



WPUPC 2012

40TH ANNUAL WESTERN PA UNDERGRADUATE PSYCHOLOGY CONFERENCE

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Acknowledgements

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CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

Start Time	End Time	Event	Location
7:30	8:30	Registration	Atrium
8:30	9:30	Poster Session One	Multi Purpose Room
9:45	10:45	Paper Sessions	
		Developmental Session	303B (Third floor)
		Social Session	143 (Main floor)
		Social, Gender & Culture Session	310 (Third floor)
		Neuroscience & Motivation Session	303A (Third floor)
		Cognitive Session	Theater (Main floor)
		Clinical Session	309 (Third floor)
		Social & Cultural Session	303C (Third floor)
11:00	12:15	Keynote Address <i>The Great Myths of Popular Psychology</i>	Multi Purpose Room
12:30	1:30	Lunch	Van Houten Dining Hall
1:45	2:45	Poster Session Two	Multi Purpose Room





DR. SCOTT O. LILIENFELD

Scott O. Lilienfeld received his B.A. in Psychology from Cornell University in 1982 and his Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology from the University of Minnesota in 1990. He completed his clinical internship at Western Psychiatric Institute and Clinic in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania from 1986-1987. He was assistant professor in the Department of Psychology at SUNY Albany from 1990-1994, and now is Professor of Psychology at Emory University. He recently was appointed a Fellow of the Association of Psychological Science, and was the recipient of the 1998 David Shakow Award from Division 12 (Clinical Psychology) of the American Psychological Association for Early Career Contributions to Clinical Psychology. Dr. Lilienfeld is a past president of the Society for a Science of Clinical Psychology within Division 12. He is the founder and editor of the *Scientific Review of Mental Health Practice*, Associate Editor of *Applied and Preventive Psychology*, and a regular columnist

for *Scientific American Mind* magazine. He has authored or co-authored six books and over 200 journal articles and chapters. Dr. Lilienfeld has also been a participant in Emory University's "Great Teachers" lecturer series, as well as the Distinguished Speaker for the Psi Chi Honor Society at the American Psychological Association and Midwestern Psychological Association conventions. (Biography from, Lilienfeld, S. O., Lynn, S. J., Namy, L. L., & Woolf, N. J., 2010. *Psychology: A framework for everyday thinking*. Boston, MA: Allyn & Bacon.)

SESSION 1:

Poster Session 1 (8:30 – 9:30)

Frank G. Pogue Student Center Multi Purpose Room

Numbers correspond to locations on tables where poster should be setup

(Faculty supervisor listed in parentheses)

1. Neuroaesthetics: A Neurological Underpinning of the Aesthetic Experience

Stephanie Goodwin (Sarah Markowitz), Wells College

Neuroaesthetics' attempt to explain the aesthetic experience from a neurological perspective is a novel approach in scientific research. There is evidence to support a biological foundation of aesthetics using neurological case studies and original research. The existing knowledge of the brain and aesthetics has been informed by the neuroaesthetics research findings thus far. Current research combined with the potential for future findings indicates that neuroaesthetics is a valid area of study.

2. The Impact of Powerful and Non-Powerful Movements on Confidence

Jaime Thayer (Aimee Knupsky), Allegheny College

Research on embodied cognition has begun to link postures to feelings of power. The present study looked to expand these powerful postures into movements and test their effect on confidence. Would the use of powerful movements affect confidence more than non-powerful movements? Participants learned either a powerful or non-powerful movement sequence, played both a spatial and linguistic game, and answered a brief survey. It was hypothesized that powerful movements would have a greater affect than non-powerful movements, powerful movements would have a greater affect on the spatial task than the linguistic task, and that participants would perform better on the spatial task across both movement conditions. The results showed that the movement condition did not have a significant effect on confidence. Additionally, the results showed that participants performed better on the linguistic task than the spatial task across both conditions.

3. The Effect of Therapy Dogs on Categorization Strategies in Children

Emily E. Lipski, Philip Best, & Raela Wiley (Justin J. Couchman), SUNY Fredonia

This experiment used a trained therapy dog as a learning tool to encourage more adult-like cognitive processing. Children learned to categorize stimuli into two groups. Perfect categorization could be achieved by focusing on either overall family resemblance or a single-feature rule, with or without the presence of a dog. Test stimuli were used that would belong to one group based on family resemblance, but also had the single-feature rule of the other group. Categorization of these stimuli determined the cognitive strategy. We hypothesize that in the presence of a therapy dog, children will rely more upon the single-feature rule. This would suggest that the dog might encourage them to focus on adult-like modes of processing.

4. Effects of Cell Phones on Attention

Caroline Reina (Sandra K. Webster), Westminster College

This experiment used a paradigm that simulated both the cognitive demands and the boring environment of a classroom setting while participants engaged in a boring task. The twenty participants were randomly divided into two groups, the control group that did not have access to their cell phones and the experimental group which had unlimited access. They had ten minutes to copy a list of one hundred nonsense words followed by two verbal survey questions regarding their cell phone habits in class and daily use. Participants who took longer to do the task and students who waited to use their cell phones scored the highest accuracy, which replicated data from Patterson and Mischel's study on delayed gratification (1976).

5. Embodied Cognition: The Effect of Internal vs. External Temperature on Social Likeability Perception

Matthew Smith (Marilyn Livosky), Mercyhurst University

Studies have shown that temperature influences an individual's perceptions. The effect of the intensity of the temperature on an individual's perception was studied. Participants consisted of 69 undergraduate students enrolled in Introduction to Psychology at a private Catholic university in northwestern Pennsylvania. Participants in two groups held a cup of hot or cold apple cider while participants in two other groups drank a cup of hot or cold apple cider. All groups did this while watching 30 seconds of a video lecture on a screen. Participants completed the STCI-T(30) and a 26-item personality questionnaire, evaluating the lecturer. The results failed to support the hypothesis that method of influence would create a significant difference in the perception of an individual.

6. How Are You Doing? Monitoring Performance During Exams

Kathryn N. Feather & Shaun J. Zmuda (Justin J. Couchman), SUNY Fredonia

Do you know how well you're doing while you're taking an exam? Should you go with your first guess on a multiple choice question, or revise if you are uncertain? Two overlapping groups of 62 participants were given an exam and asked to rate their confidence on each question. Results indicated a strong correlation between confidence ratings and the number of participants who got the question correct. However, confidence ratings were not as good at predicting individual performances. Participants were also asked to note when they revised an answer. Although almost all students reported hearing from a professor, and believing, that they should go with their first guess, a statistically significant number of revised answers were correct.

7. Effects of Music on Taking the SAT

Jalaine Wallace, Melanie Evans, & Brandon Robertson (Luke Rosielle), Gannon University

Previous research has suggested that music can have positive effects on cognitive tasks. One hypothesis for this phenomenon is the "mood-arousal" hypothesis. According to this, the effect that music has on cognitive abilities can be attributed to changes in the listener's arousal and mood (Schellenberg et al, 2007). To test this hypothesis, we took practice SAT questions from all sections and had our participants answer those questions while listening to one of three types of music or in silence. Participants were randomly assigned to one of four groups: no audio, classical music, popular music and operative music. All of the tests were timed. We are interested in whether the type of music people listen to while answering questions will affect their performance on these tasks.

8. Navigation Style and Product Familiarity's Effect on Banner Blindness

Christian Plourd (Aimee Knupsky), Allegheny College

The main goal of this research was to examine the effect familiarity and navigation style had on banner blindness. A 2x2 mixed ANOVA eye-tracking design was used for the current experiment with familiarity (familiar, unfamiliar) as the within-subjects variable and navigation style (browse, search) as the between-subjects variable. Thirty-six participants viewed a manipulated webpage consisting of a news article and two video banner advertisements. Results were examined in terms of banner advertisement recognition, recall, fixation duration and time to first fixation. Results indicated that participants within the browse condition could recall more about the banner advertisements than participants within the search condition. These results provide further evidence in online advertising.

9. Looking for color in all the wrong places: A search for synesthetic responses from color-important non-synesthetes

Aubrey L. Graham (Stephen T. Paul), Robert Morris University

Grapheme-color synesthesia occurs when a word, letter, or number elicits a perception of color among certain individuals. Research examining grapheme-color synesthesia routinely uses non-synesthetes as a control group. Significant differences between groups are then revealed which are attributed to synesthetic behavior. We hypothesize that this may be an exaggeration. A potential problem in using non-synesthetes as a control group is that in addition to the potential difference in brain mechanisms, there is a confounding difference between groups with regard to the importance of color in their day-to-day lives. The present study took into account color experience among non-synesthetes to determine whether color-important non-synesthetes (coloristas) behave in ways similar to synesthetes.

10. Sarcastic Prosody and Interpreting Emotional Expressions

Caitlyn Null (Gerard Barron), Mercyhurst University

Sarcasm is becoming a common form of speech in today's society. The purpose of my study was to examine the influence that sarcastic sentences can have on how one views an emotional expression. The participants were instructed to rate the emotional expression of 40 faces shown on a power point. Once they view the first 40 faces, they were instructed to rate the faces again however this time while listening to a sarcastic sentence. I also looked at whether higher aggression affects how the participants allowed the sarcastic sentences to influence their ratings. It is expected that the results will show a change in the ratings of the emotional expression when the face is paired with the sarcastic sentence, and that those in the higher aggression group will be more affected by the sarcasm.

11. How Humor Affects Mood in a Challenging Task

Breanna Williams, Samantha Bates (Dawn Blasko), Penn State Erie, The Behrend College

This study explored how people handle stressful situations using humor as a coping mechanism. Participants completed a self-report measure on current mood and anxiety, before and after a stressful task. Participants were then assigned to either a positive humorous, positive non-humorous or neutral video. They again rated their moods and completed a Humor Styles Questionnaire. We found that those who viewed the positive humorous video had more positive mood scores than those who viewed the neutral video. We also found that participants rated their moods as being more negative after completing the more difficult task than the least difficult task. Finally, we found that those who viewed the neutral video were more strained score than those who viewed the positive humorous video.

12. Relationship between alcohol consumption and frontal lobe functioning among college students

Mackenzie Rack-Wildner (Stephen T. Paul), Robert Morris University

About 25% of college students report experiencing academic consequences due to the consumption of alcohol. Outside of the effect drinking has on one's academics it is essential to consider what such behaviors contribute to adolescent neurological functioning. The frontal lobe is responsible for emotions, motor functioning, problem solving, and memory. Through the Ruff Figural Fluency Test (RFFT), researchers have been able to reliably measure nonverbal fluency within the frontal lobe. If student drinking is related to frontal lobe functioning, then this should be revealed by RFFT scores. Indeed, a negative correlation between drinking and RFFT performance was observed. These results suggest that alcohol may negatively affect essential frontal lobe functioning among college students.

13. The Effect of Mood on Eye-Witness Accounts in the Event of an Automobile Accident

Pamela Harrington, Karli Stankiewicz (Luke Rosielle), Gannon University

The purpose of the study is to determine whether the mood of an eye-witness effects recollection. Participants watched either a happy, sad, or neutral video followed by a video of an automobile accident. Participants then filled out questionnaires which contained suggestive language about the automobile accident they viewed. We hypothesized participants in the happy condition will have a greater ability to accurately recollect specific elements of the automobile accident, relative to the neutral condition. Likewise, we hypothesize that participants in the sad condition will have a reduced ability to accurately recollect specific elements of the automobile accident, relative to the neutral condition.

14. Does stereotype activation influence perceptions of academic majors?

Raaj Chanda, (Gerard T. Barron), Mercyhurst University

While studies in the past have been conducted on stereotype threat and performance on different tasks, little research has been done on stereotype perceptions of academic majors. This attempted to determine whether perceptions of academic majors affect performance through stereotype activation. Two groups read either a neutral passage or one based on positive stereotypes of two academic majors. The participants then completed a personality test, a creativity test, and an intelligence test. It is anticipated that those who read the stereotyped passage will perform better on the intelligence and creativity tests, and that the personality test scores and would strongly reflect the supplied descriptors of academic majors.

15. Stereotype Threat: An Opponent of Athletes

Stephanie Ciampa (Gerard Barron), Mercyhurst University

Past research on the effects of stereotype threat on athletes shows that subtle cues to the “dumb-jock” stereotype can hinder academic performance if the athletes are academically engaged. The current study examines athletes’ engagement in their sport as another mediating variable in the process of stereotype threat. While the experimental group was given a cue to the “dumb-jock” stereotype before taking an academic test, the control group was given the academic task without any prior activity. Athletes were also scored on a likert scale of engagement in athletics. It was hypothesized that the experimental group would take more time to complete the test and still perform worse than the control group, and that more engaged athletes would perform worse than less engaged athletes.

16. The Effect of Salience on Change Blindness

Colleen Harter (Gerard Barron), Mercyhurst University

Missing little details in life is a very common phenomenon, but missing when the person you are having a conversation with switches places with another person is not, or is it? Change blindness occurs when a person is unable to detect a large change in the scene they are viewing. This study tested if adding variables such as switching the person and then switching back, or adding a graphic to the T-shirt of one will help people notice the switch. To test this I used Mercyhurst University’s Introduction to Psychology students. I predicted that with two switches or a graphic on a T-shirt of only one, the participant will be able to notice they were not talking to the same person the entire time. The results are expected to demonstrate the limitations of the change blindness phenomenon.

17. Every minute helps: Studying the likelihood of volunteering

Kaitlin Michenko (Stephen T. Paul), Robert Morris University

The purpose of the present research was to explore the effectiveness of a phrase “every minute helps” on volunteering among college students. Over 150 students were surveyed as to whether they would volunteer for an on-campus activity promoting school spirit. Two versions of the survey were randomly distributed to students that included one of two phrases requesting volunteers; one used the key phrase “Every minute helps” and the other phrase was “Your contribution helps”. Analysis showed that more minutes were donated when the key phrase was present in the survey. It was concluded that organizations interested in trying to increase volunteerism should look carefully at how they make their requests.

18. The Effect of a Physically Attractive Recipient on the Expression of Self-disclosure in E-mail Communication

Eric Wilhelm (Aimee Knupsky), Allegheny College

The goal of the study was to examine the effect of presenting the image of a physically attractive or unattractive opposite-sex recipient on the amount of self-disclosure expressed by an individual over e-mail. College students (N=28) participated in the study and did not know physical attractiveness of the recipient and self-disclosures were being examined. Participants were instructed to produce an email to a prospective student interested in the college. It was hypothesized that females will self-disclose more information than males and both males and females will self-disclose more to physically attractive participants. It was found that there was no significant difference in sex of the participant. However, there was a main effect of physical attractiveness of the recipient. The interaction between sex of the participant and physical attractiveness of the recipient was not significant, but patterns suggest more research is to be done.

19. The Effect of Coach's Rules and Seasonal Status on Drinking among Intercollegiate Athletes

Kaitlyn Segiel (Patricia Rutledge), Allegheny College

Previous research has shown that coach policies can be an effective way to regulate intercollegiate athletes' alcohol consumption during the competitive season (King, Dowdall, Wagner, 2009). Seasonal status has been found to be a determining factor in the amount of alcohol athletes consume (Martens, Dams-O'Connor, & Duffy-Paiement, 2006). The current study sought to further explore the effectiveness of coach policies control on alcohol consumption and the effects of seasonal status on alcohol consumption. Intercollegiate athletes ($N = 94$) completed a self-report survey containing questions regarding their coach's policies and the amount of alcohol they consume during the in-season and off-season. Coach policy questions were categorized as either being related to coach strictness or coach leniency. Results did not support the main hypothesis that coach policies would have an effect on in-season alcohol consumption; however, results suggested that coach strictness does have an effect on alcohol consumption in the off-season. Seasonality generated the most surprising results suggesting there was no relationship between alcohol consumption and in-season drinking but data found that athletes who are currently in-season reported that they drink more in the off-season than what current off-season athletes reported they consumed. These findings suggest that coaches are failing to decrease their athletes' alcohol consumption in-season and that athletes' motives for wanting to drink are still persistent regardless of seasonal status.

20. Physiological Reactions of Preschool Children to the Presence of a Real Dog During a Memory Task

Zachariah Braunscheidel, Jacquelyn Gregory (Nancy Gee), SUNY Fredonia

Previous research has indicated that the presence of an animal can reduce physiological reactions to stressful situations. The purpose of this study is to determine if these effects occur with preschool children. The two measures of physiological arousal used in this study are pulse rate and oxygen saturation (SP02) and are determined using a pulse oximeter. Each child wears the pulse oximeter across three conditions; the presence of a therapy dog, a stuffed dog and a human. In each condition, each child is asked to complete a working memory task in which they are to remember the order of basic geometric shapes pointed to by an experimenter. Pulse oximetry and pulse rate will be measured two minutes before the memory task, during the task and two minutes after. We expect that children will experience less arousal in the presence of a therapy dog as compared to the other two conditions.

21. Standing Tall: The Importance of Posture on the Perception of Personality

Rachel Zacherro, Julia Baker, & Ryan Ellsworth (Dawn Blasko), Penn State Erie, The Behrend College

This study examined the relationship between posture and first impressions. While studies have been done to test the effects that posture has on emotions, motivation, and rating personalities, the researchers were particularly interested in posture and gender of the character in terms of predicting perceptions of social or professional relationships. The participants were randomly assigned to either a social or professional group. Participants were shown in a counterbalanced order four video clips of students walking into a room and then sitting down (male-good posture, male-bad posture, female-good posture, female-bad posture). They were then asked to rate the character based on their impressions of the students' personalities from a social or professional perspective. The results showed a main effect of posture on all five personality traits. The results also showed a main effect of gender, with females being judged harsher than males being present in agreeableness, and interactions of posture, gender, and judgment type.

22. The Effects of Winning or Losing a Videogame on Frustration and Aggression

Christopher Hawk (Elizabeth Bennett), Washington & Jefferson College

The effect of winning or losing at a videogame on levels of aggression and frustration was tested. A total of 32 college students participated in this two session study. Participants used the in-game tutorial to learn the game. Participants completed the in-game, timed obstacle course. Their times were recorded. Participants were split into winning and losing groups based on their times. In session two, a participant from each group played against each other in a 10 minute death-match style game. Supporting the hypothesis, losers were significantly more frustrated than winners, $t(31) = -2.78$, $p = .009$, but did not report more aggression, $t(31) = .272$, $p = .788$.

23. The Effects of Alcohol and Exercise on Perceived Stress in College Students

Natalie Herrington (Patricia Rutledge), Allegheny College

It is a widely and persistently held belief that college campuses are stress-inducing environments. Previous research has shown that college students use a variety of strategies to cope with their school related stress, but primarily activities involving alcohol and exercise. The current study investigated both drinking and exercising as predictors of perceived stress in a sample of undergraduate students (N = 303). Gender served as a control variable in this study. Participants took an online survey on Google Docs that included the following instruments: International Physical Activity Questionnaire, Perceived Stress Scale, and an alcohol consumption questionnaire. Data were analyzed with hierarchical multiple regression. Results showed that vigorous exercise was a significant predictor of perceived stress for both men and women. The present study made a significant contribution to previous research because it simultaneously examined the effects of alcohol and exercise on collegiate stress. Implications and future directives for research on collegiate stress are discussed.

24. Living with Luck: The Good and the Bad

Keith L. Barker & Allison R. Christoff (Christopher Niebauer), Slippery Rock University of Pennsylvania

The present study measured participants on degrees of self-rumination (S-RU), self-reflection (S-RE), and beliefs on luck. A negative correlation was found between S-RU and fortune (a positive view of luck), while a positive correlation was found between S-RU and magical ideation (a negative view of luck). These results may be attributable to the cynical nature of rumination and its implications for how an individual interprets life experiences. Additionally, a positive correlation was found to be present between S-RE and magical ideation, along with an expected positive correlation between S-RE and fortune. These findings suggest that optimistic self-reflectors are more likely to consider both the positive and negative manifestations of luck than their pessimistic counterparts.

25. Attention vs. Distraction: Distractions during free throw shooting

Joseph Kennedy (Christopher Niebauer), Slippery Rock University of Pennsylvania

Psychology has studied attention since the time of William James. This research has been turned to the athletic realm to shed light on where attention was focused during athletic events. Sibley & Etnier (2004) and Price (2008) indicate that attention is not consistent through and entire activity, but is only focused on specific phases during the task. Masango, Marchant, & Morris (2008) introduced distractions to tasks and found that performance decreased. The current study is an attempt to provide further research on attention by replicating a study done by Sports Science, who found auditory stimuli created more of a distraction. This study will utilize a within studies design and counterbalancing to test subjects. The hypothesis is visual stimuli will cause more of a distraction.

26. Effects of Height on Participants' Attractiveness Ratings of Male and Female Targets

Seth Hembree, Ashleigh Britton, & Allison Yeckley (Gary Levine), Edinboro University of Pennsylvania

This experiment was designed to investigate the effects of height on attractiveness. Participants rated the attractiveness of three men and three women, who were reported to be tall, short, or average height. The study was counterbalanced so the order of the height information was random for each participant. Overall, the attractiveness ratings of male participants were influenced more by height than were the ratings of female participants, with male participants rating taller males as being more attractive and rating shorter females as more attractive.

27. Optimism and Political Behaviors

Joseph DeMaria (Guy Boysen), SUNY Fredonia

Recently, optimism studies have shed light upon how being optimistic, among other positive benefits, correlates with a greater personal well-being. The current research examined whether maintaining a sense of optimism towards the future is always beneficial or if sometimes being optimistic holds negative effects. Optimism can be conceptualized in two ways: personal optimism and world optimism. Personal optimism pertains to optimism regarding oneself, and world optimism involves optimism regarding humanity in general. High world optimism may correlate with complacency in political and social change behaviors. The current research surveyed college students to test this prediction.

28. The Effects of Suggestive Visual Stimuli on Delay of Gratification

Chelsea Crum, Latishia Swarm, & Eliza Paparelli (Gary Levine), Edinboro University of Pennsylvania

The current study examines the effects of viewing sexually suggestive advertisements on delay-of-gratification in both men and women. Participants were randomly assigned to view either neutral or sexually suggestive advertisements. Delayed gratification was measured in a pretest and posttest as the dependent variable. After viewing the sexually suggestive advertisements, men exhibited a decrease in delayed gratification, but the result did not attain statistical significance.

29. The Effects of Athlete Time, Time Investment, and Own Type Descriptive Norms on Alcohol Consumption in College Athletes

Felicia Gowanlock (Patricia Rutledge), Allegheny College

This study examines how athlete status (intercollegiate or club), time investment to a sport, own type descriptive norms, and gender affect the amount of alcohol that is consumed while in the off-season and while in-season. The primary purpose behind this study was to add to the very limited literature regarding the alcohol tendencies of athletes participating at the club level of athletics. A non-random selection of intercollegiate and club athletes from a small highly selective liberal arts school, completed self-reports regarding the major study variables. Two linear multiple regression analyses were run in order to interpret the data. It was found that own type descriptive norms and gender affect an athlete's alcohol consumption while in-season. It was also found that athlete type; own type descriptive norms and gender affect an athlete's alcohol consumption while in the off-season. The primary conclusion of this study was that the regression analysis shows that the consumption of in-season intercollegiate and club athletes did not differ, but that, among off-season, these two types of athletes did differ in terms of alcohol consumption.

30. An Exploratory Survey of Runners' Problem Solving Thinking

Katherine McCormick, Allison Kirstein, Jennifer Herselman, & Nicole Miller (Sharon Hamilton), Edinboro University of Pennsylvania

This study assessed the extent to which recreational runners report engaging in problem solving during and after training runs. Fifty-three runners were asked to participate during registration for a combined 5k and half-marathon race. Participants completed two surveys that asked about their running habits and their thought processes related to different stages of problem solving. Runners reported on average running for 11.5 years, and running 23.9 miles each week for the past three months. Overall, runners reported engaging in problem solving, and that their emotions related to specific problems changed for the better "often to always" during training runs. Future research should more directly assess both the occurrence of and quality of problem solving.

31. A Comparison of Women's and Men's Perceptions of the Female Genitalia

Whitney Riley (Ingrid Johnston-Robledo), SUNY at Fredonia

Standards for attractive, sexualized vulvas are narrow and currently include the removal of most public hair, genital surgeries, and other forms of genital modification. This is seen in both popular culture (e.g., pornography, celebrities) and in the literature on women's genital modification practices (Ramsey, Sweeny, Fraser, & Oades, 2009). The purpose of this study was to compare women and men's perceptions of this new trend in genital modification, use of pornography, and perceptions of different vulvas. Participants (117 women and 62 men) completed an Internet survey that assessed attitudes toward the vulva. Preliminary results confirm a tendency for both men and women to evaluate the hairless vulva as more attractive than the vulva with large amounts of pubic hair.

32. WPUPC as a resource and opportunity for Psi Chi and Psychology Club methods sharing: A proposal

Eric S. Levine (Stephen T. Paul), Robert Morris University

For more than 35 years, students and faculty from across Western Pennsylvania and outlying areas have gathered to present research and share ideas related to the field of psychology. Over this time, the number of participating schools as well as the number of attendees has grown. It therefore seems wasteful not to take additional advantage of the collective knowledge of these varied resources. Specifically, it is proposed that student representatives of the chapters of Psi Chi as well as the assorted psychology clubs make a special effort to gather at each WPUPC and share knowledge regarding fund raising, campus events and activities, dealing with student apathy, recruitment issues, etc. To illustrate this potential, we share two recent Psi Chi endeavors at RMU with some assessment data.

33. Irritability through music genres

Kara J. Szoszorek (Stephen T. Paul), Robert Morris University

Music and the ways it can affect people has been an interest in the mental health field for decades. For example, Mozart's music is believed by some to improve spatial skills of infants and rap has been blamed for school shootings and gang activities. What has not been well researched is how musical preference relates to irritability when listening to non-preferred genres. This study examined how mood relates to listening of preferred and non-preferred genres. College students (N=157) solved Sudoku puzzles and completed Anderson's State Hostility Test while listening to music. The goal was to determine whether students presented with a music genre that mismatched their preference would score more irritably compared with students who listened to a preferred musical genre.

34. Using Gender Specific Toys to Prime Gender Stereotypes and Career Goals

Stephanie Kessner & Brittany Kaltenbaugh (Gary Levine), Edinboro University of Pennsylvania

The present experiment investigated the effects of priming gender stereotypes through the use of gender specific toys to observe their influence on interest in typically male or female careers. Participants were randomly assigned to one of two groups in which they either looked at pictures of gender specific children's toys or gender neutral toys. They then rated their interest in typically male and female-dominated careers. We hypothesized that the participants viewing gender specific toys would rate their interest in careers typically populated by their gender rather than those of the opposite gender. We found a marginally significant interaction in female careers. Males were less interest in female careers, while females were more interested, when primed by gender specific toys.

35. Minimizing Classroom Bias

Ashley Schosek (Guy Boysen), SUNY Fredonia

While incidents of bias are far from eradicated on college campuses, little academic research has been conducted to investigate the most successful means of bias management in the classroom. To understand more about this topic, undergraduates completed anonymous surveys directly assessing the perceptions of either another student or a professor when responding to the hypothetical use of a sexist stereotype in the classroom; the surveys also measured gender stereotypes and sexism. Analyses will compare the effects of a response to bias when it comes from a student versus a professor. The results will inform professors' responses to classroom bias and, therefore, help to create a comfortable learning environment for all students by minimizing the occurrence of biased statements in the college setting.

36. The Effect of Highlighter and Paper Color on Memory Retention

Kathryn Sullivan (Gerard Barron), Mercyhurst University

The purpose of the study is to examine the effects highlighting and paper color have on memory retention. Two independent variables, highlighter and paper color, were explored. Participants (n=60) were asked to memorize a list of 24 words highlighted according to experiment condition utilizing white, orange, or yellow for the colors. Two distractor tasks were administered and participants were asked to recall as many words from the previous list as possible. It is anticipated that participants will recall more highlighted words in orange paired with an orange recall sheet than any of the other experiment conditions.

37. The Effects of Personality Factors and Time Perspective on Academic Procrastination

Mark Connelly & Bianca Bramblett (Dawn Blasko), Penn State Erie, the Behrend College

Procrastination is a problem that plagues nearly all college students. We developed a procrastination intervention to prepare students for their college years. The college student participants completed a series of surveys before and after their first year seminar class in which procrastination reduction techniques and tools were introduced and explored. There was a difference in response on participants' procrastination score pretest to posttest, and we explored if certain personality characteristics had any relationship to procrastination. The increased procrastination reduction knowledge has potential to help the students achieve higher grades and to learn more with less stress.

38. Hurting or Helping Eyewitness Identification: Global or Local Priming?

Erin McCreary & Kristan Russell (Dawn Blasko), Penn State Erie, the Behrend College

This study examined if it is possible to influence facial recognition accuracy by priming the brain's lateralization. The main hypotheses of the study were that global priming of the brain would improve facial recognition accuracy and local priming would impair accuracy. In the study participants were randomly assigned to complete either a Navon Letters task, or a Hierarchical Figures Task, which was used to prime the brain to either a global or local lateralization. Also, every participant took place in a facial identification task. The goal of this study was to understand the effects of brain lateralization on the ability to recognize faces. The only significant result found was that local priming impaired the ability to recognize a face compared to a control and global condition.

39. Working Memory and Second Language Learning

Kyla J. Tompkins (Aimee Knupsky), Allegheny College

The purpose of this study was to determine if learning a second language had an effect on Working Memory. The study specifically looked at the phonological loop and the visuospatial sketchpad of monolinguals (N= 26) and second language learners (N= 24). Participants' visuospatial sketchpad was tested on two matching tasks, matching numbers and matching the sums of equations. Participants' phonological loop was tested on two digit span tasks, forward and backwards. After completing the tasks, participants completed a post- test questionnaire that assessed their acquisition, and fluency of a second language. The results did not find an interaction between second language learners and working memory performance.

40. Is the interference of articulatory suppression isolated to phonological processing in working memory?

Logan Kienholz, Kaitlyn Knight, Keah Kraus, Susane Symons, & Robert Cole (Michael Skelly), Edinboro University of Pennsylvania

The functionality of each component in Baddely's (2000) working memory model is typically examined using a dual-task paradigm. It is widely agreed that articulatory suppression interferes with phonological processing, however, the effect that articulatory suppression has on high level imagery tasks, such as mental rotation, has not been examined. Accordingly, a 2 x 4 repeated-measures factorial design was used to investigate the effect of articulatory suppression (silence vs. suppression) and the effect of angular rotation (0, 45, 135, 180 degrees) on the time necessary, in ms, to make a normal-mirror judgment. Initial data analysis indicates that the time to make a normal-mirror judgment increased as the angular discrepancy of stimuli increases, thus supporting Shepard and Metzler (1971).

41. Can you change visual perception by squeezing a stress ball?

Kylie Peters & Ashley Kerr (Dawn Blasko), Penn State Erie, The Behrend College

Abraham Goldstein developed a technique in which unilateral muscle contraction (squeezing a stress ball) with one hand can activate the opposite hemisphere of the brain. Researchers claim that when activating the right hemisphere, performance is better on a creativity task. The current study hypothesized that activation of the right hemisphere may enhance global processing and the left hemisphere local processing. Participants viewed Navon letters and shapes and were asked to identify the images on a global or local scale. The global letters were easier to recognize than the local. However, the hand squeezing did not alter performance based on the hemisphere of activation. That suggests this non-invasive technique is not easily applied to new tasks and may be primarily a semantic effect.

42. The Effects Arousal, Lag Time, and Word Length on the Attentional Blink

Quinn Romonovich (Sandra K. Webster), Westminster College

This study investigated the effects of arousal, lag time, and word length on the attentional blink during rapid serial visual presentation. High and low arousal words were used as the second target in the stream of images shown at 53ms per item. Three lag times were used to examine the effects of lag time. Three, four, five and six letter words were used. Participants had better accuracy for high arousal words than low arousal words, and short words were recognized better than long words, and that accuracy increased as lag time increased. A three way interaction between arousal, lag, and word length shows that accuracy increases as word length decreases and arousal and lag time increase. The findings suggest that short arousing words capture attention better than long non-arousing words.

43. Prevalence of Four Types of Sexual Victimization Among University Undergraduates

Chelsea Crum & Ashley Yatzor (William D. Pithers), Edinboro University of Pennsylvania

A modification of the Sexual Experiences Survey (SES; Koss & Oros, 1982) was employed to identify the prevalence of four types of sexual abuse (i.e., unwanted sexual contact, sexual coercion, attempted rape, and rape) among 57 male and 162 female undergraduates. The data revealed that females were disproportionately overrepresented among all four levels of sexual abuse assessed by the SES. 56.8% of the females reported having experienced unwanted sexual contact (compared to 21.1% of the males), 37% of the females had experienced sexual coercion (compared to 19.3% of the males), 26.5% of the females had experienced attempted sexual assault (compared to 14% of the males), and 16% of the females reported having been the victim of a completed rape (in contrast to 3.5% of the males).

44. The Effect a Dog has on Preschooler's Language Production

Leah Kerns, Zachariah Braunscheidel, Whitney Riley, & Philip Best (Nancy Gee), SUNY Fredonia

There are a number of programs aimed at helping children read using Therapy Animals as listeners during their reading sessions. Previous research has shown that the presence of a dog has a stress reducing impact on blood pressure, heart rate, among other things. The current study examined the degree to which preschool children were willing to page through a picture book and tell the story to a human or a dog listener. The participants were 20 children ranging in ages from 2-4. Four similar picture books were randomly assigned. Each child was measured twice in the dog and human conditions. Previous analysis indicated that the children produced more words in the presence of the dog than the human. An analysis of the story related content of the full data set will be presented.

45. Sounds or silence? Auditory stimulus effects on fine motor skills

David Lopus (Stephen T. Paul), Robert Morris University

Unlike vision where we can select stimuli to either attend to or to avoid altogether, audition provides no such opportunity. Auditory stimuli, which permeate all aspects of life, can spur movement and set a pace for individuals performing tasks. If qualities of auditory stimulation were specifically controlled, task performance may be directly affected. The present study examined different controlled sound conditions during performance on a manual dexterity task (the game of Operation). It was found that, indeed, certain sound qualities do affect performance.

46. Does Listening to Your Preferred Music Genre Affect Your Task Persistence?

Michelle Godzinski & Chelsea Perry (Dawn Blasko), Penn State Erie, The Behrend College

Generally people believe that music will enhance their performance, however, listening to music may also distract from goals and may only be helpful when it is both familiar and enjoyable. The current study examined whether listening to preferred music would increase persistence. A between subject design had participants either listen to a chosen or assigned song. Participants were given a series of mazes to work on, one maze being impossible. The dependent variable was the time it took to forfeit the task as well as mood state before and after the task. Results showed that participants in the chosen genre groups persisted significantly longer than the other conditions. It was also found that participants in the chosen genre group were more positive post study than the other conditions.

DEVELOPMENTAL SESSION:

Paper Session (9:45 – 10:45)

Session 1: Developmental 303B (Third floor)

Chair: Dr. Cynthia Legin-Bucell

47. Pretend Play: Relations to Theory of Mind and Affective Perspective Taking

Katie DiCola (Mandy Medvin), Westminster College

This study looked at the relationship between role enactment (RE) in sixteen three to five year olds and how it related to the development of theory of mind (ToM) and affective perspective taking (APT). Children completed a battery of tests over three individual testing sessions, including vocabulary, ToM and APT measures. In addition, a pretend play questionnaire and observations of social play evaluated the extent of the children's participation in RE and other forms of social play. The results showed that older children engaged in less reality play and engaged in more role play than younger children. There were no significant relationships between the play measures and a child's performance on the overall ToM and APT tasks. Analyses of individual questions revealed significant positive correlations between parallel play and the ability to correctly answer the content ToM questions.

48. Emotion Understanding: Building Block for Social Interactions and Moral Judgments in Preschool

Kathryn Laufer (Mandy Medvin), Westminster College

We examined the indirect and direct effects of emotion understanding, social skills, and moral evaluations of relational and overt aggression scenarios. The participants consisted of 31 preschool students (3-5 years old) from a rural, northwestern Pennsylvania town. Higher scores from the affective perspective taking tasks did not correlate with higher moral severity scores and higher level reasoning of moral transgressions. Social skills were not shown to be a mediating variable between the relationship of emotion understanding and moral judgments. However, the results from secondary analyses add to past research by providing further support for the relationship of emotion understanding with social skills and moral understanding. Further research is needed to understand this relationship.

49. Gender Differences and Normative Beliefs: Effects on Direct and Indirect Cyber Bullying

Alissa Johnston (Mandy B. Medvin), Westminster College

This study assessed the linkages among adolescents' self-reported aggression levels, normative beliefs about cyber bullying, and response strategies in situations where cyber bullying could occur. A convenience sample of students from schools in northern West Virginia was used in this correlational study. Findings indicate that participants who were more approving of cyber bullying rated themselves higher on the normative belief questionnaire, these participants also scored higher on the aggression survey. Higher aggression and normative belief levels led participants to choose an increased number of aggressive responses in the response to the cyber bullying scenarios. Results also showed that gender did not have an effect on normative beliefs towards cyber bullying.

50. Inhibitory Control and Working Memory: Predictors of Theory of Mind in Children?

Amber M. Rex (Mandy B. Medvin), Westminster College

Executive functions, specifically inhibitory control and working memory, are important precursors to theory of mind development in children (e.g., Carlson & Moses, 2001; Davis & Pratt, 1995). Thirty-six children, ages 3 to 5 years, completed measures of inhibitory control, working memory, and theory of mind. Controlling for verbal ability, scores of inhibitory control and working memory did not significantly correlate with false belief scores. Using the most sensitive measures, only inhibitory control predicted theory of mind. Number of siblings did not predict theory of mind scores. The results suggest that inhibitory control may be an important precursor to the development of theory of mind in young children. Keywords: inhibitory control, working memory, theory of mind, false belief

51. Stress and Coping from a Counterfactual Standpoint in Preschool Children

Jeannine Gillett (Mandy Medvin), Westminster College

The purpose of this study is to explore counterfactuals from a stress and coping standpoint in preschool children. The amount of problem-focused coping strategies and amount of counterfactuals elicited from each question were evaluated. Counterfactual-priming questions did not significantly produce more counterfactuals or problem-focused coping strategies compared to the non-counterfactual priming questions. As age increased, however, the amount counterfactuals and problem focused coping increased. A difference in the amount of counterfactuals produced due to the source of stress in the situations was also found. Three year olds produced more counterfactuals self-elicited stressful situations. This relationship shows that there is more to be learned about counterfactuals in these children.

SOCIAL SESSION:

Paper Session (9:45 – 10:45)

Session 2: Social 143 (Main floor)

Chair: Dr. Greg Morrow

52. It's How You Say It: A Look at the Effect of Verbal Tense on the Level of Attributed Intentionality

Emily Alden (Gerard Barron), Mercyhurst University

The way you say something can often make more of an impact than what is actually said, which can be the difference between a guilty verdict and walking free from a courtroom. The purpose of this study was to investigate the effects of imperfective and perfective verb tense on the level of attributed intentionality. A total of 58 participants were recruited from the Mercyhurst undergraduate population. The participants were asked to fill out a questionnaire, which contained four scenarios of real criminal differing only on verb tense, measuring the levels of intentionality attributed to the actor. The results are expected to show that those in the imperfective verb group will attribute a higher level of intentionality than those in the perfective verb group.

53. Taste Perception and Prosocial Behavior

Veronica McCoy (Gerard Barron), Mercyhurst University

This study explored what effects taste perception might have on reciprocity, in regards to trust, as well as one's moral virtue of charity. The hypothesis of this study is that participants in the sweet condition would show higher rates of reciprocity of trust as well as higher rates of willingness to give to charity in comparison to participants in the bitter condition. Participants in the reciprocity of trust experiment partook in a one shot anonymous trust game while participants in the willingness to give to charity experiment completed a flyer about volunteerism after drinking either a sweet or bitter beverage. The results of this study showed that there was no statistical difference between reciprocity of trust or willingness to be charitable based on taste.

54. The Effects of Self-Appraisals and Ostracism on Shame and Guilt Proneness

Lindsay James (Jamie McMinn), Westminster College

The purpose of this study was to determine how social connectedness, self-esteem, cognitive appraisals, and ostracism affect proneness to shame and guilt. Ostracism jeopardizes people's fundamental needs and can result in shame and guilt. Undergraduate participants (18 men and 42 women) completed three questionnaires measuring social connectedness, self-esteem, and views of themselves. They were included or excluded in an online chat room conversation and given a fourth questionnaire to measure levels of shame and guilt. Those with higher self-esteem, global appraisals, and men with lower social connectedness were more prone to shame. Ostracism did not affect proneness to shame, and no factors elicited guilt. The current study showed shame was a self-oriented, socially-sanctioned emotion.

55. Self-Esteem Levels as a Predictor of Aggression in Individuals with Antisocial Characteristics

David Merrick (Kirk Lunnan), Westminster College

This experiment examined whether or not high self-esteem in combination with antisocial characteristics predict aggression. An individual who tested positively for high self-esteem would be more aggressive due to the fact that if he or she had more confidence in his or her self-image, the individual would be less likely to back down from an ego threat and either displayed antisocial characteristics, or did not. Each participant was in either of the two conditions; ego threat present or no ego threat. Two inventories were given during this experiment; one as a screening and one to test self-esteem. The results from this experiment did not support the hypothesis. The data showed that individuals with high self-esteem and antisocial characteristics did not act more aggressively.

SOCIAL, GENDER & CULTURE SESSION:

Paper Session (9:45 – 10:45)

Session 4: Social/Gender/Culture 310 (Third floor)

Chair: Dr. Sharon Hamilton

56. Perceptions of a Bearded Man as a Function of Occupation, Sexual Orientation, and Mental Health

Skyelor Menard & Samantha Miosi (Jack Croxton), SUNY Fredonia

The goal of this study was to determine the effects of occupational stereotypes, sexual orientation, and mental health on the impressions of a bearded man. We told participants that the man was a CEO of a bank, a professor, or unemployed. He was described as either homosexual or heterosexual. Half of the subjects were also told that the man was clinically depressed. This resulted in a 3 X 2 X 2 factorial design. The dependent measures included a set of personality traits and a set of emotions. A professor was believed to have the most positive outlook whereas the target was perceived most negatively when unemployed. The homosexual target was seen as more emotional and the depressed target was believed to experience many negative emotions. A number of significant interactions were obtained.

57. Modern Racism and Exposure to Reverse Discrimination: Effects on Perception of Interracial Relationships

Abbey Keppel (Sherri Pataki), Westminster College

As today's society becomes more diverse, prospects of interracial romantic relationships also increase. Modern racism is described as a new form of racism related to the belief that African Americans receive unfair advantages by the government. The purpose of this study is to compare college students' perceptions of romantic interracial relationships based on their modern racism levels and exposure to reverse discrimination. It was predicted that large modern racism scores and exposure to reverse discrimination would lead to negative perceptions of interracial relationships. There were 60 participants. The results displayed a positive correlation between the modern racism and perceptions of interracial relationships. The results indicated that the articles were not statistically significant.

58. The Effect of Gender Schema on Memory: Are Gender Specific Words Easier to Recall from Short-Term Memory?

Isabella Hersh (Gerard Barron), Mercyhurst University

The purpose of this study was to investigate the difference in effect that gender has on the ability to recall gender neutral and gender specific (to the participant) words from short term memory. Participants (N=61) were given the Bem Sex Role Inventory; participant's masculinity and femininity were measured based on their self-reported possession of stereotypical masculine and feminine personality characteristics. Participants then were presented with three separate lists of words (feminine, gender neutral and masculine) to memorize and then recall. It is anticipated that sex-typed participants will have a higher rate of stereotypically gender specific word recall due to their readiness to process information on the basis of sex-linked associations that compose the gender schema.

59. Perceptions of Gender Differences on College Campuses

Amanda Marie Cetra, (Thomas Hershberger), Chatham University

Numerous studies have presented significant gender differences in rating psychological attributes. However, Hyde (2005), through meta-analyses, found that there were few attributes with large effect sizes. The purpose of this study is to look at the perceptions of these gender differences among college women. A behavioral checklist in which female college students are asked to rate psychological attributes as male or female and then rate the degree of difference was used.

NEUROSCIENCE & MOTIVATION SESSION:

Paper Session (9:45 – 10:45)

Session 4: Neuroscience & Motivation

303A (Third floor)

Chair: Dr. Grant McLaren

60. Interaction of Methylphenidate and External Cue in an ADHD Behavioral Training Model

Erica Kimmick (Alan Gittis & Robin McGovern), Westminster College

Symptoms of Attention Deficit Hyperactive Disorder (ADHD) include hyperactivity, inattentiveness, and impulsivity, which are caused by dopamine dysfunction in the medial prefrontal cortex. A six-hydroxydopamine lesion model of ADHD was used to examine response accuracy on an attentional task under one of three conditions: cue only, methylphenidate only (MPH), and MPH with cue. Results indicated rats injected with methylphenidate and exposed to an external cue showed a significant increase in response accuracy compared to the MPH and cue only groups. Also, the results indicate animals in the cue only condition had an increase performance in response accuracy compared to just methylphenidate group. This study provides evidence that combination of a stimulant and external cue would have a stronger affect than a stimulant or external cue was given alone. Keywords: dopamine, hyperactivity, methylphenidate, external cue, medial prefrontal cortex

61. A Preliminary Evaluation of a Vocal Conditioned Generalized Reinforcer

Maria Helton (Jonathan W. Ivy), Mercyhurst University

The effect of a vocal conditioned generalized reinforcer (V-SRG) on the frequency of the target behavior was evaluated using a single-case withdrawal design. Two typically developing first grade students participated. Baseline data was collected on the number of math problems completed during a session. Following a condition in which the V-SRG was paired with back-up reinforcers the participants entered the intervention phase. Intervention data was collected on the number of math problems completed. The V-SRG was delivered on a fixed ratio scale. A back up reinforcer was earned after four deliveries of the V-SRG. Results show math problem completion was significantly higher during intervention than baseline phase. The V-SRG seemed to have a desirable effect on the target behavior.

62. The Effect of Priming and Hemisphericity in an Emotional Lexical Task

Dana Griesmer (Sandra K. Webster), Westminster College

The right hemisphere (Lang, Bradley, and Cuthbert, 1990) and the valence-arousal (Davidson, 1992) models of emotion were compared by completing a lexical decision task with a 2 (prime type) x 3 (prime valence) x 2 (visual field) x 3 (target word valence) x 2 (gender) mixed design. Thirty right-handed Westminster College undergraduates (16 men) completed 120 trials. Primes (pictures or words) were presented centrally, and targets were presented in the left or right visual field. Sixty percent of the target words were positive, negative, or non-emotional in valence; the other targets were non-words. Non-emotional primes followed by negative target words in the left visual field were recognized the quickest. Future studies can explore the effects of the attentional blink theory on emotion.

63. A model of the vigilance decrement in rats

Emily Thompson, Kerry Schutte, William Stewart, & Glory Atuh (Peter McLaughlin), Edinboro University of Pennsylvania

This experiment aimed to model the vigilance decrement seen in humans. Rats were tested on a free-operant, high response rate task. Reinforcement occurred on a variable-ratio 15 (VR15) schedule. The design minimized feedback, similar to tests of human attention. Presence or absence of a brief tone controlled response choice. Response rate on each lever measured attention, predicting highest rates on the signal lever just after presentation of the tone. Scopolamine was used to reduce sensitivity without affecting bias. Results show a within session shift in bias similar to human results. This task can be used to further investigate the physiological origin of the vigilance decrement, and to test potential attention-enhancing treatments.

64. Cannabinoid CB1 agonists impair cognitive performance through changes in stimulus expectancy

William Stewart, Emily Thompson, Kerry Schutte, & Glory Atuh (Peter McLaughlin), Edinboro University of Pennsylvania

Cannabinoid CB1 agonists (such as THC) are widely known to impair attention in humans and animals. The precise nature of these effects remains elusive. Recent studies in our lab indicate that a novel CB1 agonist, AM4054, may impair attention task accuracy by inducing an inefficient online strategy where recent trials influence of future trials. The present experiment employed an expectancy task where stimulus probability was varied. Reporting a less frequent cue was impaired, an effect that was exacerbated following a series of trials on the more frequent lever. These results indicate that marijuana's effect on attention maybe due to changes in expectancy. Future research should investigate the role of marijuana has on strategy or bias.

COGNITIVE SESSION:

Paper Session (9:45 – 10:45)

Session 5: Cognitive

Theater (Main floor)

Chair: Dr. Mike Skelly

65. The Effects Video Game Violence and Narrative Have On Reducing Stress

Casey Chadwick & Brittany Bittner (Dawn Blasko), Penn State Erie, The Behrend College

Research has disagreed on the positive and negative effects of video games. In the current study we assessed whether violent video games impact the ability to reduce stress. Participants in this study consisted of 53 undergraduate students at Penn State Behrend. Participants were randomly assigned to play a violent video game (with a narrative or without), or a nonviolent video game (with a narrative or without). In order to increase stress, participants completed the Paced Auditory Serial Addition Task. To assess whether there were changes in stress, participants were given a pre/post current mood survey. They also completed a Serious Game Measure that examined perceptions of video games. Results showed that stress increased after completing the stressful task and decreased after playing the game. Although results were not significant among game type, those who experience more flow showed a greater decrease in stress level than those who didn't experience flow.

66. String Pulling Task: Means-end relationship understanding in cats

Matthew Yaw (Melissa Heerboth), Mercyhurst University

Domestic house cats (*felus catus*) were tested for an understanding of means-end relationships using a string-pulling task. Participants were animals owned as pets by members of the Mercyhurst University community, and volunteered animals from a shelter in Erie, Pennsylvania. Participants attempted a string-pulling task in order to obtain tuna. Animals were presented with a brief training phase to qualify for the study, and then tested after a feeding cycle interruption of approximately 8 hours. We were unable to replicate the reported results of the original study (Douglas, M., Hocking, I., Osthaus, B., & Whitt, E., 2009).



67. Discussion of the Effects of Encoding Specificity

Brenna Unrath (Daniel Hitchcock), Geneva College

Thompson and Tulving (1970) provide research support for the encoding specificity hypothesis, which states that in order for a memory cue to be effective, it must be present at the time of encoding. Their results provide evidence for rejecting the associative continuity hypothesis, which states that “strong” cues at testing will create the best recall. Our Cognitive Psychology class at Geneva College conducted an experiment in order to demonstrate that the effects of encoding specificity are more powerful than the effects of associative continuity. Results supported Thompson & Tulving’s encoding specificity hypothesis. The findings are analyzed and discussed, along with the value and implications of the encoding specificity hypothesis for memory encoding and retrieval.

68. Inattentional Deafness

Mohammed Al-Bidhawi (Melissa Heerboth), Mercyhurst University

The purpose of this study is to see if a high perceptual load would cause one to miss a newly added auditory stimulus which is defined as “inattentional deafness.” Participants of this study were randomly assigned to one of four conditions each with a varying intensity of perceptual load. The results have shown that the complexity of the video seen affects what auditory stimulus is perceived by the mind, $F(1,39)=44.89$, $p=.000$. It was shown that the more complex video causes one to miss a auditory stimulus, whereas the type of tone added to the clip had no effect. Together, these findings suggest that the use of technology do cause a person to miss an added auditory tone. The implications of these findings, including on cellphone use, along with future research will be discussed.

69. Word Superiority Effect

Brooke L Pinney (Daniel Hitchcock), Geneva College

A cognitive psychology class at Geneva College participated in an experiment that tested the word superiority effect. The class hypothesized they would remember letters when presented in a word rather than a letter string. Also, it was hypothesized letters located in the first and last positions would be better remembered than letters in the second and third positions. The experiment was a replication of Reicher (1969). Participants were presented with a four-letter word or letter string on a screen and were asked to recall isolated letters. The recall process presented two letters and asked participants to choose one for the indicated position. The results showed no evidence of the word superiority effect, but did support the hypothesis of better recall for first and last positions.

CLINICAL SESSION:

Paper Session (9:45 – 10:45)

Session 6: Clinical

309

(Third floor)

Chair: Dr. Joyce Jagielo

70. Sexual Coercion Epidemiology among University Undergraduates and Development of a Subtle-Overt Coercion Scale

Chelsea Crum (William Pithers), Edinboro University of Pennsylvania

Students were categorized as victims or perpetrators of sexual coercion based on their responses to a modification of the Sexual Experiences Survey (Koss & Oros, 1982). Participants then rated 66 scenarios describing varying acts of sexual coercion on a Likert scale from “mildly coercive” to “highly coercive.” Participants’ responses to these scenarios were factor analyzed, and five orthogonal factors were derived: Verbal Manipulation or Humiliation; Physical Force; Acceptance of Rejection; Suggested Alternate Sexual Contact; and Nonaggressive Coercion. Results indicated that individuals who identified themselves as perpetrators of sexual coercion were significantly overrepresented among participants who failed to recognize subtle types of coercion.

71. The Relationship between Depression and Cardiovascular Reactions to Acute Psychological Stress

Ryan Brindle (Sarah Conklin), Allegheny College

The mechanism underlying the relationship between depression and cardiovascular disease has remained unfounded. The present study sought to characterize the cardiovascular response to acute stress in a young population using an arithmetic task. High frequency heart rate variability and blood pressure (BP) was monitored during the stress task and response measures were derived. Beck Depression Inventory (BDI) scores were indirectly related to systolic BP and pulse reactivity. BDI was also related to anticipatory threat appraisals (TA). HRV measures were unrelated to BDI scores and neither TA nor HRV mediated the relationships between BDI score and reactivity. These results accord with the notion that depression is associated with a blunted stress response.

72. Effect of Music Choice and Personality on Pain Perception

Caitlin Clingerman (Kirk M. Lunnen), Westminster College

Amount of pain reduction affected by music listening and personality type was measured. Forty-nine undergraduate participants were divided into three groups, one choice listening group and two forced choice groups. The reducer-augmenter personality dimension was measured using the RRAS. The amount of pain was measured by GSR, pulse, self-report, and time to complete the cold pressor task. Choice listening augmenters had the most reduced amount of perceived pain. Forced choice reducers had the least reduced amount of pain. The findings determine that listening to music of choice and having an augmenting personality can help reduce pain levels. Further research should look more in depth on types of music, its variations, and how this affects the music listening component.

73. Pain Perception and Physiological Response as Predictors of Athletic Performance

Jack Taylor (Kirk Lunnen), Westminster College

One of the major problems in competitive sport is minimizing injury and pain. There is a line between positive training pain and harmful pain (Addison, Kremer, & Bell, 1998), and knowing where this line is drawn can allow athletes to push their limits without risk of injury. This study explored the value of pain measures and physiological response to pain as predictors of athletic performance. Sixty athletes from 16 NCAA division III sports participated. The researchers used a pain task and measured physiological variables, subjective pain ratings and pain tolerance. It was hypothesized that increased measures of pain would predict decreased athletic performance. The researchers found that cortisol, heart rate, galvanic skin response, and tolerance predicted athletic performance.

SOCIAL & CULTURAL SESSION:

Paper Session (9:45 – 10:45)

Session 7: Social/Cultural 303C (Third floor)

Chair: Dr. Heather Snyder

74. Cross Cultural Attitudes towards Disabilities and Beliefs about Choice

Renee DeMatteis (Mandy Medvin), Westminster College

We examined the relationship of contact and cultural background influencing attitudes towards two kinds of disabilities; mental retardation and physical impairment. 22 college students in Akko, Israel and 65 college students in rural Pennsylvania were surveyed to evaluate how the amount of contact affected student feelings about disabilities. Participants were surveyed on a newly developed Beliefs about Choice scale to examine student's ideas about the abilities of persons with disabilities as adults. It was found that American students had most positive attitudes toward disabilities with Arabic speaking Israelis being the lowest across disabilities. Results conclude that contact and country can be used as predictors for attitudes and beliefs about choice towards disabilities.

75. Reducing Stigma using Case Studies of Therapeutic Outcomes

Julie Nguyen, Mark DeWolf, & Jewel Wright (Dawn Blasko), Penn State Erie, The Behrend College

Students often encounter a great deal of stress during their college years. While many students cope successfully with the demands of college life, for some, the pressures can become overwhelming. There is a certain stigma that surrounds mental health services. Our aim in this study was to examine participants' level of stigma associated with mental health before and after being exposed to successful counseling sessions. Participants were divided into four conditions: face-to-face counseling, online counseling, no counseling and filler tasks, and were assessed on levels of stigma and empathy. Participants read a case study of a college student suffering from depression. They were then randomly assigned to read follow-ups that included the student in face-to-face, online counseling or a no counseling control. All participants reported less stigma after exposed to the case, however this did not vary by counseling condition. Those with more empathy were less likely to feel a stigma towards accessing mental health services. Keywords: stigma, empathy, counseling

76. The Influence of Others on One's Own Perception of a Person's Performance

Kristen Robson (Melissa Heerboth), Mercyhurst University

There is a large body of research on the matter of gender stereotyping. For example, there have been studies on the target person and his/her environment. There have also been studies that address the actual participant. Yet, there has not been much research on the participant's environment. This study aims to look into the participant's environment; more precisely the influence of others around the participant. There were 45 participants involved; 20 males and 24 females. The participants were placed in one of three groups; all male, all female, or mix-gender and all groups were given the same materials and information. This study found no significant differences between groups or genders on ratings of characters' competencies.

77. A Student's New Life in College: A Look at Loneliness and Rejection Sensitivity

Kaitlyn Schmidt (Mandy Medvin), Westminster College

The purpose of the study was to see how the adjustment to college of incoming first-year college students is affected by their level of loneliness and rejection sensitivity. The participants consisted of 33 first-year students at Westminster College. The UCLA Loneliness Scale and The Rejection Sensitivity Questionnaire were given to assess loneliness and rejection sensitivity at Time 1. At Time 2, students at risk for initial loneliness completed the Regulatory Focus Questionnaire, Likelihood to Participate Questionnaire, and two subscales of the Student Adjustment to College Questionnaire (SACQ). The main hypotheses were not supported, however there were significant results showing that those with high rejection sensitivity were less likely to participate in activities on campus than those with low rejection sensitivity. This study found that there were significant results for female participants, such that women who were high in rejection sensitivity and had a protective factor produced decreased loneliness scores. This shows that cultivating friendships is valuable when analyzing rejection sensitivity.

SESSION 2:

Poster Session 1 (1:45 – 2:45)

Frank G. Pogue Student Center Multi Purpose Room

*Numbers correspond to locations on tables where poster should be setup
(Faculty supervisor listed in parentheses)*

78. The effects of learning a second language on source monitoring skills: second language learners vs. monolinguals

Adrienne C. Tulet (Aimee Knupsky), Allegheny College

The purpose of this study was to discover if there was a relationship between learning a second language and source monitoring abilities. Research was conducted on second language learners and monolinguals. Participants (N=46) were presented with a picture of a room and then with either a misleading or non-misleading text about the picture. After being presented with the stimuli, participants completed a free recall task and a recognition task. Three scores were recorded for each participant. Results showed no significance for either of the variables or the interaction between source monitoring and language fluency. However, language fluency was close to being significant. Future research could be conducted on clarifying the relationship between language fluency and source monitoring.

79. Examination of Executive Functioning Using a Working Memory Task

Amy Fisk, Whitney Riley, Skyelor Menard (Nancy Gee), SUNY Fredonia

Executive function, or high-order cognitive functioning, has several components including goal-oriented thinking and behavior, inhibition, updating working memory, and shifting (Best, 2010). Little research has examined executive functioning in preschool children, and the current study provides a protocol for measuring working memory in preschool children. Participants are shown a set of five geometric shapes, and are asked to play “follow the leader” by pointing out the shapes that the experimenter has indicated. The child is scored based on the highest number of steps in the sequence they are able to correctly model in order. This task was part of a larger study that, among other things, examined the impact of the presence of a real dog, stuffed dog, or a human on both physiological and executive functions. As such, the results will be presented within each of those conditions. Keywords: executive functioning, working memory, cognition, preschool children, animal-assisted therapy.

80. Effects of Non-Native Accent on Perceptions and Recall of Listener

Nicole Smilak (Aimee Knupsky), Allegheny College

Sixty four undergraduate college students listened to one of four humorous recordings of accented speech samples. The speech samples used were: Standard American English, Standard British English, Standard France French, and Standard West African French. The study investigated the effects of accented speech samples upon perceptions of the speaker and participant rates of recall. Specific perception categories included: proper English usage, confidence, extent of religiosity, affluence, intelligence, extent of affinity towards Americans, trustworthiness, laziness, physical attractiveness, personality attractiveness, and sense of humor. A second variable was added ex post facto, which was foreign language experience in participants.

81. Determining the sincerity of smiles: Are we two faced?

Mack Carson (Stephen T. Paul), Robert Morris University

A challenge we confront when interpreting non-verbal communication is determining if a person is sincere in their expression of emotion. The present study examined interpretations of whether smiles appeared genuine or false. The method used was to focus on the relative contribution of the left and right sides of a face to perceptions of smile-sincerity. Four conditions were used: Real smile; False smile; Left real; Right real). The left and right real smiles were constructed by deleting one side of the original real-smile photo and replacing it with the mirrored image of the remaining side. It was predicted that if sincerity was a function of symmetry, then the created smiles would be rated as most sincere. If sincerity is determined asymmetrically, then this would otherwise be revealed.

82. Perceptions of Divorce: College Students Perceptions

Shawna Maloney (Melissa Heerboth), Mercyhurst University

The purpose of this study was to determine the differences in perceptions of parents after divorce. This study looked at the differences when it comes to mothers and fathers and how they are perceived by students. In this study participants receive a scenario then they rated their thoughts on a scale ranging from negative to positive. The participants had one of two scenarios; one in which the father leaves the family home and the other where the mother leaves. This study also included some demographic information such as age, gender, and if the participant has experienced divorce. The hypothesis is that the mother will be judged more harshly than the father when it comes to leaving the family home.

83. Effects of the Golden Ratio on Perceptions of Political Candidates

Michelina Campanella (Aimee Knupsky), Allegheny College

The present study examined the effects of the golden ratio on the perception of personality characteristics of a hypothetical candidate and perceptions of aesthetics measured using the Big-Five Inventory. Results showed that male candidates scored higher in extraversion across conditions, which supports the hypothesis, yet lower in agreeableness in the golden ratio condition which does not support it. Results showed female candidates were perceived as more competent than males in social welfare issues when the sign used the golden ratio. Furthermore, it was hypothesized that signs using the golden ratio would be more aesthetically appealing and results did not support this hypothesis.

84. Cautionary Messages Paired with Alcohol Advertisements: Does it Change Attitudes Toward Alcohol?

Alexandria Hasbrouck (Melissa Heerboth), Mercyhurst University

There is a growing concern about the effects alcohol advertisements have on the public. Even more concern is placed on the possible effects such advertisements may have on suggestible adolescents and new drinkers. Despite no solid proof that alcohol advertisements do negatively impact viewers, some studies conducted support the possibility. This study took three groups of participants, some exposed to cautionary messages in alcohol advertising and some not, to examine and compare differences in attitudes toward alcohol. No significant results were found between the three groups when analyzing differences in attitudes toward alcohol. These results suggest that methods of communicating cautionary messages in alcohol advertising must be altered in order to effectively communicate the message.

85. Internal Attributions and Information Processing Style in Cause-Joining Behavior

Brittany White, Lynsay Paiko, & Keri Filsinger (Suthakaran Veerasamy), SUNY Fredonia

The present study seeks to examine the relationship between internal attributions and processing styles of individuals in cause-joining behavior. Previous research has shown that people process information on either a rational (head) or experiential (heart) level which is reflected in their actions and decisions making. Researchers sought to examine how processing style affects people's decision making when joining causes. The study was a within subjects design, including a pretest and posttest with a video stimulus in between. Researchers predict that individuals who process information rationally will experience more incongruence between the pre and posttest, than individuals who score high in experiential thinking after viewing the stimulus. Researchers hope recognizing the mode of information processing that individuals engage in will aid in the creation of a more honest and understanding relationships.

86. What is Your Right?

Holly Zill, Chelsea Cusick, & Winette Leslie (Luke Rosielle), Gannon University

We are interested in exploring the relationship between a pro-voting video, social desirability and voting behavior. We gave each participant the Crowne & Marlowe (1964) scale of Social Desirability and Gallup's questions of likely voter behavior. Participants then watched a video of celebrities urging people to vote, and likely voter behavior was measured again. We are interested in whether the video changes people's intentions to vote.

87. How Does Relationship Status Affect Sarcasm?

Danielle Williams & Joslyn Mesing (Dawn Blasko), Penn State Erie, The Behrend College

Sarcasm is an indirect form of speech intentionally used to convey a criticism. However, sarcasm is very ambiguous and therefore leaves the decoder of the conversation responsible to interpret the intent behind it. Previous research has discovered that sarcasm is highly situational and can be used in several different forms (Kreuz & Glucksberg, 1989). The current study investigated the role of relationship status on the perception of sarcasm. Participants were asked to read scenarios that involved a conversation between two people in a romantic relationship, friend relationship, or stranger relationship. Each scenario ended with a comment that could be understood sarcastically or literally, e.g., “You are a great driver”. Reading times were recorded. Participants were asked to rate the scenarios on their degree of humor, sarcasm, insult, anger, and sadness using a Likert scale that ranged from one to seven. Reading times showed that sarcastic comments took longer to process than literal comments, but this effect was strongest in the stranger condition. For all three relationship types, sarcastic comments were rated more insulting and more humorous.

88. The Effects of Exposure to the American Flag on Political Attitudes

Amanda Phelps, Tiffany Miller, & Kelly Sider (Gary Levine), Edinboro University of Pennsylvania

Participants were randomly assigned to answer political questions in an online survey with either an American flag banner at the top of each screen or no flag banner. Exposure to the American flag had no significant effect on an overall measure of nationalism as a whole. However, there was a significant effect found on one item where the participants who had the flag banner more strongly agreed that we should do anything necessary to increase the power of the United States, even if it means war. The presence of the flag also significantly increased positive attitudes toward Mitt Romney as well as the Republican Party.

89. The Effects of Red Screen Color on Test Anxiety

Matt Traynor & Scott Stivanson (Gary Levine), Edinboro University of Pennsylvania

The current study tested whether a red screen might increase scores on a test anxiety scale. Participants were randomly assigned to answer an online test anxiety scale with either a white background or a red background. Surprisingly, male participants were found to have higher test anxiety than female participants and also showed a marginally significant increase in test anxiety when the scale was presented with a red background screen. Reasons for these findings are discussed.

90. The Influence of Social Priming on the Perception of Suspicion

Joshua Karr & Chelsea Lyle (Ron Craig), Edinboro University of Pennsylvania

With the public increasingly being asked to aid in detecting terroristic activity, the question arises, what influences perceptions of suspiciousness. Influence on perceptions of suspiciousness could include context, priming, and social influences; in addition these may impact what actions are taken based on the suspicion. This study examines individual's reactions to a written scenario about an unattended bag in different contexts (park and airport) and social surroundings (auditory prime and presence of authority personnel). Participants took an online survey, after reading a scenario they indicated if they found the bag suspicious, their level of suspicion and what actions they might take. They were also asked what factors would impact their likelihood to report the bag. A total of 91 participants responded to the survey, their responses will be analyzed to examine what influenced their perceptions of the bag.

91. Student-Athlete and Coach Relationships

Cody M. Ash (Sarah Markowitz), Wells College

A positive relationship between student-athlete and coaches is essential to a team's success and is a crucial factor in athletes' general development within sports. Interpersonal dynamics between coaches and student-athletes have resulted in voluminous theoretical and empirical research within sport and exercise psychology. Do college-level student-athletes and coaches feel that establishing a good relationship as well as a common definition of success allow both to perform more adequately? Twenty participants were interviewed regarding student-athlete and coach relationships and success. Results supported my hypothesis that a positive relationship and similar idea about success allow for student-athlete and coaches to perform more adequately, individually, and cooperatively.

92. Attributions of Poverty

Andrea Hallamyer (Melissa Heerboth), Mercyhurst University

The purpose of this experiment was to detect the unconscious feelings or implicit attitudes a typical college undergraduate student holds of people living in poverty. The Implicit Associations Test (IAT) was used to measure these attitudes by comparing people living in poverty to animals living in a similar situation. Previous research has found that people are more likely to attribute homelessness to a cause outside of the control of the person. Unlike previous research, the present study measured implicit attitudes rather than direct questioning responses. It was hypothesized that participants would be more likely to sympathize with homeless animals, attributing their homelessness to a cause outside of their control and attribute the homelessness of a person to an internal cause.

93. Terrorist Ideology and Violences Influences on perceptions

Andrew Miller (Melissa Heerboth), Mercyhurst University

The purpose of this research is to determine how a targeted population perceives a terrorist organization based on its goals and the amount of violence it uses. To do this, four articles were written depicting one of four attacks with varying levels of violence and attackers. It was hypothesized that the more violent attackers would be seen more negatively and that the Islamic motivated organization would be more negatively perceived than the animal rights organization. To determine the participants' feelings toward the organization, they answered a multidimensional scale of democratic values and a survey to determine to what degree the participant sympathize with attackers

94. How time on a college campus influences social independence

Meagan Ferguson & Ashley Fox (Chris Niebauer), Slippery Rock University of Pennsylvania

This research examines the influence that peers have on one another while making decisions. The amount of social influence that peers have on a student who is new to a university is compared to the influence upon students who are familiar with the college campus and student life. The research evaluates 500 undergraduate students at Slippery Rock University through means of a survey. The students that participated in the experiment range from freshmen to senior status. We expect to find that students who are new to the university and student life are more influenced and less socially independent compared to those familiar with Slippery Rock University.

95. How Would You Sentence A Juvenile That's Been Labeled As A "Psychopath"?

Nicole M. Sherretts (Gerald Barron), Mercyhurst University

In researching the effect of labeling a juvenile offender a "psychopath" on sentencing decisions, we studied 55 psychology and criminal justice students. First, participants were asked to read a description of a juvenile case in which the label "psychopath" was either applied or not applied to the juvenile. Participants were then asked to complete a questionnaire regarding their sentencing determinations and to fill out a demographic form. It is predicted that the description of the juvenile case in which the label "psychopath" was applied will result in a harsher sentence. It is also anticipated that criminal justice participants will give the juvenile with the label "psychopath" a stricter sentence than psychology participants.

96. An Investigation of the Utilization of Sport Psychologists

Leah Palmer (Bruce Klonsky), SUNY Fredonia

Professional sports teams appear to underreport and possibly underutilize sport psychology services. The utilization of psychological services might be seen as a weakness. As a result, sport psychologists do not get the recognition they deserve. A content analysis of NBA and WNBA team listings of sport psychologists was done. It is predicted that such teams have increased use of sport psychology over time, but not to the point of widespread acceptance.

97. Do You See What I See? The Effect of Visual Information in Skype Job Interviews

Lindsay Menk (Aimee Knupsky), Allegheny College

Research has shown that computer-mediated communication (CMC) has an effect on anxiety in conversations between peers compared to face-to-face interactions, but not much research has been done on CMC in job interviews via Skype. The study is examining whether visual information impacts the amount of anxiety experienced by interviewers and candidates in a Skype job interview. Participants were asked to partake in a 10-15 minute long Skype interview as an interviewer or a candidate in a two-sided visual condition where both webcams were turned on, a one-sided visual condition where only the candidate's webcam was turned on, and a non-visual condition where no webcams were turned on. Results found that overall visual information has no effect on anxiety in Skype interviews.

98. Perceptions of Asian Characters in Advertising

Megan Janitor (Gerard Barron), Mercyhurst University

This study examined the effect of cultural priming through the use of Asian characters on perceptions of objects in print advertisements. Specifically, this study examined whether the exposure to something as simple as a symbol or representation of a culture cause a change in decision making. This is a 2 (Asian characters present, code present) x 2 (neutral objects, Asian-styled objects) between-subjects design. Participants viewed images containing Asian-styled objects and neutral objects paired with Asian characters or a sequence of code at the bottom of the image and then filled out questions measuring their perceptions of the objects in the images. Participants were expected to view Asian-styled objects positively when paired with Asian characters, but not when paired with code.

99. The Effects of Mood on Music Preference

Cari Weber (Gerard Barron), Mercyhurst University

This study assesses whether mood has an effect on an individual's preference for different styles of music. Participants were shown a series of photos with content selected to induce either a positive or negative mood state. They then listened to a range of musical selections and were asked to rate each song. It is anticipated that among college undergraduates there will be a significant relationship between a negative mood and a preference for "sad" music, while it is also anticipated that participants in a happy mood, would have a preference for upbeat and happy music. The role of gender differences will also be explored.

100. Was that real? How knowing affects emotional responses

Jocelyn R. Lewis (Stephen T. Paul), Robert Morris University

Considering that people have almost unlimited access to content on the Internet the goal of this study was to investigate how potentially disturbing media might affect the emotions of viewers. Not all of the information available on the Internet is genuine. Knowing this can protect us from over-reacting until we have certainty. The present study examined how people interpret their emotional reactions to disturbing videos in the context of knowing or not knowing if the material was real beforehand. Half of the participants were told immediately before viewing a video that it was not real while the rest were told immediately after viewing. It was predicted that viewers who learned the video was fake after watching it would be less upset than viewers told before due to emotional relief.

101. Getting to know you: The value of idle conversation in assessing personality

Emily Streaker (Stephen T. Paul), Robert Morris University

First impressions of others based merely on visual cues can trigger inaccurate notions. The present study examined the importance of interactions among people when forming impressions. Participants were randomly assigned to pairs. Some pairs completed personality self-reports before engaging in a conversation with their partner. At the end of the conversation, they were asked to complete the same inventory again, but this time providing answers they believed their partners would have given. The inventories were cross scored for accuracy. The remaining pairs completed the same tasks but in the reverse order (partner first, self last). As expected, even the brief opportunity provided for people to interact resulted in greater accuracy in assessing personality.

102. The Psychological, Physical, and Social Health Correlates of Orthorexia Nervosa in Young People

Jesselyn A. Terrill (Sarah Conklin), Allegheny College

A limited number of empirical studies on orthorexia nervosa (ON) currently exist. The current study examined ON in undergraduate students to uncover its potential psychological, physical, and social health correlates. Data included self-report questionnaires and blood pressure and heart rate measurements from 227 participants. ON prevalence rate was 28.9%, with females displaying greater orthorexic tendency than males. Significant differences were found between ON and exercise dependency, anxiety, depression, blood pressure, and various social characteristics, whereas no significant difference was found between ON and body mass index. Further research is needed to better understand ON, to develop effective treatment methods, and to test the validity of the ORTO-15 clinical instrument.

103. Don't Worry, Be Happy: Depression, Rumination, & Gender as Predictors of Problematic Drinking Behavior in College Students

Shane Schneider (Patricia Rutledge), Allegheny College

This study investigates depression, rumination, and gender as predictors of problematic drinking behaviors in college students. Depression and problematic drinking are two of the most prevalent health concerns across college populations, and rumination has been shown to contribute to higher levels of depression (Brar & Moneta, 2009). However, there is no research indicating that collectively, depression, rumination, and gender predict greater problematic drinking behaviors. It is hypothesized that in a sample of Allegheny students (N=42), higher levels of depression and rumination will predict greater levels of problematic drinking behaviors. Higher ruminators will have more depressive symptoms, and gender will have some main effect on problematic drinking behaviors. Results did not support the main hypothesis that higher levels of depression and rumination would predict greater problematic drinking behaviors, and gender had no significant effect in the study. This finding suggests the importance of examining these three causal factors when investigating the role of problematic drinking. Investigation is particularly significant with the epidemic of both depression and problem drinking across college campuses everywhere.

104. A Reading Intervention for Preschoolers with ADHD Symptoms

Lynsay Paiko (Andrea Zevenbergen), SUNY Fredonia

This study examines the relationship between dialogic reading and language gains in children with ADHD symptoms. Previous research indicates that preschoolers with ADHD symptoms show significantly more difficulties in pre-literacy skills. In effort to potentially improve the outlook for these at-risk preschoolers, interventions such as shared reading in the home need to be examined. Participants in this project consisted of three parent-child dyads from the Western New York area. Each of the children had significant symptoms of ADHD. We predict that these children will demonstrate language gains over the course of repeated shared readings of picture books. This research question will be assessed through coding of transcripts of each dyad's shared reading sessions.

105. Spatial Learning in Rats Promoted by the use of Primary Reinforcers

Brittany Sterling (Daniel Hitchcock), Geneva College

This experiment's goal was to observe spatial learning in rats who are repeatedly exposed to an environment with hidden reward available, and whether or not distal spatial cues were used to navigate. Past research shows that rats use "cognitive mapping" to store spatial information (Morris, 1981). In this study it was hypothesized that latency to find reward would decrease over time and that distal spatial cues would be used. Fourteen rats were repeatedly exposed, from various start points, to a dry maze with a Froot Loop hidden in the same location each time. In the final trial, the maze was rotated and the reward was removed to observe if distal cues had been used. The results showed reductions in latency across sessions and the use of distal cues which replicate Morris, 1981.

106. Embodied Cognition and Weight Perception: What influences your perception of weight?

Shannon Shaffer (Gerard Barron), Mercyhurst University

In researching weight perception and embodied cognition, we studied 81 psychology and sociology students. While holding either a light or weighted clipboard, participants were shown a series of photographs of males, females, and neutral objects and asked to rate their weight. They were then shown a separate set of photographs with just the people and asked to indicate if they were normal weight, underweight, or overweight. Participants also had their height and weight measured for the purpose of obtaining an accurate BMI (body mass index). It is predicted that the weight of the clipboard will influence the participants weight ratings. It is also anticipated that the participants BMI will affect ratings as well.

107. Effects of Information on Reducing Anti-Fat Bias

Kathryn Kirkpatrick & Chelsea Fisher (Jennifer Dyck), SUNY Fredonia

Stigmatizing groups based on physical characteristics has negative consequences for society, however, there is no social pressure to prevent expressing prejudice toward overweight people. The apparent cause for obesity is perceived as an individual fault, and is also associated with many unfavorable characteristics such as: lazy, ugly, and unworthy. Assigning blame to overweight individuals could be reduced by diminishing the perceived level of controllability over weight. Providing positive characteristics may also challenge the negative stereotypes associated with obesity. We predict that when a genetic explanation is provided, and the person is portrayed to have favorable personality, there will be a reduction of anti-fat bias when compared to the perception of controllable weight and unfavorable characteristics. Keywords: overweight, prejudice, anti-fat, attributions, obesity, stereotypes

108. Does writing about someone change how a 5th or 8th grader views them?

Molly Gavin (Gerard Barron), Mercyhurst University

Our interactions with others are important for socialization and relationship building, but how much of an impact does an experience have on how you feel about someone? Using students from fifth and eighth grade, I researched whether writing positively or negatively about a recently shared experience changes short term opinions about a classmate. The children chose a friend or classmate and ranked a list of descriptive words based on how well they fit the chosen child. They then wrote about a positive or negative experience they shared, and then ranked another list of descriptive words. My expected results are that writing about the positive experience will increase positive feelings, and writing about a negative experience will have no significant effect on feelings for the classmate.

109. Complexity in Complexion: Colorism in Black America

Rishala Lynn Broughton (Margaret Stubbs), Chatham University

Studies of body image have found that Black women are more satisfied with their bodies than white women. However beauty issues do exist within this community. For example, skin tone is a major factor in terms of defining beauty within the black culture, in that lighter skin is considered to be more beautiful. This notion seems to be contrary to messages of "black is beautiful." In this study the variation of skin tone as presented on the covers of popular magazines aimed at black readers was examined to determine if there was a trend over time of lighter or dark skinned people featured on the covers. Results are discussed in terms of a higher number of dark skinned people presented compared with the standard that lighter is still better.

110. The Influence of Emoticons on Personality Perception

Faith Govan, Lauren DeIntinis & Brian McElveney (Dawn Blasko), Penn State Erie, the Behrend College

This study examined the effects that emoticons have on the perceptions of conversational partners. Participants took part in a guided conversation via Google Chat where they discussed a current event article they read prior to chatting. Emoticons were randomly assigned to each participant. There were four conditions of emoticon use: positive, negative, wink, or no emoticon. Following their participation in the conversation, participants rated their conversational partner on the Big 5 personality scale. We hypothesized that the type of emoticon used will influence the chat partner's perceived personality. Data were analyzed using a series of one-way ANOVAs on emoticon condition and perceived personality of sender based on the Big 5 Personality traits (Openness, Conscientiousness, Extraversion, Agreeableness, and Emotional Stability). The results show us that the chat partner was perceived as more agreeable when they used the positive emoticon, and less emotionally stable when the wink emoticon was used.

111. Tracking Diversity: The Portrayal of Non-White Characters in U.S. Children's Picture Books

Kristen Rendulic, Ethan Joseph, Kristen Zimmovan, & Linsey Covelli (Diana Rice), Geneva College

As the United States continues to move forward in the advancement and acceptance of all people groups, the portrayal of non-whites in children's picture books should reflect these cultural shifts. We examined Caldecott Medal and Honor books published from 1990-2012 for their representation of all ethnicities and their degree of interracial contact. Portrayal of characters was analyzed with respect to geographic and temporal location. We propose that as the United States becomes more ethnically diverse, children's literature should also demonstrate this social change. The number of non-white characters should increase with time, as should the degree of positive interracial contact and the centrality of the experience.

112. Unwanted Sexual Contact: Association of Victimization and Perpetration

Chelsea Crum & Ashley Yatzor (William D. Pithers), Edinboro University of Pennsylvania

Research consistently demonstrates that being a victim of violence is associated with increased risk of acting violently against others (Finkelhor & Dziuba-Leatherman, 1994). Using a modification of the Sexual Experiences Survey (Koss & Oros, 1982), 202 university undergraduates indicated whether they had ever been a victim of unwanted sexual contact or had ever imposed unwanted sexual contact on another. A Chi Square analysis was conducted to examine the hypothesis that individuals who were self-reported victims of sexual coercion might be overrepresented among participants who were self-reported perpetrators of sexual coercion. The results supported the hypothesis that victims of coercion were also overrepresented among the perpetrators of such acts.

113. Our Spatial Word

Bryan Fleeson, Renee Fanning, Miri Ohashi, & Bilge Erdem (Dawn Blasko), Penn State Erie, The Behrend College

Spatial skills are needed for many of today's professions, such as math and engineering careers. However, these skills are not taught or developed in basic public school curriculum. Males on average have better spatial skills than females, which may contribute to the lack of women in math, science, and engineering fields. In collaboration with the minority college experience and women in science and engineering program (MCE/WISE) held every summer at Penn State Behrend for high school students we conducted a four-week program called Our Spatial World. Participants were given a pre-test and post-test of spatial skills and asked about their confidence and attitudes towards STEM fields. Each week the girls completed a training module and played a spatial game developed by our team. Overall, the girls improved in their spatial skills pre- to post-test and evaluations found that the girls enjoyed the training sessions. We are currently assessing the possibility of using commercial video games to enhance spatial training and are conducting analysis of their effectiveness.

114. African American Women's Perceptions of Beauty

Shuntia Hamilton & Maurisha Wright (Margaret Stubbs), Chatham University

African American women are assumed to have no body image issues because they are compared to the beauty ideals/body image issues of the dominant culture. The purpose of this study is to find out what African American females think of beauty attributes. A questionnaire study was conducted comparing the views of college aged and older African American women with respect to beauty attributes. Measures used were the Body-Self Relations Questionnaire: Appearance Evaluation Subscale (Cash, 1997), Ideal Body Internalization Scale-Revised (Stice, 1996), Body Image Ideals Questionnaire (Expanded) (Szymanski and Cash, 1995). Result revealed no significant differences in the responses of older and younger African American females with respect to feelings about body image. Specific beauty attributes thought to be important will be discussed.

115. Don't Sneer at Me: The Face of Sarcasm

Ashley Kerr, Rob Fogle, Bryan Fleeson, & Christie Leslie (Victoria Kazmerski & Dawn Blasko), Penn State Erie, The Behrend College

The understanding of sarcasm relies on the consideration of social and cultural factors. In the current experiment, participants read short scenarios that ended on either a sarcastic or sincere statement "You're a great driver." They rated how well different emotional expressions matched the speaker's intent. They also completed individual difference measures (laterality, personality). Sarcastic utterances were seen to fit more negative emotions, such as anger and disgust by both men and women. Whereas literal/sincere statements showed more fit with more positive emotions. These data support interactive models of non-literal language processing, in which social and cultural factors serve as early-acting constraints on interpretation.

116. Perpetration of Four Types of Sexual Abuse by Male and Female University Undergraduates

Ashley Yatzor & Chelsea Crum (William D. Pithers), Edinboro University of Pennsylvania

Male and female undergraduates were asked if they had perpetrated one of four types of sexual abuse: unwanted sexual contact, sexual coercion, attempted rape, and rape. Relative to their representation in the overall sample, the proportion of males and females who self-reported having engaged in three types of sexually abusive acts did not differ significantly: sexual coercion (5.3% and 2.5% females of the male and female samples, respectively), attempted rape (3.5% males; 1.9% females), and rape (5.3% males; 1.9% females). Males were overrepresented among self-reported perpetrators of unwanted sexual contact (21.1%) relative to female participants (6.2%). Gender-based differences in the definition of coercion (Hatch & Pithers, 2001) and other factors complicate interpretation of the data.

117. Handedness and Gender Affects Self-Reflection and Rumination.

Lyndsie Yochum & Tim Martin (Christopher Niebauer), Slippery Rock University of Pennsylvania

Previous work on the relationship between handedness, self-reflection and self-rumination has shown that mixed handed people tend to be more self-reflective and less likely to ruminate (Niebauer, 2004). A positive correlation was found between mixed handed people and self-reflection. A negative correlation was found between mixed handed people and self-rumination. In an attempted replication, our current research separated male versus female participants to find if gender difference plays a role in handedness, self rumination and self-reflection. Our study found that gender differences could be important because mixed handed female participants had a strong positive correlation with self-rumination and self-reflection whereas males had no significant correlation with either.

118. The Power of Influence Relating to Social Media

Joseph DeMaria, Leah Palmer, & Alexandra VanBergen (Jennifer Dyck), SUNY Fredonia

In modern culture, the internet has been essential in creating the most accessible way to access news and media. Unfortunately, the legitimacy of internet articles is called into question due to the ability for an individual to illustrate any information as fact. It is important to understand the degree of persuasion of which internet articles can affect individuals. College students will read positive, negative, or neutral articles concerning Facebook friends and will answer a survey designed to determine whether articles have significant influence on students who use Facebook. It is predicted that both the positive and negative articles will have significant influence on undergraduates.

119. Are Mixed-Handers Born to Rebel?

Allison Christoff & Hannah Malloy (Chris Niebauer), Slippery Rock University of Pennsylvania

It has been theorized that birth order is an important variable that predicts how likely an individual is to adopt world views that can lead to rebellious behavior (Suloway, 1997). Previous research indicates that individuals who are mixed-handed are more likely to update their belief systems, or world views (Niebauer, 2004). The present study measured handedness and birth order, and discovered that later-borns tend to be more mixed-handed than first-borns. This is surprising, for handedness is believed to be genetically influenced, whereas birth order is not. Speculations for the relation and recommendations for future research are also discussed.

120. Google and Memory: Cognitive Effects of having Information at your Fingertips

Meghan Curran (Aimee Knupsky), Allegheny College

The present study was designed to examine how the way we process information affects how information is retrieved. There were 40 undergraduate participants. Participants were randomly assigned to one of two conditions self-responsible or other responsible. Participants in both conditions conducted Google searches to find answers to trivia questions ranging in difficulty. While searching participants saved links to the answers to trivia in file folders. Following completion recall and recognition were completed. First, it was hypothesized that self-responsible participants would recall more trivia questions than participants in the other-responsible condition. Second it was hypothesized that participants in both conditions would be able to recall which folder they saved links to the answers of trivia questions. The final hypothesis assessed that participants would be able to recognize more difficult than easy trivia questions. It was found that there was no significant data for the first and second hypotheses. However a significant effect was found for difficulty of trivia questions during recall.

121. Third Party Stigmatization of Hypothetical Drug Users Across Wealth and Legality

Alaina McCreary, Zachariah Brauscheidel, & Chris Maier (Jennifer Dyck), SUNY Fredonia

It has been found that those who are poor are more likely to be considered deviant because of their drug use than well to do persons (Clinard 1992). This study attempted to both reconfirm this and see if the kind of drug, specifically the legality, affected the stigma placed on user in a poor or rich setting. Research was conducted on 25 college aged students from the State University at Fredonia Campus. Participants were given surveys which included 10 vignettes of the users, 5 poor, 5 rich, and asked to rate them on a social distance scale. The hypothetical users were participating in either: tobacco, alcohol, marijuana, cocaine, or ambien (the control), use. The results showed that alcohol users and cocaine users were highly stigmatized, and wealth was not a significant factor.

122. Examining the Effects of Empathy Levels on Pro-environmental Attitudes

Vanessa Sanchez, Brittany White, & Brittany Waller (Jennifer Dyck), SUNY Fredonia

The current study examines the relationship between an individual's level of empathy and their concern for the environment. Previous studies have shown that higher levels of empathy have been correlated with increased concern for nature. The study is a 2x2 between subjects design; variables will be empathy (high versus low) and slideshow content (images of nature in distress versus images of man-made, material objects in distress). Researchers predict that individuals who receive the high empathy condition and view the images of nature in distress will show the greatest amount of measurable empathy and environmental concern. Researchers hope to better understand how to more effectively encourage pro-environmental attitudes, potentially in the form of a public service announcement.

123. Aesthetic preference: The Influence of Complexity and Level of Expertise on Appreciation of Abstract Paintings

Chi Phuong Bui (Melissa Heerboth), Mercyhurst University

Based on findings that cognitive fluency is associated with hedonic ratings of visual stimuli, the effects of complexity on aesthetic preferences towards abstract paintings were assessed based on scale related to interestingness and likability. 48 students from Introduction to Psychology class were asked to rate 30 grayscale paintings varying in level of complexity in terms of how interesting and likable the materials were. Additionally, in order to investigate the influence that level of art expertise has on aesthetic evaluation, participants were also questioned on their abstract art background knowledge. The results showed that level of art expertise did not produce any significant effect on the appreciation of abstract paintings.

Presentation #	Author's Name
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52	Alden, Emily
91	Ash, Cody
63 & 64	Atuh, Glory
21	Baker, Julia
24	Barker, Keith
11	Bates, Samantha
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71	Brindle, Ryan
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83	Campanella, Michelina
81	Carson, Mack
59	Cetra, Amanda Marie
65	Chadwick, Casey
14	Chanda, Raaj
24 & 119.	Christoff, Allison
15	Ciampa, Stephanie
72	Clingerman, Caitlin
40	Cole, Robert
37	Connelly, Mark
111.	Covelli, Linsey
28, 43, 70, 112, & 116.	Crum, Chelsea
120.	Curran, Meghan
86	Cusick, Chelsea
110.	DeIntinis, Lauren
27	DeMaria, Joseph
74	DeMatteis, Renee
75	DeWolf, Mark
47	DiCola, Katie
21	Ellsworth, Ryan
113.	Erdem, Bilge
7.	Evans, Melanie
113.	Fanning, Renee
6.	Feather, Kathryn
94	Ferguson, Meagan
85	Filsinger, Keri
107.	Fisher, Chelsea
79	Fisk, Amy
113 & 115	Fleeson, Bryan
115.	Fogle, Rob
94	Fox, Ashley
108.	Gavin, Molly
51	Gillett, Jeannine
46	Godzinski, Michelle
1.	Goodwin, Stephanie
110.	Govan, Faith
29	Gowanlock, Felicia
9.	Graham, Aubrey
20	Gregory, Jacquelyn
63	Griesmer, Dana
92	Hallamy, Andrea
114.	Hamilton, Shuntia
13	Harrington, Pamela
16	Harter, Colleen

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84	Hasbrouck, Alexandria
22	Hawk, Christopher
62	Helton, Maria
26	Hembree, Seth
23	Herrington, Natalie
30	Herselman, Jennifer
58	Hersh, Isabella
54	James, Lindsay
98	Janitor, Megan
49	Johnston, Alissa
111.	Joseph, Ethan
34	Kaltenbaugh, Brittany
90	Karr, Joshua
25	Kennedy, Joseph
57	Keppel, Abbey
44	Kerns, Leah
41 & 115.	Kerr, Ashley
34	Kessner, Stephanie
40	Kienholz, Logan
60	Kimmick, Erica
107.	Kirkpatrick, Kathryn
30	Kirstein, Allison
40	Knight, Kaitlyn
40	Kraus, Keah
48	Laufer, Kathryn
115.	Leslie, Christie
86	Leslie, Winette
32	Levine, Eric
100.	Lewis, Jocelyn
3.	Lipski, Emily
45	Lopus, David
90	Lyle, Chelsea
121.	Maier, Chris
119.	Malloy, Hannah
82	Maloney, Shawna
117.	Martin, Tim
30	McCormick, Katherine
53	McCoy, Veronica
121.	McCreary, Alaina
38	McCreary, Erin
110.	McElveney, Brian
56 & 79	Menard, Skyelor
97	Menk, Lindsay
55	Merrick, David
87	Mesing, Joslyn
17	Michenko, Kaitlin
93	Miller, Andrew
30	Miller, Nicole
88	Miller, Tiffany
56	Miosi, Samantha
75	Nguyen, Julie
10	Null, Caitlyn
113.	Ohashi, Miri
85 & 104	Paiko, Lynsay
96 & 118.	Palmer, Leah
28	Paparelli, Eliza
46	Perry, Chelsea
41	Peters, Kylie
88	Phelps, Amanda

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69	Pinney, Brooke
8.	Plourd, Christian
12	Rack-Wildner, Mackenzie
4.	Reina, Caroline
111.	Rendulic, Kristen
50	Rex, Amber
31, 44, & 79.	Riley, Whitney
7.	Robertson, Brandon
76	Robson, Kristen
42	Romonovich, Quinn
38	Russell, Kristan
122.	Sanchez, Vanessa
77	Schmidt, Kaitlyn
103.	Schneider, Shane
35	Schosek, Ashley
63 & 64	Schutte, Kerry
19	Segiel, Kaitlyn
106.	Shaffer, Shannon
95	Sherretts, Nicole
88	Sider, Kelly
80	Smilak, Nicole
5.	Smith, Matthew
13	Stankiewicz, Karli
105.	Sterling, Brittany
63 & 64	Stewart, William
89	Stivanson, Scott
101.	Streaker, Emily
36	Sullivan, Kathryn
28	Swarm, Latisha
40	Symons, Susane
33	Szosorek, Kara
73	Taylor, Jack
102.	Terrill, Jesselyn
2.	Thayer, Jaime
63 & 64	Thompson, Emily
39	Tompkins, Kyla
89	Traynor, Matthew
78	Tulet, Adrienne
67	Unrath, Brenna
118.	VanBergen, Alexandra
7.	Wallace, Jalaine
122.	Waller, Brittany
99	Weber, Cari
85 & 122	White, Brittany
3.	Wiley, Raela
18	Wilhelm, Eric
11	Williams, Breanna
87	Williams, Danielle
75	Wright, Jewel
114.	Wright, Maurisha
43, 112, & 116.	Yatzor, Ashley
66	Yaw, Matthew
26	Yeckley, Allison
117.	Yochum, Lyndsie
21	Zacherro, Rachel
86	Zill, Holly
111.	Zimmoan, Kristen
6.	Zmuda, Shaun

