes of menstruation, this research focus on the relationship between self-objectification and contraceptive choice. The hypothesis is that as a woman objectifies herself more she will begin to use methods of contraception that require less personal touching. Data on 140 college females was obtained.

11. Facial Features: Do They Affect Hiring for Sex-Segregated Jobs?

Brandi Murray, Gerard Barron
Mercyhurst

Here has been extensive research on gender stereotyping in the workplace showing that male and female stereotyping does exist, but little research has been done on the effects of masculine and feminine facial features and their effect on hiring for sex-segregated jobs. This study is designed to test the hypothesis that those with masculine facial features will be hired more often for a typical male job and those with feminine facial features will be hired more often for the typical female job.

12. Social Anxiety in College Students: Avoidance and Response Bias in Instant Messaging

Jessica Yoos, JW P. Heuchert, Aimee Knupsky
Allegheny College

Instant messaging is an integral part of communication for young adults. It is problematic because it lacks prosodic factors found in spoken language. The purpose of this study was to examine whether higher anxiety is related to: preferring IM to face-to-face communication, and rating ambiguous instant messages more negatively. IM usage and anxiety levels were assessed

using an online survey. The results indicated no relationship between anxiety and rating ambiguous IMs negatively. Surprisingly, it was found that higher anxiety levels were related to preferring face-to-face communication to IM.

(Cognition/Perception)

13. The Effects of Background Music on Studying

Alicia Dunbar, Bethany Hanus
Penn State Behrend

This study evaluated the effect of background music on students' ability to remember information in a simulated study situation. Participants from Penn State Behrend completed a reading discourse task while being exposed to one of five normed music conditions. Researchers also assessed working memory capacity and personality. Results showed no statistical difference for reading discourse scores between conditions, working memory capacity, gender, typical study habits. An interaction of personality was significant in that extroverts scored higher during reading discourse than introverts.

14. The Relationship between Thought Suppression and Emotional Intelligence

Lauren Gilmore, Melissa Shrout
Penn State Behrend

This study expected to find a relationship between thought suppression, fluid intelligence, emotional intelligence and working memory capacity because previous research has done so (Brewin & Beaton, 2002) (Bastian, Burns, & Nettlebeck, 2005). Also, it was expected that thought suppression and emotional intelligence would correlate. However, the statistical analysis did not support these hypotheses. Moreover, there was no support for the relationships found by previous research. This could be due to an insufficient number of participants which resulted in a low statistical power.

15. Music and its Influence on Memory and Cognition

Brittany Murray (Dr. Pettijohn)
Westminster College

The influence of music on memory and learning was examined among college students. The students' ability to recall information with or without music was determined by a questionnaire that was administered following the reading of an excerpt on American Sign Language. The results are expected to indicate that music for both environments score the highest, followed by silence for both, and lastly by music for only the reading condition. The results are similar to other studies based on music and memory. They also give insight as to what works for the majority and what does not.

16. Can Pictures Enhance the Keyword Method? The Effect of Imagery on Acquisition and Retention of Foreign Vocabulary

Amelia Whitaker
Allegheny College

The current study investigates the use of pictures as a supplement to the keyword mnemonic technique in foreign vocabulary acquisition, as well as the effect on time of retention. One group of participants created their own mental image for the keyword sentence. The other group saw a line drawing depicting the keyword sentence. All participants were tested after a 3-5 min. delay, and again after one week. An interaction was found between time and condition, suggesting that pictures are initially more helpful than mental imagery, but that this advantage may not hold for long-term retention.

17. The Effects of Various Genres of Instrumental and Vocal Background Music on Memory Recall

Chelsea Fenush, Shelby Deutsch
Penn State Behrend

There is conflicting research surrounding background music and its effects on cognitive functions such as short-term memory. This study builds on previous research and attempts to unravel some of the present debates by examining how different genres of music, vocal and instrumental, affect recall memory. It was predicted that vocal music would inhibit memory recall scores. This was measured by comparing scores on memory recall tests with the type of music presented in the background. This study will help students understand that some background music may impair their cognitive performance.

18. Understanding the Mens Sana: Changing Approaches to Understanding the Mind and Brain

Ashleigh Berger (Dr. J.A. Dale)
Allegheny College

During Enlightenment, there was a shift from desiring to understand the mind philosophically to wanting to understand the brain scientifically. As a result, a plethora of devices were developed to image the brain to discern its functions. Physicists were at the forefront of developing these technologies but neuroscientists used them to understand the brain. The culmination of this growing understanding of the brain was brain mapping, a technique forged by Broca. Brain mapping and further refinements of brain imaging technologies brought the scientist back to the question of what is the mind.

19. Decision Making and Belief in the Paranormal

Jordan Heynoski
Edinboro University

The present study examined the relationship between paranormal belief, overconfidence, and perception of random events as patterns. Undergraduate college students enrolled in Psychology of Consciousness completed several tasks that measured their confidence, as well as how they perceive patterns. These scores were then compared with scores on paranormal belief. It was expected that participants who are less likely to believe in paranormal phenomenon will have lower confidence ratings as well as a lower perception of patterns in random events than subjects who believe in paranormal events.

20. Online social context influences perceptions of a fictional adult male predator and female juvenile victim involved in a sexual relationship

Sandra Bill, Jennifer Boykin, Jeff Byham, Meggan Donahue, and Tracy Szermeta (Dr. Grant McLaren)
Edinboro University

This between-subjects design experiment randomly assigned college students to read one of three fictional scenarios describing a sexual relationship between an adult male and a female juvenile established in an Ambiguous, Real-Time, or Online context. Ten-point Likert scales assessed accountability and other characteristics of the individuals introduced in the scenarios. Results indicated respondents were significantly more likely to label the adult male a “sexual predator” in the relationship established Online rather than in the Real-Time context.

21. Does Computer Note-taking Enhance Learning?

Danielle M. Smith, Laura D. Mitchell (Jennifer L. Dyck)
SUNY Fredonia

This study will investigate two methods of note taking: computer generated, and hand generated. Participants will take notes as they view a PowerPoint presentation on the topic of social cognition. Participants will complete a test after a short distracter task and then will return two days later to take an additional test. The notes taken by the computer group are expected to be more detailed because of the speed advantage of typing, resulting in a higher test score. This advantage should be maintained at the second testing.

22. The Effect of Immersion on Second Language Acquisition: What Aspects of Proficiency are Influenced the Most during Immersion?

Megan D. Augustine
Allegheny College

This case study investigated the effect of immersion on second language proficiency. Specifically, reading, spoken transcription, spoken production, and written production were assessed monthly during the participant’s semester at the Université Catholique de l’Ouest in Angers, France. Results show an overall pattern of improvement across the four month stay followed by varying decreases after the immersion experience. Reading and written proficiency levels declined to those attained after eight weeks of immersion, but spoken production and spoken comprehension levels slightly decreased.

23. Lever pressing experience affects acquisition of cued alternation in rats

Janel Hodge (Peter J. McLaughlin)
Edinboro University

In two-choice operant tasks, shaping procedures can produce different rates of acquisition. Groups of fixed-ratio-trained and training-naïve rats were given eight sessions of alternation training. Prior training led to more rapid achievement of baseline in correct alternations, overall responding, and response latency. However, errors as a percent of total responding tended to increase for this group, but not for the training-naïve group. It was concluded that experience

with a single-manipulandum task facilitates speed in alternation performance, but with a lasting penalty in accuracy.

24. A Look at the Mozart Effect

Christopher J. Howlett (Dr. Barron)
Mercyhurst College

There has been a large amount of research done to determine what the underlying cause of the Mozart Effect is. The study was designed to further explore the three suggested explanations behind the Mozart Effect which include neurological priming, an arousal effect and finally a preference effect. Sixty Mercyhurst College students were divided into three groups and received silence, Mozart, or Ambient music and performed a mental rotation task. The participants were scored on the number correct. The results are expected to show an increase in scores among the two experimental groups.

25. Causal Attributions Associated with Personal Responsibility for PTSD

Jessica McNurlen (Dr. Barron)
Mercyhurst College

The study was designed to see if people's locus of control and perceptions had an effect on attributions made on two fictional case scenarios presenting PTSD. The study explored PTSD education's effect on public attributions and responsibility. About 50 undergraduates were placed in either the control or experimental group. Both groups took locus of control measurements and read two case studies; the experimental group additionally received education of PTSD. The hypothesis was that differing locus of control and education will produce different outcomes than those without the education.

26. Spiritual Belief and Anxiety

Susan Green (Dr. Gerald Barron)
Mercyhurst College

The purpose of this research is to explore the relationship between anxiety level and level of belief in a higher power. It is predicted that the higher a person's religious and spiritual belief, the less anxiety they will tend to have. Three inventories were given to the participants. The first is the STAI which measures state and trait anxiety the second is the DRI which measures religiosity and the third a self-constructed spirituality inventory to assess religious belief. It is expected that the more anxious a person is, the less they will indicate belief in a higher being.

27. Repetition and Priming in Repetition Blindness

Stephanie Feronti, Ryan Flynn, and Reid Wellock
Edinboro University

The purpose of the present experiment was to determine how repetition blindness affects college students. Repetition blindness was investigated by manipulating the prime stimulus and the number of repetitions of the target word in the memory list. The prime was either an associate word, a target word, or a neutral word. It was expected that the associate primes would facilitate

recall of the targets in the memory list. Target words appeared one, three, or four times in the memory list. The more often that target word appeared in the list, the more difficult it would be to recall.

28. Sex and Violence Sells: Effect of Sexual and Violent Programming on Memory of Advertisements

Jessica O'Rourke (Dr. Gerard Barron)
Mercyhurst College

This research has been performed to further understand the connection between content shown in television and memory of advertisements. Forty participants were randomly assigned to three groups of approximately thirteen and were asked to watch sexual, violent, and neutral programming, respectively. They were then asked to complete a questionnaire measuring their recollection of advertisements placed within these programs. The results will show a correlation between lower rates of memory of advertisements and the "sexual programming" and "violent programming" groups.

29. Human Ramonsneds

Leah M. Fitzgerald (Stephen T. Paul)
Robert Morris University

While it is clear that humans are capable of recognizing randomness in their environments, it is not clear whether humans are capable of intentional randomness. The present study examined this issue by having participants push random buttons on a 7x7 button-grid (150 trials). Results were that participants could not respond randomly. The accumulation of button presses produced by human participants differed significantly from computer simulated ("chance") responses. Participants favored and avoided specific locations on the response grid relative to simulated participants.

30. False Recall of Semantic and Phonetic Stimuli

Autumn Wilcox (Dr. Ken Milles)
Edinboro University

The goal of the present experiment was to investigate the effect of presentation duration on false memory recall generated by semantic and phonetic associated distractors. Sixty-nine general psychology students were selected to participate. Nine semantic and nine phonetic word lists were presented at varied time intervals. Specifically, the time intervals consisted of 1, 3, and 5 sec. Based on previous research, it was anticipated that in both the semantic and phonetic groups, false recall would increase as the intervals are lengthened.

31. The development and assessment of hands-on games designed to improve spatial skills

Jenna Beck, Megan Miller, Elizabeth Sansone (Dr. Dawn Blasko and Ms. Jennifer Trich Kremer)
Penn State Behrend

Like verbal skills, spatial skills are used in a variety of disciplines. However, unlike verbal skills, there is little direct instruction on how to develop spatial skills. The interdisciplinary VIZ

(Visualization and Assessment Training) project was created to help improve the spatial abilities of incoming engineering technology students through the direct training of spatial skills. The current project involved a team of students working to assess and develop games that may improve spatial skills. The results of laboratory and field evaluations will be discussed.

32. The Relationship Between Stress and Cortisol Levels in Graduate Counseling Students Before and After Simulated Counseling Sessions

Stephanie Waggel, Cassandra Yusz (Thomas Hershberger)
Chatham College

The purpose of this study was to assess stress and relaxation before and after simulated counseling sessions in graduate students. Eight students participated as counselors in the simulation. Stress was measured by the Spielberger state questionnaire and salivary cortisol. Relaxation was assessed by the Smith relaxation scale that had 17 subscales. The results indicated self-reported stress is lower after the simulated counseling session. There were increases in mental quietness and ease at peace. Salivary cortisol samples are currently being analyzed.

33. Intuitive Problem Solving and the Importance of Preexisting Associates in Long Term Memory

Robert C. Galbraith (Dani McKinney)
SUNY Fredonia

Our study investigates intuition in the context of word problems. Participants will be presented with dyads of triads in which one triad is coherent, as its words are related to a solution word, while the other triad is comprised of unrelated words. Participants' confidence in generating the solution is hypothesized to increase when the coherent triad has several connections among a network of associated words. Contrary to their confidence ratings, participants are expected generate the correct solution word more often when coherent triads elicit a smaller associative network.

34. Phonemic Restoration in Native and Foreign Languages

Catherine Stamoolis
Allegheny College

Is there evidence for top-down processing in the speech perception of a foreign language? This study compared phonemic restoration between one's native language versus a foreign language. Eighteen participants were evaluated on the number of words correctly identified when the first internal vowel of a word was replaced. Phonemic restoration was hypothesized to occur less frequently in the foreign language. Results showed that participants identified a greater number of words containing a replaced phoneme in their native language than their foreign language.

35. Laterality in Stimulus Processing and Analysis

Justin Bardash (Sandra Webster)
Westminster College

Ten undergraduates participated in a repeated measures design (visual field x stimulus type x value). They fixed their gaze on a central point and were asked to identify whether quickly flashing mathematical statement was true or a quickly flashing emotional icon positive. The images flashed on either the right or left sides of the screen but for three seconds after which the computer logged no response. The hypothesis was supported for correctness but not for reaction times which were influenced by the value of the judgments as much as by lateralization.

(Social/Personality)

36. Experiences of Muslim Women while Studying in the United States

Shaheena Parveen (Dr. Thomas Hershberger)

Chatham College

This study analyzed the experiences of Muslim women studying and living in the United States. The participants were interviewed individually and in a group meeting. The purpose of the study was to analyze and reflect on the stereotypes, prejudice, and challenges, if any, that these women face. The themes drawn from the interviews indicate that the participants group their experiences as both positive and negative. It was found that there are stereotypes and prejudice against Muslim women in mainstream American culture.

37. The Interrelationships of Eight Positive Psychology Traits

Jamie L. Sarkis, Candace Hall (Dr. Thomas Hershberger)

Chatham

Numerous traits are included in the study of positive psychology. This study examined the relationships between eight traits including hope, agency of hope, pathways of hope, optimism, just world, resilience, self-esteem and happiness. Seventy women completed measures of each trait. All traits were significantly related as predicted except for just world, which were unrelated to the other measures. A factor analysis indicated that there was a unitary trait “p” that represents the global characteristics of positive psychology that may be analogous to the “g” trait identified with intelligence.

38. Does the Presence of a Female Opponent during Video Game Play

Jessica Kramer (Dr. Pettijohn)

Mercyhurst

This article looks at aggressive thoughts while playing video games in the presence of others. Aggressive behavior may not be directly related to the game itself but related to the environment that it is played in. We hypothesize that females who play a violent video game against another female opponent will be more aggressive than females who play the same game against the computer. Undergraduate females will play Mortal Kombat for about thirty minutes then complete an aggression questionnaire that will look at anger, hostility, verbal aggression, physical aggression, and overall aggression.

39. The Effects of Utilizing an Honesty Commitment on Social Desirability

Brian Folland (Dr. Pettijohn)

Mercyhurst

Inaccurate responses from participants filling out questionnaires is a problem that all psychologists must consider when they analyze response data. Using college students, an honesty contract will be administered to participants. Social desirability and total time taken to complete the study will be measured. The participants that receive the honesty contract are expected to score significantly lower on the social desirability measure and take longer to complete the study. This study will show that cognitive dissonance does influence the accuracy of participants filling out surveys.

40. Product Variations to Create Choice, Locus of Control, and Product Desirability

Coral Vedder (Dr. Pettijohn)

Mercyhurst

Differences in product preferences, when variations in product color are a choice, will be examined among College students exhibiting various degrees of internal locus of control (LOC). Preferences will be determined by a questionnaire rating LG's Chocolate cell phone in either original or additional colors and compared with students' scores on Rotter's LOC scale. The results are expected to indicate that students exhibiting high internal LOC will prefer the product more when offered a choice, creating a feeling of control, and making that product more appealing.

41. What's in a Name? The Effect of Name Bias on Student Government Elections

Vikki Schwartz (Dr. Pettijohn)

Mercyhurst

The purpose of this study is to see if name bias exists in student government elections. A popular and an unpopular name will be affiliated with two equal descriptions of student government candidates. Participants will then be asked to rate the candidates in regards to how qualified one thinks the candidates are and then the participants will be asked if they remember the names of the students. It is predicted that there will be a significant difference between the ratings of the two candidates, with the popular name receiving significantly higher ratings than the unpopular name.

42. Fear of Victimization and Attitudes Surrounding the Death Penalty in College Students

Christine Biddle (Dr. Pettijohn)

Mercyhurst

This study examines the fear of victimization and the impact it has in attitudes toward the death penalty. Specifically, this study examines reasons that supporters and opponents give for their views on capital punishment, and how specific conditional factors might change their attitudes. This study will consist of female college students reading a news report about rates of victimization and completing questionnaires concerning the reasons behind their attitudes of capital punishment.

43. Power: The Ultimate Aphrodisiac in Judging Attractiveness in the Opposite Sex?

Caitlin Graci (Dr. Pettijohn)

Mercyhurst

This study seeks to determine whether power/wealth or physical appearances are seen as more attractive in mate selection. In particular, this study will examine the standards of the opposite sex for mate preference. College students will be given four photographs of the opposite sex as well as four job descriptions to examine. They will then be asked to rate the materials. Consistent with evolutionary theory expected data will suggest that, when males & females are given the materials, power & wealth will be primary factors in choosing a mate for females & physical appearances for males.

44. Stereotypes and Biases against People Who Have Physical Handicaps

Ashley Tuttle (Dr. Pettijohn)

Mercyhurst

This study investigates stereotypes formed of people on the basis of a physical disability. Participants will be split up into three different groups. One group will be shown a photograph of a person in a wheelchair; the second group will be shown a photograph of the same person, but missing an arm; and the third group will be shown a photograph of the same person again, but with no physical disabilities. Anticipated results are that handicapped persons will be rated as more lazy, more incompetent, and less intelligent compared to the rest of the non-disabled community.

45. The Effects of Religiously-Oriented Music on Anxiety and Stress Levels

Catherine Simon (Dr. Pettijohn)

Mercyhurst

Western or Eastern spiritual music will be played to college students, and they will rate these musical selections on various facets of anxiety, stress, and spirituality. A control group will be told to perform various relaxation techniques. Results are expected to reveal significant effects on the calm-inducing effects the spiritual music will have compared to no music at all. Furthermore, Eastern spiritual music will have a more calming effect than Western spiritual music.

Paper Sessions

Session One: Clinical & Counseling; Gender & Culture (Room 110)

Chair: Dr. Joseph Horton

1. An Examination of the Desirability, Importance, and Frequency of Therapist Self-Disclosure from the Client and Therapist Perspectives

Melissa Parkhurst (Dr. Kirk Lunnen)
Westminster College

Research in psychotherapy has been increasingly focused on examining the effects of therapist self-disclosure in treatment. The present study surveyed 332 practicing psychotherapists in Pennsylvania and Ohio and 64 psychotherapy clients regarding their perspectives on self-disclosure using the Counselor Disclosure Scale (CDS). Results indicated significant differences in perspectives according to professional discipline, orientation, and anxiety levels. Furthermore, significant differences existed between therapist and client attitudes concerning therapist self-disclosure.

2. Glycemia and oral contraceptive use as moderators of salivary cortisol levels in college females

Elizabeth Morfenski
Westminster College

Recent research has shown that high levels of cortisol can result in a number of maladies (Otte et al., 2004). To date, no studies have investigated the relationship between hyperglycemic individuals' increase and oral contraceptive users' decrease in cortisol concentrations after a stressor. Salivary cortisol concentrations were compared across thirty females before and after the Trier Social Stress Test (Kirschbaum et al., 1993). The saliva was analyzed used a salivary cortisol enzyme immunoassay kit.

3. The Effects of Personality and a Pre-Test Interview on The Guilty Knowledge Test

Chelsea Boecker (Dr. Kirk Lunnen)
Westminster College

This study explored the effects of a pretest interview and Eysenck Personality Factors on the implementation of the Guilty Knowledge Test. Following a mock crime, physiological responsivity was measured by Galvanic Skin Response (GSR), pulse and respiration output. Higher rates of physiological responsivity were expected for individuals in the pretest condition and those scoring high on each personality scale. Initial analyses did not show a significant difference between condition or personality factors.

4. Perceived Communal Strength and Willingness to Express Emotion in Relationships in the United States and Egypt

Catharine Hebdon, Safia Fathelbab, South Valley University, Egypt, (Dr. Sherri Pataki)
Westminster College

Previous research in the U.S. has shown that high communal strength is typically found in relationships with a spouse or child (Clark & Brissette, 2004). Our study measured differences in perceived communal strength between specific relationships, as well as perceived emotional expression for male and female participants both in the U.S. and Egypt. Results indicated high perceived communal strength toward a parent and spouse, and significant emotional expression relating to relationship type and sex.

5. Gender Stereotypes in Animated Media

Steven Buesink, Sara Nielsen
Penn State Behrend

Students watched video clips of animated movies and a television show. Each participant viewed either an extreme gender stereotype clip, a reversed gender stereotype clip, or a neutral clip. Next, each participant completed the IAT (Implicit Association Test). We hypothesized that participants viewing the extreme stereotype set would have a greater implicit gender stereotype based on the IAT. Our research shows how animated media may actually promote gender stereotyping and traditional gender roles. This is consistent with Bandura's theory on modeling as well as the social cognitive theory.

Session Two: Social & Personality; Gender & Culture (Room 114)

Chair: Dr. Kris Homan

1. Looking Beyond the Stereotype: Defining Sexual Harassment in a College Setting

Angela Speck, Jenay Guardiani, Lori Szymanik

Penn State Behrend

The current study examines college student's perceptions of sexual harassment. Participants included 70 students from Penn State Behrend. It was hypothesized that a legal definition of sexual harassment would lead to the most accurate interpretations of situations; unequal power dynamics increase sexual harassment ratings; females would rate situations as harassment more than males; males would label situations as harassment with a male victim and harasser. No difference was found for definition; the combination of participant, harasser and victim gender impacted the ratings.

2. Personality and Coping with Distractions

Lindsay Chatmon, Christy Miller, (Dr. Victoria Kazmerski)

Penn State Behrend

Effects of gender and personality on academic achievement at the undergraduate level are explored. Dr. Seuss word tasks the academic achievement measure is given after associated paragraphs are read. Analysis of Variance for repeated measures is used to measure gender and personality, introversion and academic achievement and distractions occurring during the second reading and no distractions. Gender should have no effect, introverted individuals should have higher word recall percentage and extraverted individuals should achieve more academic success.

3. Social Attitudes and Stigma Associated with Acquired Brain Injury: Differences in Severity and Method of Acquisition

Sara Sullivan

Westminster College

Social perceptions of stigma have a variety of influences. Stigma leaves a person devalued, spoiled, or flawed in some way. Little research has been conducted to determine the role stigmas play in attitudes toward traumatic brain injury. I studied the role of physical deficit and how it was acquired on subject's perception of a brain injured individual. 100 college students read vignettes and viewed pictures of an individual simulating brain injury. Participants stigmatized an individual who was perceived at fault for his injury. More sympathy was associated with greater physical deficits.

4. Team reflexivity: The Effects of Reflection on Task Performance the Leader-driven and Self-managed team

John Bucu, (Dr. Jamie McMinn)
Westminster College

This study explored the effect of reflection on leadership in task performance. One hundred twenty undergraduate students participated in this study. The simulation game Casino Empire™ was used as the task. Participants played the game for 40 minutes, divided 20-minute sections. Between sections, a reflection condition was administered. Participants discussed their progress or played solitaire. The leader-driven team and the self-managed team had similar performance levels. Reflection had no effect on task performance. No interaction effect was present between reflexivity and leadership.

5. Does Internet Social Context and Juvenile Age Influence Perceptions of a Female Adult Predator and Male Victim in a Fictional Sexual Relationship?

Meggan Donahue, Jennifer Boykin, Sandra Brill, Jeff Byham, and Tracy Szermeta, (Mike Skelly, Ph.D. Southern Illinois University, Edwardsville, IL, Grant McLaren, Ph.D., Edinboro University)
Edinboro University

College students served as respondents in this 2 (Real-time v Online) X 2 (Juvenile Age) between-subjects factorial design experiment. Participants read one of four random fictional scenarios depicting a sexual relationship between an adult female and a 9 or 17 year old male juvenile. Respondents' perceptions of the adult and juvenile were assessed using 10-point Likert scales. Respondents assigned significantly more accountability to the parents of the younger male juvenile and concurrently suspected the female predator of using significantly more deceptive tactics with the younger male.

6. First Impressions of Battered Women

Rebecca M. Logar, Dr. Sherri P. Pataki
Westminster College

This study targets stereotypes and first impressions facing battered women. Thirty participants, male and female, communicated with a factious person via the Internet, and then filled out a questionnaire gauging their first impression. We hypothesized that individuals interacting with a battered woman via the Internet would have more negative perceptions than those speaking with someone who did not disclose abuse. Results suggest that overall self-esteem, submissiveness and emotionality are viewed more negatively when abuse is disclosed

Session Three: Social & Personality (Room 116)

Chair: Dr. Gary Welton

1. Social Comparison Theory: The Effects of Race on Self-Perceptions in Sport Advertisement

Amy S. Walzer, (Dr. Pettijohn)
Mercyhurst College

Considering social comparison theory, this study examines whether race in sport advertising affects Caucasian participants' self-perceptions. Participants viewed ads containing Caucasian and African American athletes and then did surveys to determine their perceived athletic ability, and self- and body-esteem. We predicted that those that view ads containing Caucasian athletes will report lower perceived athletic ability and self- and body-esteem than those that view African American athletes. The results of this study may help to draw implications of the effects of race on comparison theory.

2. The Impact of Social Comparisons and Perfectionism on Female Body Dissatisfaction: Which Has the Greatest Influence?

Amber Kunitsky, Jodie Kitchener
Penn State Behrend

Research suggests perfectionism and social comparisons influence female body dissatisfaction. Females at Penn State Erie completed body dissatisfaction, perfectionism, and social comparisons scales. Participants were split into three groups and exposed to pictures of thin or overweight women, or unrelated pictures. Our hypothesis is that body dissatisfaction is impacted by social comparisons and the group shown thin pictures will have higher body dissatisfaction scores. This research will further knowledge about female body dissatisfaction in relation to perfectionism and social comparisons.

3. The Effects of Entitativity and Structural Holes on Recall of Network Information

Derek S. Ferrier (Dr. Jamie G. McMinn)
Westminster College

This study examined the relationship between entitativity and structural holes. Entitativity deals with how much groupness a group is perceived to have. Structural holes are incomplete relationships within a social network. In this experiment participants had to correctly identify relationships within networks between five clusters of groups. Errors of omission, commission, and response latency were measured. Results showed that participants took longer to make correct responses than errors. There were no significant results for errors of omission and commission.

4. Birth Order and Romantic Relationship Styles and Attitudes

Emily M. McGuirk (Dr. Pettijohn)
Mercyhurst

This study examined whether there is a connection between birth order positions (oldest, middle, youngest, only) and people's attitudes towards romantic relationships. One hundred college students answered surveys to measure jealousy, how realistic or romantic they are, their attachment styles, and their love attitudes. They also answered questions involving their current or past close relationships and whether they valued similarities or differences more. The results of the surveys were then correlated to the participants' birth orders.

5. The Influence of Social-categorization, Assimilation, and Contrast on Group Entitativity

Christine A. Cole, (Dr. Jamie McMinn)
Westminster College

This study tested the hypothesis that the presence of an out-group and inter-group proximity would affect a target group's entitativity due to social categorization, assimilation, and contrast effects. Participants evaluated the entitativity of a group presented alone or with another group, varying in intramember similarity. Other participants evaluated the entitativity of a target group when both groups varied in inter-group proximity as well. Significant differences revealed that a similar in-group is more entitative than a dissimilar in-group regardless of the similarity of an out-group.

6. Stress and Perceived Authority in the Milgram Paradigm

Bethany Slomski, Kyle Johnston
Penn State Behrend

The topic of obedience is being thrust into the spotlight by the Abu Ghraib scandal and more exploration is needed French and Raven's (1959) formulation suggests there are six types of power associated with social influence. An influential study completed on authority was the Milgram (1963) study. By replicating a study completed by Blass and Schmimt (2001) research was completed in the area of perceived power in the Milgram (1963) paradigm, without posing risks to participants. Through the use of a stress assessment, stress before and after viewing the video clips were considered, to assess stress.

Session Four: Cognition & Perception (Room 214)

Chair: Dr. Dani McKinney

1. Is self awareness in humans lateralized to the right hemisphere of the brain?

Kelly Spisak (Dr. Alan Gittis)

Westminster College

Research shows there are relationships between the right and left hemispheres of the brain & the sense of self. However, these studies have failed to identify which hemisphere is directly correlated with self-identification. This study tested 21 right-handed participants to identify if the sense of self is correlated to a certain hemisphere by using reaction time measurements of a mental rotation task. Self-identification was not individually lateralized; however, viewing a picture of one's self did increase recognition time in both visual fields.

2. The Evolutionary Origins of Subjectivity in Choice Behavior: A Local Model of Representation

Emilee L. Gustkey

Westminster College

A local model of representation explains the evolutionary origins of subjectivity in choice behavior in rats. Rats were trained to weigh the arms at different spatial locations differentially, depending on the probability of reinforcement given. It is hypothesized that a rat's use of spatial information is tempered by the probability of reinforcement associated with each arm and thus, the rats are using probability matching rather than spatial strategy. Findings support the hypothesis that animals use a local model of representation rather than a global spatial model.

3. Choice behavior in rats as a function of neuroeconomic decision making as opposed to a spatial strategy

Erin Griner

Westminster College

The most common theory of choice behavior in rats suggests that rats make choices in mazes based on spatial cues. While the data does seem to support this theory it could be because in most experiments, the arms are all baited equally. This study investigated how rats responded when they were given a choice between two arms in a radial arm maze, each with a different probability of yielding food. The results of this study show that alternation in rats is dependent on multiple processes.

4. The Effects of Telephone Menu Structure on Accuracy and Reaction Time

Elise Lubber

SUNY Fredonia

This experiment tested the effect of wide, deep or balanced telephone menus on task accuracy, task completion time, and user satisfaction. In contrast to previous studies, the number to be pressed to select the option will be presented after the choice is read instead of before. For example, "For Movies in Fredonia, press one." It is expected that there will be a longer task

completion time, as well as lower task accuracy, for the wide and deep menus as compared to the balanced menu. It is also expected that tasks that require more time to complete will be rated more negatively.

5. Detecting the Effects of Ideological Mechanisms as a Discrete Influence in the Adoption of Interpretive Positions

Mark Blair (Dr. Gerard Barron)
Mercyhurst

This study asserts that there is validity and utility in viewing ideological mechanisms as discrete influential forces in human evaluative processes. The web-based study is designed to detect the influence of ideological mechanisms by presenting participants with 6 dilemmas to be resolved. Expected findings will likely indicate ideological interaction beyond psychological bias.

6. Self-Esteem, Success, and Compartmentalization

Lucinda Safran (Sherri Pataki)
Westminster College

Previous research suggests that people high in self-esteem integrate partner information, while people low in self-esteem tend to compartmentalize. People low in self-esteem are also more likely to perceive negative consequences associated with success. We predicted that people with low self-esteem would perceive the success of others more positively than their own success, whereas people with high self-esteem would perceive both their own and others' success more positively. There was a significant interaction between self-esteem and self versus other's success.

Session Five: Developmental; School & Sports (Room 216)

Chair: Dr. Andrea Zevenbergen

1. The Effect of Aggression on Executive Function and Social Skills in Preschool Children

April Redmond

Westminster College

Fifty preschool students and their teachers participated in a study investigating the influence of aggression and executive function (EF) on the social functioning of preschoolers. Children completed four tasks to assess EF. Teachers completed two questionnaires: the Social Skills Rating System and the Preschool Behavior Scale- Teacher Form to rate aggression and social functioning of students. Results showed no significant effect of aggression on EF. Aggression showed differing influences on social functioning. Gender differences appeared in aggression. Age differences appeared for EF tasks.

2. Mothers' Feedback to Children During Shared Narratives

Shelly Thielges (Dr. Andrea Zevenbergen)

SUNY Fredonia

Elaboration is used by parents to construct more complex sentences using parts of the child's previous utterance. Parents use praise to show that they understand the child. Repetition is used to show support of the child's statement. Correction gives the child feedback as to where the previous statement was incorrect. This study examined the mothers use of elaboration, praise, repetition and correction in discussing past events with their child. It is hypothesized that elaboration, praise, repetition and correction will be used more with a three year old than with a five year old.

3. Theory of Mind and Its Influence on Conflict Resolution

Daniel Wren

Westminster College

Fifty-nine children participated in two theory of mind tasks designed to assess their understanding of false beliefs. Each child was presented with hypothetical vignettes depicting peer conflicts in which the protagonist gave either a simple or discursive assertion. Two conflict resolution strategies were contrasted: simple or complex. Results indicated that children with a higher theory of mind score used more complex resolution techniques. In addition, children responded to discursive assertions with more complex reasoning than when responding to simple assertions.

4. Evaluating Loneliness in Preschool Children and Its Relation to Sociometric Status

Kari Cole (Dr. Mandy Medvin)

Westminster College

Despite extensive research on loneliness, no research has assessed it in young children. The goal of this study was to develop a scale to measure loneliness in young children. Forty-three preschoolers were assessed using the loneliness scale and sociometric status. Factor analysis was

used to derive 1 dimension of loneliness. Results showed that loneliness was able to be measured in preschoolers and they are able to define the emotion. Furthermore, children labeled popular had the lowest level of loneliness and the rejected group had the highest. Implications for future research are discussed.

5. Effects of imagery on running and ease of motion

Adrienne L. Grand
Allegheny College

Participants include students in introductory psychology courses and members of collegiate athletic teams. Each participant is exposed to both facilitating and inhibiting videos across two sessions. Participants are divided into two groups with one imagining the stimuli before and one during exercise. Measurements include, distance, head tilt, and arm carry. The Movement Imagery Questionnaire and Sports Imagery Ability Measure are used to measure imagery abilities. Performance across time (before/during) and type (facilitative/inhibiting) of imagery are compared for athletes and nonathletes.

6. The Accuracy of Pharmaceutical Advertisements for Psychiatric Drugs

Shelly Thielges, (Dr. Glen Spielmans)
SUNY Fredonia

As the pharmaceutical industry continues to grow so does advertisement and marketing of medications. Physicians see these advertisements as an important source of medical information. The purpose of this study was to assess the accuracy of claims made in psychiatric drug advertisements and to check the availability of the cited sources. All psychiatric drug advertisements in four journals with a high impact factor from the year 2005 were used. It was found that claims made in advertisements for psychiatric medications were frequently misleading and often poorly sourced.

Poster Session II

(Social/Personality)

1. The Effects of Altering Model Attractiveness on Advertising Marketability

Jillian Capo (Dr. Pettijohn)

Mercyhurst

This study is proposed to examine the effects of attractiveness on the marketability of products in advertising. It is hypothesized that participants will rate advertisements more positively if there is an attractive model presented and more negatively if there is an unattractive model or no model presented. Approximately 60 college students will be tested in three different conditions; one condition receiving the advertisement with an attractive model, one with the variable of an unattractive model, and a control condition with no model shown.

2. The Effect of Skin-Tone and Prejudice on Perceptions of Attraction

Lauren A. McDermott (Dr. Pettijohn)

Mercyhurst

Relationships between race, gender, skin-tone, attractiveness rating, & prejudice levels will be investigated. Skin-tone will be lightened or darkened with photos of an African-American male & female & a Caucasian male & female & be presented to participants for ratings. It's anticipated there will be no difference between attractiveness rating & gender; there will be differences between all other variables & attractiveness rating. Individuals will rate their opposing race lower especially if they have high prejudice scores, & the original skin-tone will be rated the most attractive.

3. Gender Differences in Severity of Children with Attention Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder and Their Behavior

Heather Quinn (Dr. Pettijohn)

Mercyhurst

This study will look at proposed differences based on gender in typical attention deficit hyperactivity disorder behavior. It is predicted that participants will rate behaviors as more severe if they don't fit typical gender roles. Participants will be asked to read case studies and answer questions regarding perceived impairment. These will be of children with a variety of symptoms. Results are expected to support the hypothesis, and there are implications in terms of how information given to parents who are one of the main sources of referrals about ADHD.

4. The Effect of Proximity and Personality on Formulating Relationships

Julianne Rotondi (Dr. Pettijohn)

Mercyhurst

To determine the relationship between proximity and personality on forming relationships, college freshman will be asked to fill out self-reports on their social self-esteem, degree of introversion, and the daily interactions they have with members of the opposite sex. The primary

hypothesis of this study is that students in co-ed housing will have a greater number of interactions with members of the opposite sex. The secondary hypothesis of this study is that participants who are extraverted with high levels of self-esteem will be more likely to meet people outside their area of proximity.

5. Health and Social Behaviors, and the Effect on GPA

Rebecca Grgurich, Valerie Kenely
Penn State Behrend

Abstract Behrend students were surveyed on lifestyle, religion, eating habits, class skipping, and GPA. We hypothesized that students who lead healthier lifestyles will have a higher GPA. We also predict that class skipping will not determine a student's GPA. Some implications to this study include: in previous studies it was found that there was a relationship between class skipping and GPA, and previous studies also suggest that class skipping increases as the semester goes on, which could influence the results of our study.

6. Influence of real-time and online context on accountability of adults and juveniles involved in fictional sexual relationships

Tracy Szermeta, Jennifer Boykin, Sandra Brill, Jeff Byham, and Meggan Donahue (Dr. Grant McLaren)
Edinboro University

College students in this between-subjects design experiment read one of three fictional scenarios depicting a sexual relationship between an adult male and a female juvenile occurring in an Ambiguous, Real-time, or Online context. Respondents rated various characteristics of the individuals involved in the sexual relationship on 10-point Likert scales. Males assigned significantly more accountability to both the female juvenile and her parents in the real-time context than females. Perceived accountability of the parties involved was contingent on the gender of the respondent.

7. Understanding Deception: An Analysis of the Function and Frequency of Deception Cues in Truthful vs. Deceptive Statements

Todd Derby
Allegheny

The purpose of the present study was to better understand how verbal and nonverbal language changes across different discourse contexts, specifically, as participants tell truthful stories, deceptive stories, and stories in the multiple-audience predicament (MAP). The MAP refers to a situation in which a speaker must deliver a statement in the presence of multiple listeners who previously have been given conflicting accounts of event. Of particular interest in the present study was how participants' production of hesitations, discourse markers, and hand gestures changed across conditions.

8. Family Violence and its Effects on Social Interaction

Andrew Scheller, Matt Ogde, Allison Palermo
Penn State Behrend

We investigated prior exposure to family violence and its effects on social interactions among college students. We hypothesized that an individual who has experienced a greater level of violence would respond more aggressively in social situations. We also hypothesized that high and low extremes of social aggression (social interaction questionnaire) and prior exposure to family violence are expected to score higher on the social aggression questionnaire. Significant results will expand the power of previous research.

9. Multicultural Education and Implicit Bias

Kalie A. Ellis, Brandon J. Switzer, Laura A. Massaro (Guy A. Boysen)
SUNY Fredonia

Participants completed one of four conditions in which they either gained awareness or knowledge about prejudices, practiced controlling biases, or participated in the control phase. Implicit bias toward homosexuality was assessed before and after the interventions using an Implicit Association Test (IAT), which measures implicit bias by assessing the degree of unconscious associations between mental representations. We hypothesize that this study will coincide with previous findings that suggest multicultural education can affect level of bias, specifically, level of implicit bias.

10. Person Perception as a Function of Physical Attractiveness, Tone of Voice, and Gender

Stephanie Moore, Gina Vecchio (Jack Croxton)
SUNY Fredonia

This study examines how a person's gender, vocal tone, and physical attractiveness affect first impressions. We selected four pictures varying in gender and physical attractiveness. We also recorded four voices: a female or male with either a high or low voice, each reading a short narrative. The attractive person was perceived more favorably but was also judged as more conceited. Tone of voice affected ratings of sexual orientation for males but not for females. The male with a high voice was judged as particularly anxious. Additional results will be shared at the meeting.

11. Conformity Using the Autokinetic Effect

Cristen Chiri
Westminster College

This research is concerned with the effects of an ambiguous stimulus on conforming behaviors. Seventeen undergraduates were tested using Sherif's (1937) previous methodology with the autokinetic effect. Each was randomly placed in either the treatment group which viewed the effect with confederates, or the no-confederate control group. Results indicate that participants will continue to give incorrect judgments even after the confederates are gone. These findings are congruent with previous research and theories, and support the idea that an ambiguous stimulus results in conforming behaviors

12. Reactions to Partner Infidelity: With a Friend vs. With a Stranger

Daniel Dreakford (Dr. Gary Levine)

Edinboro University

Participants' reaction toward a significant other who has cheated with either a close friend or with a stranger was examined. Participants read role-playing scenarios in which they find out their partner is cheating on them. Participants then completed a survey on their feelings toward the partner and the person they cheated with. Results show that men who had been cheated on before were more willing to forgive, and were less angry at, both their partner and friend, whereas women who had been cheated on before were less willing to forgive and reported more anger.

13. The Effects of Social Norms on Restocking Books

Jennifer Cornman (Dr. Gary Levine)

Edinboro University

The current study examined whether leaving books out at a table would influence bookstore customers' likelihood of restocking books. Seating areas were checked every fifteen minutes for six hours per day over the course of one week. Some seating areas remained clear of books to suggest that the norm is to restock items. A stack of books was left in the remaining areas to suggest that the norm is to leave items at the tables. No significant difference was found for the number of books left, however, a significant difference was found for the type of items that were left by customers.

14. Personality Types and Interview Style

Neil Rufenacht, Jessica Brown, and Carrie McNeal (Dr. Victoria Kazmerski)

Penn State Behrend

This study looked at the influence of personality type and interview style on social desirability (SD). We hypothesized that participants who scored higher on neuroticism and conscientiousness would score higher on SD during the computer mode. Those who scored higher on extraversion, openness, and agreeableness would show higher levels of SD when face-to-face. Participants completed the Mini Marker survey and the PDS, which was divided between the two formats. With this knowledge, participants will be able to interview more effectively.

15. How to get what you want more often: Increasing Compliance Rates through Multiple Persuasion Techniques

Richard B. Helt (Dr. Gerard Barron)

Mercyhurst

This study is testing persuasion techniques singularly and then in combination in order to determine if increasing the number of persuasion techniques in turn increases compliance rates. These results will then be compared to Locus of Control data obtained from participants to determine if those with an Internal Locus of Control are more likely to comply with the target request. The findings of this study are anticipated to show that compliance rates will be increased

significantly by increasing the number of persuasion techniques used and that Locus of Control will be related to compliance.

16. Boredom Proneness as it Affects Individual Effort: Another Dimension to Social Loafing?

Melissa Diethorn (Dr. Gerard Barron)
Mercyhurst College

The purpose of this study was to examine the relationship between boredom proneness and social loafing. Boredom proneness was measured by using the Boredom Proneness Scale (BP). Participants were placed in one of two groups depending on their score on the BP. The participants then completed a brainstorming task in which they had to generate as many uses as they could for three different objects. Social loafing was measured by their performance on this task. It was predicted that a higher BP would be a contributing factor to social loafing.

17. First, Last, or In-Between: The Influence of Birth Order on Vocational Interest and Personality

Stephanie Lagner (Dr. Gerard Barron)
Mercyhurst College

The purpose of this study was to identify the influence of birth order on vocational interest and personality. Approximately 110 high school seniors completed a demographic questionnaire to identify their birth order, the IDEAS vocational interest inventory, and the NEO-FFI personality survey. The career interests and personality traits of firstborns, middle children, last borns, and only children will be compared. It is anticipated that there will be significant differences between the birth order groups on areas of vocational interest, as well as on broad personality traits.

18. Flirting with Cognition

Michael V. Cerqua (Dr. Gerard Barron)
Mercyhurst College

This study examined how flirtatious interaction can affect one's cognitive performance. A total of 20 males and 20 females were given an auditory cognitive ability test. Half of the participants were exposed to a researcher behaving flirtatiously with the remainder serving as a control. It is predicted that the results gathered will show a difference in cognitive performance between the flirtatious and control groups. It is anticipated that this study will provide more information in the area of opposite sex interaction within environments where cognitive skill is required.

19. The effects of real-time and online context on social perceptions of accountability in hypothetical adult-juvenile sexual relationships

Jennifer M. Boykin, Sandra Brill, Jeff Byham, Meggan Donahue, Tracy Szermeta (Grant McLaren, Ph.D)
Edinboro University

Undergraduate students were randomly presented with Ambiguous, Real-time, or Online hypothetical scenarios of a sexual relationship between an adult male and a female juvenile in

this between-subjects design experiment. Ten-point Likert scales assessed respondent perceptions of individuals associated with the sexual relationship. Respondents assigned significantly less accountability to the male predator in the Online context and rated the male predator significantly more likely to have utilized deceptive tactics in Real-time.

20. Relational Aggression and Emotional Qualities of Sarcasm

Andrew Walker
Penn State Behrend

Individual characteristics, such as relational aggression, personality, and sarcasm use have been shown to influence processing and interpretation of sarcastic statements. It is predicted that relational aggression measures and personality variables will predict utterance usage, interpretation and sarcasm use. Those high in RA would use sarcastic intonation in literal based situations and demonstrate faster processing times for sarcastic utterances in comparison to low RA individuals. This research supports the graded salience model of non-literal language processing.

21. Juvenile age and online context impacts social perception of a fictional adult-juvenile sexual relationship

Jeff Byham, Jennifer Boykin, Sandra Brill, Meggan Donahue, and Tracy L. Szermeta (Grant McLaren, Ph.D.)
Edinboro University

College students in this 2 X 2 between-subjects factorial design experiment read one of four random scenarios in which a 9 or 17 year-old female established a fictional sexual relationship with an adult male in a real-time or online context. Ten-point Likert scales were used to assess the perceptions of the respondents. Results indicated a significant Juvenile Age X Context interaction. The length of incarceration assigned to the adult male was contingent on the age of the female juvenile and the context in which she interacted with the adult.

22. Academic versus Non-Academic Sources of Stress among College Students

Bethany D. Kurina (Dr. Gary Levine)
Edinboro University

The purpose of this study was to examine different types of stress among college students. Participants received a survey on academic related stressors and non-academic related stressors. On each survey, they rated various types of stressors and their overall stress for academic and non-academic stressors. Academic related stress was rated significantly higher than non-academic related stress. Issues of how stress was measured are discussed.

23. The Role of Emotional Intelligence in Musical Preferences

Stephen O'Rourke (Dr. Gerard Barron)
Mercyhurst College

This study assesses whether there is a positive relationship between emotional intelligence, personality traits, and musical preference. It is anticipated that among college undergraduates

there will be a significant relationship between high emotional intelligence and listening to refined, emotive music. It is also expected that low emotional intelligence will be related to a preference for hard-hitting, aggressive music. The role of neuroticism and extraversion will also be explored.

24. Opinions of Smoking Bans with a Middle Position

Abigail Raun (Dr. Gary Levine)
Edinboro University

A study was done to gather opinions regarding current smoking bans. Participants were randomly assigned to receive one of two versions of the smoking ban survey. One version of the survey had only two response options for each item, “support,” or “oppose.” The second version also allowed participants to choose “not sure.” Having the “not sure” option appeared to reduce the percentages of people opposing the bans much more than the percentage of people supporting the bans, particularly among nonsmokers.

25. Identifying Child Predators from Photographs

Samantha Casey (Dr. Gary Levine)
Edinboro University

A study was conducted to test whether people can correctly identify child predators. Students were asked to look at 18 photographs and determine if the person pictured was a child predator. All photographs were of convicted criminals, nine were child predators and nine were misdemeanor offenders. Students were unable to correctly identify which photographs were the real child predators. As expected, participants' confidence in their ability to identify child predators significantly decreased after rating the photographs.

26. Restaurant Jobs and Sensitivity to Disgust

Bridget L. Werner (Dr. Gary Levine)
Edinboro University

The purpose of the present study is to examine the levels of disgust that people have when dealing with food. Participants were given a disgust measure and were also asked questions about whether they had worked in a restaurant or other place that served food at some point in time. Females who had never worked in a restaurant had the highest levels of disgust. Specific disgusting instances that participants had reported after working at their jobs are also discussed.

27. Using the Internet to Teach Undergraduate Students About the Barnum Effect

Sheila M. Myers (Dr. Gary Levine)
Edinboro University

An online version of the Barnum Effect was conducted. As part of a class assignment, students went to a website where they were instructed to choose among several colors and then choose a specific tint of that color. Participants then received one of two versions of a personality profile constructed of the same Barnum statements in two different orders. As predicted, both male and

female students rated both profiles as an above average description of themselves. Advantages and disadvantages for administering this activity on-line are discussed.

28. Murder or Helping: Perceptions of Euthanasia Based on Gender of the Doctor

Casey Walters (Dr. Gary Levine)

Edinboro University

The purpose of this study is to see if the gender of the doctor influences perceptions of euthanasia. Participants read a euthanasia scenario, with either a male or female doctor. The scenario was loosely based on events surrounding hurricane Katrina in which a doctor was accused of overdosing four patients in the days following the disaster. Results indicated that participants who were more religious viewed the male doctor as more guilty and the female doctor as less guilty than did less religious participants. In addition female participants chose longer sentences than male participants.

29. The Effects of Gender & Presentation Speed on Preferences Toward Sexual and Nonsexual Images

Stacia S. Ryder, Katie E. Mottura, (Dr. Elizabeth Bennett)

Washington & Jefferson College

This study explored the differences between immediate judgments and judgments made upon reflection. Fifty-one Washington & Jefferson students were presented sexual and nonsexual images in either a slow or quick condition. A two-way ANOVA was performed to examine the effect of gender and presentation speed on image preference. Overall, males chose images with sexual overtones more often than females did. Males chose the sexual images less often when in the slow condition, while female responses showed no difference between the conditions.

30. Education and Mental Illness Stigma

Laura Massaro (Guy Boysen)

SUNY Fredonia

This experiment examined the effects of education on participants' stigmas toward mental illness and addiction. Participants reported their initial attitudes toward people with either schizophrenia or addiction and were then given a reading on either the biological or behavioral explanation of the disorder. After, they took another assessment to measure the participants' attitudes after the intervention. Initial attitude predicted perceptions of the reading. Schizophrenia and biological explanations elicited less stigma than addiction and behavioral explanations.

(Clinical/Counseling)

31. Insiders' view of the 12-step recovery process

Kathy Zinz (Dr. Charles Edwards)

Edinboro University

A survey was distributed to members of Narcotics Anonymous to determine what features of the NA program promote continued abstinence. In addition to providing demographic information, members were asked to indicate drugs of choice, mental health diagnoses, duration of use and

“clean time” as well as meeting frequency. Members were asked to rate in order of importance various aspects of the 12-step program. In addition, members completed a locus of control questionnaire. Significant correlations were found between external locus of control and duration of use, and age and duration of use.

32. An Addiction Model of Activity Anorexia Using Antagonistic Drugs

Christina Sheerin
Allegheny College

9 rats were put into the activity anorexia cycle, assigned to 3 groups, received injections of naloxone, pimozone, or saline, and placed into running wheels for 6 days. Statistical tests showed an interaction effect between drug group and days ($F(2,6) = 7.185, p < .01$); on the final day, revolutions for the saline group were significantly higher than other groups. The effectiveness of antagonistic drugs in preventing the increase of running support an addiction model for the rewarding effects of running and may lead to stronger support for an addiction model of anorexia in human patients.

33. Research Experience and Graduate School Admissions

Edward Bolden, III (Dr. Gerard Barron)
Mercyhurst College

The present research looks at undergraduate research from the perspective of graduate schools' admissions committees. Moreover, the study attempts to determine how important undergraduate research is in the eyes of the selection committees, comparing clinical programs to programs in school psychology. The implications of this research should assist undergraduate psychology students in making better informed decisions about pursuing graduate education in certain subfields as well as encouraging more opportunities for undergraduate research.

34. The Effect of Television Commercials Containing Ideal Models, Average Weight Models, and No Models on Body Dissatisfaction in College-Aged Women

Monica Erbacher, Christine Strasser, (Dr. Glen Spielmanns, Metropolitan State)
SUNY Fredonia

Female college students viewed 71 commercials and rated models depicted on weight and similarity to the thin ideal and the average female figure. Ratings were used to categorize commercials into conditions: commercials with thin-ideal models, average weight models, and no models. A between-subjects design was used to investigate effects of commercials on body dissatisfaction in college women. It was hypothesized that thin-ideal media exposure would lead to increased body dissatisfaction, even after controlling for body dissatisfaction moderators, i.e., self-esteem and social comparison level.

35. Anxiety and Its Effects on the Physiology of the Sleep Cycle and Dream Content

Jessica Ketterer
Allegheny College

Undergraduate Psychology students from Allegheny College (N=138) were pre-screened with Taylor's Manifest Anxiety Scale (MAS) and the Pittsburgh Sleep Quality Index. Those expressing interest in continuation in the study with the highest scores on the MAS (N=20) were included in the experimental group, and those with the lowest scores (N=13) were included in the control group. Polysomnographic recordings included EEG, EOG, SCR, and HR. The participants were then asked to complete a three-day home dream journal. Results indicate a correlation between anxiety and sleep disturbance.

(Developmental)

36. Parent-Child Attachment in Divorced Families

Erin Daquelente, Jessica Roman, Mara Huber
Penn State Behrend

This study assessed young adult's experience with divorce measuring attachment and involvement with both parents. We hypothesized that a high conflict environment would lead to lower parent-child attachment scores. We also hypothesized that mothers would have better attachment with children than fathers due to their higher level of involvement. This research concluded that there are no significant differences between parent-child relationships in intact and divorced families. Men living with their children's biological mother were perceived as the most overprotective parent.

37. Coercive Interrogation Tactics: Does a Juvenile's Age Influence Mock Jurors Perceptions?

Nicole Miele, Heidi Sprong (Dr. Ron Craig)
Allegheny College

The present study examined the impact of a coercive interrogation and subsequent confession, varying the age of the suspect. Undergraduates read a brief hypothetical murder case that included a transcript of the interrogation with the juvenile suspect who was either 10, 14 or 17. Participants then responded to questions regarding the validity of the confession, willingness to vote guilty, and if the juvenile understood his rights. It was predicted that participants would see the interrogation as more influential in creating a false confession in younger suspects than older.

(School/Sports)

38. The Effects of Service Learning on Awareness Development

Mandy Canzano, Jessie Westrick, Erica Zinsser
Penn State Behrend

This study examines the relationship between service learning and awareness development through the constructs of empathy and moral development. Participants were students at Penn

State Erie (N = 36), ages 17 to 26. The experimental group completed a pre and posttest packet on either end of the service learning experience as well as reflection sheets. The control group completed one packet and had no experience with service learning. Qualitative findings of this study supported the current research, and the hypothesis that direct service is more effective than indirect service.

39. Age Bias in College Students: Do Students Prefer Young Professors?

Eric Haak (Dr. Pettijohn)

Mercyhurst College

The teacher-child relationship has been illustrated to be protective against numerous negative psychological outcomes. Previous research has identified important personality factors associated with a positive teacher-child relationship. The study attempted to identify any preference for teachers based upon age. Participants rated descriptions of an imaginary professor. The descriptions are identical, with the exception of the implied age of the professor. It was expected that students would prefer the younger professor as opposed to older and middle-aged professors.

40. The Effects of Exercise Frequency on Perceived Stress Levels in College Students

Nicole Barnett (Dr. Gerard Barron)

Mercyhurst College

Since stress can be detrimental to one's health, it is important to find ways to reduce it. It is expected if college students exercise more frequently (4-7 days per week), then they will experience a greater reduction in their perceived stress levels than those who do not. Participants completed five questionnaires measuring various aspects of exercise and stress. Groups were created using a quasi-experimental design. Data will be used to find relationships between exercise and stress. A significant difference between how often one exercises and perceived stress level is expected to be found.