

44<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL

HUNTER COLLEGE

PSYCHOLOGY  
CONVENTION



APRIL 17, 2016

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## WELCOME MESSAGE

DEAR HONORED GUEST,

THANK YOU FOR JOINING US AT THE 44<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL HUNTER COLLEGE PSYCHOLOGY CONVENTION. WE ARE PROUD TO HOST ONE OF THE BIGGEST RESEARCH CONVENTIONS AT HUNTER COLLEGE, BRINGING TOGETHER STUDENTS AND FACULTY FROM ALL OVER THE TRISTATE AREA. THIS OPPORTUNITY ALLOWS A PLATFORM FOR STUDENTS TO SHARE INDEPENDENT RESEARCH, DISCOVER NEW OR FAMILIAR FACES, UNDERSTAND THE ROLE OF A RESEARCHER IN A DIVERSE FIELD LIKE PSYCHOLOGY, AND BROADEN THEIR KNOWLEDGE. WE ARE PLEASED TO HAVE DR. MELISSA FERGUSON AS OUR KEYNOTE SPEAKER, AND MS. JULIE HECHT AS OUR FEATURED SPEAKER. WE INVITE YOU TO TAKE PART IN A RICH COMBINATION OF PRESENTERS AND FACULTY DISCUSSING THEIR HARD WORK AND CONTRIBUTION TO THE FIELD OF PSYCHOLOGY. WE HOPE YOU HAVE AN ENTHRALLING EXPERIENCE!

KINDLY,

*RIA KALYAN AND MARINA ISKHAKOVA*  
PSYCHOLOGY CONVENTION DIRECTORS

# PROGRAM

**MS. JULIE HECHT, FEATURED SPEAKER HUNTER WEST 714**  
9:30-10:30

HUNTER WEST 714	HUNTER WEST 615	HUNTER WEST 605	ORAL PRESENTATIONS	POSTER PRESENTATIONS
Symposium 1 10:15-11:00	Ms. Paula Wicklow 11:00-12:00	Kaplan Workshop 10:00-12:00pm	Hunter West 5th Floor  Starting at 11:00	Hunter West 7th Floor Student Faculty Lounge
Symposium 2 11:10-11:55	Dr. Harris O'Brien 1:15-1:45	Dr. Alicia Walf 12:30-1:00		Poster Session 1 11:00-12:00
Symposium 3 12:00-12:45pm	Dr. Takooshian, <i>PhD</i> 2:00-3:00			Poster Session 2 12:30-1:30
Symposium 4 12:50-1:35pm			Ending at 3:00pm	Poster Session 3 2:00-3:00
Symposium 5 1:45-2:30				
Symposium 6 2:40-3:25				

**DR. MELISSA FERGUSON, KEYNOTE SPEAKER**  
HUNTER WEST 714 / 3:30-4:30PM

\*Additionally, breakfast will be served at 9AM, and lunch will be served from 12PM-3PM. We hope you can join us!

PLEASE NOTE THAT ALL OF THE CONVENTION'S VOLUNTEERS ARE WEARING BLACK TEE-SHIRTS WITH THE CONVENTION'S LOGO PRINTED ON FRONT. SHOULD YOU FIND YOURSELF NEEDING DIRECTIONS OR INFORMATION, OUR VOLUNTEERS WOULD BE HAPPY TO ASSIST.



# KEYNOTE ADDRESS

**MELISSA J. FERGUSON** is an experimental social psychologist. She received her doctorate in social psychology from New York University in 2002, and then joined the psychology department at Cornell University. Her research focuses on the implicit and non-conscious cognitive processes that enable evaluation, goal-pursuit, self-control, and social behavior. Three recent topics of research in the lab are self-control (what predicts success?), first impressions (how do they form, change, and influence behavior?), and ideology (how do ideological symbols affect us?). Her research has appeared in outlets such as the *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, *Psychological Science*, *Trends in Cognitive Sciences*, *Journal of Experimental Psychology: General*, and the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* and her work has been funded by the National Science Foundation and the National Institutes of Health.



## “CAN WE CHANGE OUR IMPLICIT MIND? NEW SOCIAL-COGNITIVE EVIDENCE FOR WHEN AND HOW WE CAN UNDO OUR IMPLICIT FIRST IMPRESSIONS”

"The scientific as well as lay assumption about first impressions is that they are difficult to change. This is especially the case for implicit first impressions (those that are unintentionally and uncontrollably activated from memory). Decades of work from social cognition suggest that our implicit evaluations of others (their goodness or badness), once formed, can be changed only with extensive, repeated exposure to counter-evidence. They have been argued to be largely resistant to new evidence that is brief and involves propositional reasoning. This raises the possibility that our implicit first impressions of others are often not updated sufficiently with new learning, and may therefore represent erroneous signals for how we should behave. In contrast to this view, our lab has shown that implicit first impressions can be completely reversed when even a single piece of new evidence is highly diagnostic of the target. Our findings show when and how implicit positive first impressions can be reversed, as well as when and how implicit negative first impressions can be reversed. This work reflects a new direction in research on learning, person perception, and implicit cognition."

## FEATURED SPEAKER

**JULIE HECHT**, MSc, has been looking into the minds of dogs since 2010, when she conducted her Masters research on the canine "guilty look" with the Family Dog Project in Budapest. Julie is currently a PhD student in Animal Behavior and Comparative Psychology at The Graduate Center, City University of New York, working with animal cognition researcher Dr. Diana Reiss. Find her at Dog Spies (her blog on Scientific American) and on Twitter [@DogSpies](#).



## GET INTO THE HEAD OF THE DOG IN YOUR BED

We live with dogs, love dogs, but how much do we actually know about them? Welcome to canine science, a growing area of research that incorporates fields like psychology and biology to uncover the mind of the dog. This talk takes you into the world of canine science research — find out what tails and noses tell us about what dogs are thinking and feeling, how dogs relate to one another, and of course, what they think of us.

# WORKSHOPS

## **GRE SAMPLER**

*Kaplan Test Prep*

*HW 605*

10:00-12:00pm

This workshop you give an overview of the GRE exam, challenges faced by students while preparing, and tactics to overcome pre-test fears. Our Kaplan GRE instructors will work through actual GRE problems, and show you new techniques to conquer the exam. Get ready to take the first step towards your future!

## **INTERNSHIPS: A KEY TO YOUR CAREER**

*Professional Development*

*HW 615*

11:00-12:00pm

Ms. Paula Wicklow, the Internship Coordinator at Hunter College, will utilize this workshop to bring light on how internships are beneficial for career exploration and advancement. In working at the Career and Development Services Office at Hunter College, Ms. Wicklow is an excellent source for educating students on how to apply for internships, and other pre-professional experiences. She will provide an overview of how to apply for internships in psychology, social work, education, and a variety of other subjects. Not only will she go over guidelines, requirements, and a timeline, but she will also cover appropriate selections of field placement in graduate programs. Come prepared with your own questions and concerns, and learn about how to expand your horizons!

## **PSI CHI INITIATIVES**

*Deborah Harris O'Brien, PhD*

*HW 615*

1:15-1:45pm

We are excited to have Psi Chi's Eastern Regional Vice-President, Dr. Deborah Harris O'Brien joining us to provide an information session about the benefits of joining Psi Chi: The International Honors Society in Psychology. Dr. Harris O'Brien's information session will cover what the honor society can offer undergraduates. All who join us in this workshop will discover current Psi Chi initiatives available for undergraduate research, and how becoming a member can improve your undergraduate career!

## **HOW TO WOW YOUR AUDIENCE WITH YOUR POSTER**

*Alicia Walf, PhD*

*HW 605*

12:30-1:00pm

Dr. Alicia Walf is a neuroscientist specializing in the role of hormones in the brain as integrators of the internal and external environment. Dr. Walf has been focused on determining the novel actions of hormones for altering plasticity of brain and behavior; a driving curiosity is understanding the contextual variables important for these effects. A current research focus is how to reduce maladaptive effects of stress with mindful practices (e.g. Deep Listening) and/or optimization of the room-scale environment (e.g. with lighting, temperature, air quality). Dr. Walf's passion for teaching matches that for her research. Dr. Walf is in the Cognitive Science department at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (RPI), the oldest engineering institution in the United States. She teaches several neuroscience classes, including those focused on the effects and mechanisms of hormones, such as "Stress and the Brain." Dr. Walf is similarly driven to excite young minds about the possibilities of neuroscience research outside of the classroom; one example is her involvement in the NorthEast Undergraduate Research Organization (N.E.U.R.O.N.) steering and poster judging committee.

## **HOW GOOD IS THIS SCHOOL?: A PSYCHOMETRIC ASSESSMENT OF STUDENTS' ATTITUDES**

*Harold Takooshian, PhD*

*HW 615*

2:00-3:00pm

Ever wonder about the quality of your education in college? Dr. Harold Takooshian and his students join us from Fordham University to discuss their objective analyses of students' views of their own education. They question how good college really is, and whether corporations should seek feedback from students themselves? Dr. Takooshian's students Allison McLaren & Sarah Soreson, will discuss the Psychological and Educational Services (PES) division students' view of their educational experience at Fordham. While Yiping Holly Wang and Lesley Luna will discuss Chinese freshman students' view of their educational experience at Fordham. Learn what students from other universities feel about their education, and perhaps you'll learn something about your own experience!

1

## **Infusing Global Perspectives: Providing Students with Opportunities to Conduct International Psychology Research**

Richard Velayo, PhD, Lucio Forti, Simin Ghahghahi, Sonia Javani, Hina Siddiqui

*Pace University*

10:15-11:00

HW 714

This symposium presents a series of student-initiated research projects related to and inspired by their involvement in a mentored research team on “internationalization of the psychology curriculum”. A brief introduction will highlight the importance of providing opportunities for students to become involved and initiate their own research projects related to the topic of infusing an international perspective in the teaching and learning of psychology. An overview of each student-initiated research will be presented. The topics that students will be presenting include the use of internet-based technologies in promoting international leadership in psychology, a cross-cultural comparison between developed and developing countries in the treatment of autism spectrum disorders, a cross-cultural examination of depressive rumination in college students, and comparison of diagnosis and treatment of mood disorders between Pakistan and the United States.

2

## **Narcissism, Psychopathy, and Bigoted Oppression: Making Psychological-ideological Sense of the Trump Phenomenon**

Ian Hansen, PhD, Kelvin Tyler, Mariame Soukoule, Abraham Dickey, Gabriela Cedillo, Marlinda King, Karen Longmore, Andrew Ryder, PhD.

*York College*

11:10-11:55

HW 714

Our presentations address why Donald Trump has become a Republican front-runner in spite of being neither religious nor classically conservative. The first presentation presents data showing that, when controlling for demographic variables, more oppressed countries are inhabited by more exclusivist and authoritarian individuals and less religious individuals—individuals like Trump. The second presentation finds that rigid inclinations like dogmatism and authoritarianism positively predict interreligious hostility, while religiosity negatively predicts it; Trump-like narcissism, moreover, is an independent positive predictor of such hostility. The final study finds that subclinical psychopathy (a correlate of narcissism) vs. “moral beauty engagement” represents an alternative form of political conflict to liberal-openness-to-change vs. conservative-status-quoism; Trump may represent one end of this alternative political divide.

3

## **Religious Impulses and Ideological Outcomes: How Religious Processes can Lean Left (in Spite of also Leaning Right)**

Ian Hansen, PhD, Denae Stallings, Aliyah Freeman, Shabana Khan, Vi Ngo, Andrea Mendez.

*York College, CUNY*

12:00-12:45

HW 714

Our presentations address the curious dual nature of religiosity with regard to conservative and right-wing psychological inclinations and ideology. We first present data showing that, when controlling for conservative authoritarianism, religiosity is consistently negatively related to a pro-oppression anti-egalitarian right wing attitude (Social Dominance Orientation or SDO). The second presentation shows that this negative relationship is contingent on whether or not a pre-political (moral vs. amoral) frame dominates or a political (liberalish vs. conservativish) frame predominates—religiosity’s negative relationship to SDO disappears under the influence of the political frame. The final presentation finds that experiencing transcendent emotions (awe, elevation or admiration) can decrease authoritarianism, and, for those with moderate, but not high or low, “moral beauty engagement”, also decreases SDO and support for war over peace.

4

## **A Qualitative Examination of the Unique Challenges of First Generation College Students and the Mitigating Impact of Support and Motivation Style on these Challenges**

Rosa Marte, Louis Pacheco, Kristin Soerianata, Joshua Schwartz

*Hunter College*

12:50-1:35

HW 714

First generation college students are students with parents who did not attend college. As representation of first generation college students at four year colleges continues to grow it is important to understand both the factors that inhibit and that enhance the experience of these students. The research focuses on the experiences of first generation college students (N=24). Through qualitative analysis of the data – collected from focus group interviews – several themes were identified. These included: the availability of academic resources prior to and during enrollment, the significance of types of support (institutional, financial, and social), and motivation style (intrinsic and extrinsic) and its impact on adjustment to college. Our findings may serve to inform academic institutions on how to better serve the growing number of first generation college students by helping identify challenges unique to this population and providing support for the necessity of supportive programming.

5

## **The Importance of Student Voice in Disadvantaged Youth**

Maurice Elias, PhD, Danielle Ryan Hatchimonji, Arielle Linsky, Sarah DeMarchena, Sarah Kim, Claudia Kruzik, Esha Vaid

*Rutgers University*

1:45-2:30

HW 615

Oldfather (1995), Rudduck & Flutter (2000), and Mitra (2004) suggest that when schools work to increase student voice and promote working relationships between students and teachers, students achieve academically. The current study looks at the Ambassador Program being implemented in tandem with MOSAIC, a social-emotional and character development curriculum, in six Jersey City (NJ) public schools in 2015-2016. The Ambassador Program is a school based intervention that aims to engage students, cultivate student voice and disrupt negative trajectories by creating positive and contributory leadership roles for students within their school community. We expect to see a radiating impact of the program on individual students such that Ambassadors would demonstrate the greatest gains in leadership, positive peer interactions, and prosocial values, compared with students who are not Ambassadors within their same classes (modest gains) and students in non-Ambassador classrooms (few gains).

6

## **Evaluating the Impact of Five Realabilities Interventions in Enhancing the Cognitive Attitudes and Behavioral Intentions of Typical Children towards Children with Disabilities**

Nava Silton, PhD, Carol Wagner, Alicia Ferris, A. Kristina Keyser, Michael Corning, Michael Rojas, Kathryn Rouse, Alexis Wilson, Jessica Altchiler, Avery Toland

*Marymount Manhattan College*

2:40-3:25

HW 615

Multiple national (Wall, Wheaton & Zuver, 2009) and international (Carter & Spencer, 2006) studies have reported that children with disabilities are at least two to three times more likely to be victims of bullying than their typical peers. The following research assesses the impact of Realabilities, an animated TV show and comic book series created by the first author, in enhancing the attitudes and behavioral intentions of typical children towards their peers with disabilities. Realabilities emphasizes the strengths of five characters with disabilities who harness their special competencies to save their school from bullies. Significant findings from Paired and Independent Samples T-tests will be presented along with qualitative data to evaluate three storyboarded episodes, a fully animated episode, and the comic book series of Realabilities in enhancing the attitudes of typical elementary school children towards their peers with disabilities.

# ORAL PRESENTATIONS

SUBJECT	TITLE	SESSION TIME	ROOM
Applied Psychology	How Message Content Affects Willingness to Comply With Voluntary Restriction of Resource Use	11:00-11:15	W509A
Biopsychology/Behavioral Neuroscience	Thinking About Positives: A Pilot Study of a Mobile Attention Bias Modification Game for Anxiety in At-Risk Youth	11:00-11:15	W509B
Biopsychology/Behavioral Neuroscience	An Electrophysiological Analysis of Spatial Vision in Males and Females	11:00-11:15	W509C
Biopsychology/Behavioral Neuroscience	Impact of Trauma Exposure on the Development of Cannabis Dependence	11:00-11:15	522W
Biopsychology/Behavioral Neuroscience	Effects of Environment on Adult Neurogenesis that Increases Memory on the Radial Arm Maze in Rats	11:30-11:45	W509A
Biopsychology/Behavioral Neuroscience	Sex Differences in the Subcellular Distribution of Corticotrophin Releasing Factor 1 Receptors in the Rat Hippocampus in Response to Chronic Immobilization Stress (CIS)	11:30-11:45	W509B
Biopsychology/Behavioral Neuroscience	A History of Social Defeat: Stress Enhances the Consolidation of a Conditioned Fear Memory	12:00-12:15	522W
Clinical Psychology	The Effect of Flavor on Human Swallowing Behavior	11:30-11:45	W522
Clinical Psychology	Neural responses to risk and reward predict transition to problem stimulant use	12:00-12:15	W509A
Clinical Psychology	Potential Measures of Sex Differences in Lateral Inhibitory Mechanisms	12:00-12:15	W509B
Clinical Psychology	The Relationship Between Task-Engagement and Attention Bias Modification Training	12:00-12:15	W509C
Clinical Psychology	The Relationship between Intimate Partner Violence and Suicidal Ideation among young Chinese, Korean, and Vietnamese American Women	3:00-3:15	W522
Clinical Psychology	Mentoring Underserved Students: Student/teacher connections foster academic achievement	12:30-12:45	W509A
Clinical Psychology	Working Memory Performance is Predicted by Both Physiological and Emotional Self-Regulation	12:30-12:45	W509B
Clinical Psychology	Participation in the Arts as Potential Buffer for Test Scores in Low SES High Schools	12:30-12:45	W509C
Clinical Psychology	Pain Experience in Pediatric Obstructive Sleep Apnea Patients: Relationship with Subjective and Objective Measures of Sleep	12:30-12:45	W522
Clinical Psychology	Impact of School Climate and Bullying on Academic Achievement	1:00-1:15	W509A

# ORAL PRESENTATIONS

SUBJECT	TITLE	SESSION TIME	ROOM
Clinical Psychology	Can Attitudes About Smoking Impact Cigarette Cravings?	1:00-1:15	W509B
Cognitive Psychology	Does Bilingualism Affect Working Memory?	1:00-1:15	W509C
Cognitive Psychology	The Cognitive Mediators of Binge Drinking on GPA and Academic Performance	1:00-1:15	W522
Cognitive Psychology	The Effect of Napping on Retrieval Memory Performance	1:30-1:45	W509A
Cognitive Psychology	The Limits of Working Memory Capacity for Naturalistic Visual Scenes	1:30-1:45	W509B
Developmental Psychology	Risk Factors Associated with the Criminalization of Black Adolescent Females in U.S. Schools	1:30-1:45	W509C
Developmental Psychology	Teaching 5 - 8 year old Autistic Children	3:00-3:15	W509B
Forensic Psychology	Latino Sex Offenders: Considering the Influence of Ethnicity	1:30-1:45	W522
Health Psychology	The Impact of Personal Health Technologies on Stress Levels of College Students	2:00-2:15	W509A
Health Psychology	Nutrition Knowledge in Undergraduate Students	2:00-2:15	W509B
Health Psychology	Financial Literacy and Mental Health in College Students	2:00-2:15	W509C
Industrial and Organizational Psychology	A Closer Look at Discrimination: Field Experiments on Productivity Perception and Same Race and Gender Bias.	2:00-2:15	W522
Other- LGBTQ Psychology	Cherry Picking: Virginity Loss Definitions and Experiences Among Homosexual and Heterosexual Young Men	2:30-2:45	W509A
Social Psychology	The Correlation Between the Frequency of Sexual Activity Among College Students and Their Grade Point Average (GPA)	2:30-2:45	W509B
Social Psychology	Avoiding Temptations: Perceptual Distancing in Dieting Self-Control Conflicts	3:00-3:15	W509C
Social Psychology	Bias is in the eye of the beholder: A perceptual process model of transgender discrimination	2:30-2:45	W522
Social Psychology	College-Aged Adults Attitudes Towards Hookup Culture	3:00-3:15	W509A

## APPLIED PSYCHOLOGY

### **How Message Content Affects Willingness to Comply With Voluntary Restriction of Resource Use**

Monica Youssef, Clara Morgan, Margaret Ingate, PhD, Arnold Glass, PhD

*Rutgers University*

Session Time: 11:00-11:15

Room: West 509A

In emergency or scarcity conditions, infrastructure resources must be conserved. Four sample SMS alerts were created to test subjects' compliance with conserving such resources. Specificity and altruistic appeals were manipulated in these alerts, which were administered via Qualtrics. Subjects were students in three upper-level classes receiving extra credit to participate. Results showed that appeals to altruism had elicited more willingness to comply with the requests, although most respondents indicated they would make one phone call.

## BIOPSYCHOLOGY/BEHAVIORAL NEUROSCIENCE

### **Thinking About Positives: A Pilot Study of a Mobile Attention Bias Modification Game for Anxiety in At-Risk Youth**

Karlina Slisane, Tracy Dennis, PhD, Kristin Buss, PhD  
*Hunter College, CUNY Graduate Center, Pennsylvania State University*

Session Time: 11:00-11:15

Room: West 509B

Individuals who experience elevated symptoms of anxiety show exaggerated attention to threat. Children from underserved communities may experience additional stress-inducing factors such as financial difficulties and community violence. Many individuals do not seek treatment due to cost, time or stigma present in their communities. Digital mental health allows bridging the gap between the accessibility and the necessity for treatment. Attention Bias Modification Training (ABMT) has been used to successfully train the attention of an individual away from threatening stimuli toward more neutral stimuli. In this pilot feasibility study we are examining the effects that engaging in gamified ABMT can have on teens in underserved communities. During a 4-week trial, highly anxious adolescents (ages 11-18) engaged in frequent app play meant to train their attention towards positive stimuli. We are examining the extent to which the treatment is effective and feasible in their community.

### **An Electrophysiological Analysis of Spatial Vision in Males and Females**

Norine Wendlyn Chan, James Gordon, PhD

*Hunter College*

Session Time: 11:00-11:15

Room: West 509C

There are sexual dimorphisms in spatial vision that have been attributed to the organizing effects of gonadal sex steroids. To assess sex differences in visuospatial processing, visual evoked potentials (VEPs) were extracted from EEG recordings elicited by contrast-reversed horizontal striped patterns. In accordance with previous research, females exhibited significantly higher response amplitudes at each spatial frequency and higher maximum amplitudes than males. Females also demonstrated larger signal-to-noise ratios at lower spatial frequencies, while males showed larger ratios at higher frequencies. The results are consistent with research showing increased visual acuity and sensitivity to high-frequency patterns in males. These data further show that, while females demonstrate stronger VEP responses, their visual cortex exhibits a greater amount of noise when interpreting spatial frequency patterns—suggesting underlying anatomical effects on electrophysiological response.

### **Impact of Trauma Exposure on the Development of Cannabis Dependence**

Vanja Radoncic, MA

*Derner Institute of Advanced Psychological Studies, Adelphi University*

Session Time: 11:00-11:15

Room: 522W

This project aimed to compare responses to an acute social stressor such as the Trier Social Stress Test (TSST) in marijuana (MJ) users with and without trauma exposure, hypothesizing that a group with high trauma exposure (H-PTS) would show higher stress reactivity compared to the group with less trauma (L-PTS) and no trauma exposure (NT). Regular MJ smokers ( $n=132$ ) with no current Axis 1 diagnoses (except MJ abuse) completed Trauma Assessment for Adults and TSST. Stress response was assessed with heart rate, salivary cortisol, and subjective anxiety. Participants completed BDI, DERS, and BIS at the baseline. H-PTS group had higher baseline scores than L-PTS and NT. H-PTS group had most elevated anxiety levels throughout TSST and increased heart rate compared to L-PTS and NT groups. These initial data indicate that higher levels of trauma exposure were associated with greater stress reactivity, which implies that marijuana smokers with trauma-exposure are more sensitive to MJ use.

## **Effects of Environment on Adult Neurogenesis That Increases Memory on the Radial Arm Maze in Rats**

Hala Haddad, Amber A. Alliger, PhD

*Hunter College*

Session Time: 11:30-11:45

Room: West 509A

Environmental Enrichment (EE) provides laboratory animals with physical and social stimuli that are not usually provided within standard housing (SH) in animal research laboratory settings. The aim of our study is to examine the relationship between memory and neurophysiological changes in rats housed in EE. We hypothesized that behavioral differences in memory on the radial arm maze (RAM) are positively correlated with an increase in adult neurogenesis in the hippocampus of EE subjects. After housing subjects (n= 24) for 27 days in respective housing, we calculated the percent correct choices per trial on RAM, and found that EE subjects performed better on RAM than controls,  $F(1,2)=26.53$ ,  $p=0.000$ . Using immunohistochemistry staining, and imaging methods, we will measure neurogenesis between EE and SH subjects. Environmental enrichment may lead to increased neurogenesis, which could lead to the improved memory seen in our results.

## **Sex Differences in the Subcellular Distribution of Corticotrophin Releasing Factor 1 Receptors in the Rat Hippocampus in Response to Chronic Immobilization Stress (CIS)**

Helena R. McAlinn, Andreina A. Gonzalez, Bruce S.

McEwen, Elizabeth M. Waters, Teresa A. Milner

*Hunter College, Weill Cornell Medical College, The Rockefeller University*

Session Time: 11:30-11:45

Room: West 509B

Stress has been shown to play a modulating role on memory formation and learning in the hippocampus. Earlier studies found that chronic immobilization stress (CIS) impaired hippocampal function in males and enhanced performance in females. This study used EM immunocytochemical methods to expand on earlier research by examining the effect of CIS on dendrites in three hippocampal areas of male and female rats. We quantified labeled corticotrophin-releasing factor 1 receptors (CRF1R), known to mediate behavioral and cellular stress response. Baseline sex differences showed greater density of CRF1 in females, but greater labeled-dendrite size in males. Following CIS, CRF1 distribution on and near the plasma membrane was increased in males, in contrast to elevated cytoplasmic CRF1 concentration in females. Since receptors closer to the plasma membrane are more available for binding, CRF1 action is enhanced. These data implicate CIS impairs hippocampal function in males compared to females.

## **A History of Social Defeat: Stress Enhances the Consolidation of a Conditioned Fear Memory**

Marina Iskhakova, Antonio Aubry, Nesha Star

Burghardt, PhD

*Hunter College*

Session Time: 12:00-12:15

Room: 522W

Exposure to chronic stress is a major risk factor for the development of psychological disorders in humans. We investigated the effects of chronic social defeat stress on fear memory in mice. This involved subjecting 129/SvEv mice to bouts of social defeat by an aggressive CD-1 mouse every day for ten days and then testing auditory fear conditioning after one week of recovery. During social defeat, mice interacted for five minutes and then were housed together overnight with a Plexiglass divider that prevented physical contact. As expected, defeated mice displayed social avoidance behavior when introduced to an aggressor during a social interaction test. Interestingly, there were no differences between defeated mice and non-defeated control mice during the acquisition of fear conditioning, but defeated mice showed higher freezing responses to the tone twenty-four hours after training. These results indicate that chronic social defeat stress enhances the retention of a conditioned fear memory.



## CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY

### **The Effect of Flavor on Human Swallowing Behavior**

Hana Lee, Gisela Lopez, Adam Shavit, PhD

*Hunter College*

Session Time: 11:30-11:45

Room: 522W

The sensory properties of foods and drinks can modulate various aspects of swallowing. We measured the effect of lemon juice and sugar dissolved in water on the duration and volume of swallowing. The participants (n=32) reported no acute or chronic swallowing difficulties or disruptions in taste or smell. We prepared four drink combinations, using lemon juice (5% in volume) and white sugar (7.5% in weight) in 50 ml room temperature servings. Three trials of each of the four drinks (water only, with lemon, with sugar, with both) were randomly ordered in 12 trials. We found significant interactions in the effects of sugar and lemon on the duration and volume of swallowing, as well as a main effect for the presence of lemon on both measures. Adding lemon impaired swallowing overall, but while adding sugar impaired swallowing to a lesser degree, in the presence of lemon, adding sugar reduced this impairment.

### **Neural Responses to Risk and Reward Predict Transition to Problem Stimulant Use**

Jennifer L. Stewart, PhD, April C. May, BA, Martina Reske, PhD, Susan F. Tapert, PhD, Martin P. Paulus, MD  
*CUNY Graduate Center, CUNY Queens College, UCSD Department of Psychiatry, Forschungszentrum Jülich Institute of Neuroscience and Medicine, Veterans Affairs San Diego Healthcare System Psychiatry Service, Laureate Institute for Brain Research*

Session Time: 12:00-12:15

Room: West 509A

Can brain activation predict future stimulant (cocaine and amphetamine) addiction? Occasional stimulant users (OSU) and healthy controls (CTL) performed a risky gains decision-making task during functional magnetic resonance imaging. Three years later, OSU were then classified as problem stimulant users (PSU) or desisted stimulant users (DSU) on the basis of a follow-up clinical interview. Groups were compared on patterns of neural responses to: (1) risky versus safe choices; and (2) risky wins versus losses. PSU exhibited lower fronto-insular activation than DSU and CTL for safe compared to risky choices. Moreover, PSU displayed lower fronto-striatal responses than DSU and CTL for risky losses compared to risky wins. OSU who exhibited diminished resources to evaluate risk aversion and reward valuation errors transitioned to PSU. Findings suggest that neural impairments processing risk precede addiction.

### **Potential Measures of Sex Differences in Lateral Inhibitory Mechanisms**

Carin-Sanni Ridwan, James Gordon, PhD

*Hunter College*

Session Time: 12:00-12:15

Room: West 509B

There are anatomical differences in visual cortex between males and females that may reflect well known differences in visual processing and perception. To study these cortical cells, we used visual evoked potentials (VEPs) elicited by patterns designed specifically to examine non-linear inhibitory interactions in primary visual cortex. The patterns used consisted of windmill-dartboards (WD) or partial windmills (PW) modulated at 4 Hz, presented for 2 seconds and repeated 10 times. The electrical activity of the brain was recorded and signal averaged to yield VEPs. We examined the fundamental and second harmonic components extracted by Fourier analysis of the recording. We found that females have overall larger amplitudes in all components of the VEP. However, there are no significant sex differences in the relative sizes of the amplitudes. Hence, males and females have very similar long and short range lateral inhibitory mechanisms.

### **The Relationship Between Task-Engagement and Attention Bias Modification Training**

Courtney Louis, Samantha Deneffrio, Tracy Dennis, PhD

*Hunter College, CUNY Graduate Center*

Session Time: 12:00-12:15

Room: West 509C

Attention Bias Modification Training (ABMT) is a novel treatment for anxiety that manipulates automatic attention to threat, termed threat bias, to reduce clinical symptoms. Recent findings have called ABMT efficacy into question. Thus, an important step is to evaluate individual differences, one of which being task engagement. Task engagement combines motivation and concentration to facilitate attention. This may be necessary to benefit from ABMT, and contribute to understanding change in threat bias. The present study aims to test the hypothesis that task engagement will significantly affect ABMT efficacy. Threat bias, mood, and state anxiety were assessed before and after a single session of ABMT. Task engagement, measured via self-report of engagement, interest and motivation was assessed at baseline, nine times during assessment, and post- training. The relationship between task engagement, training, and anxiety will be evaluated.

## **The Relationship between Intimate Partner Violence and Suicidal Ideation Among Young Chinese, Korean, and Vietnamese American Women**

Mihoko Maru, MA, MSW, Tanya Saraiya, BS, Seowoo Lee, BA, Ozair K. Meghani, Denise Hien, PhD, Hyeouk Chris Hahm, PhD

*Gordon F. Derner Institute of Advanced Psychological Studies, Adelphi University, The City College of New York*  
Session Time: 3:00-3:15

Room: 522W

Child abuse is a critical factor associated with high rates of suicide in young Asian American (AA) women. Yet, no study has examined the effect of adult intimate partner violence (IPV) on female AA suicide. We hypothesize that IPV is associated with suicidal ideation/intent after controlling for demographics and child abuse. 173 young adult AA women were assessed to participate in the AA Women's Action for Resilience and Empowerment (AWARE) intervention. Seven out of ten reported lifetime suicidal ideation/intent (63.6%). In the Revised Conflict Tactics Scale, psychological aggression (64%) was the most experienced form of IPV followed by sexual coercion (40.4%). Multivariate logistic regression models showed physical and/or sexual IPV had the strongest association with lifetime suicidal ideation/intent (OR = 3.4, 95% CI [1.3-8.8],  $p = 0.01$ ) when controlling for demographics and child abuse. Findings suggest suicide interventions for young AA women must address child abuse and IPV.

## **Participation in the Arts as Potential Buffer for Test Scores in Low SES High Schools**

Esha Vaid, Claudia Kruzik, Gwyne White, Maurice J. Elias, PhD

*Rutgers University*

Session Time: 12:30-12:45

Room: 509C

Claessens & Engel (2013) found that math skills are the most important predictors for achievement in math and other areas in the future. Socioeconomic status (SES) and race can affect the outcome of academic achievement (Koth, Bradshaw, & Leaf, 2008).

Considering the importance of academic achievement as a measure of success, one area to explore is the influence of arts participation as a buffer of achievement. We expected that SES and race would predict academic achievement. We also expected that participation in the arts would mediate the impact SES and race have on test scores. This study utilized school HSPA (High School Proficiency Assessment) scores from the 2010-2011 academic school year for 268 public high schools in NJ as a measure of academic achievement. Results showed that SES and race were significant at predicting HSPA scores at the school level, but participation in arts classes did not mediate this effect. Factors explaining this will be discussed.

## **Mentoring Underserved Students: Student/Teacher Connections Foster Academic Achievement**

Maurice Elias, PhD, Gwyne White, MS, Didem Aksoy, BA, Sarah DeMarchena, BA, Sarah Kim, BA, Cesalie Stepney, MEd, MS

*Rutgers University*

Session Time: 12:30- 12:45

Room: West 509A

Research suggests that students need to feel acknowledged and cared for by their teachers and the adults in their school (Klem & Connell, 2004). More specifically, in order to sustain student achievement and enrollment in postsecondary education among high school students, Martinez & Klopott (2005) highlight the importance of academic and social support as well as rigorous coursework. This study examines the effectiveness of two school-enrichment programs, Advancement via Individual Determination (AVID) and Play It Smart (PIS) by conducting focus groups in an urban high school. The focus groups included the students who participated in either AVID or PIS; in the groups, the students were asked what helps them the most in their respective programs. Our findings reflect the importance of the relationships established by students and staff involved in the programs. Students are conscious of the support they are receiving from AVID and PIS, they value it, and it improves performance.

## **Working Memory Performance is Predicted by Both Physiological and Emotional Self-Regulation**

Mikayla Holzwarth, Sarit A. Golub, PhD, MPH, Louisa I. Thompson

*Hunter College*

Session Time: 12:30- 12:45

Room: West 509B

Working memory (WM) is a brain function that allows for storage and manipulation of information. Research has shown that heart rate variability (HRV), a physiological indicator of self-regulation, is positively correlated with WM. Anxiety, characterized by difficulties with self-regulation, has also shown to be negatively correlated with WM. This secondary analysis examines self-reported anxiety (Beck Anxiety Inventory; BAI) and HRV as independent or correlated predictors of WM in a sample of 73 college students. WM was measured with the WAIS Digit Span (Wechsler, 2008) and HRV was measured by sampling ECG data. High scores on the BAI and low HRV significantly predicted worse WM. HRV was a stronger predictor of WM ( $\beta=0.35$ ,  $p < .01$ ;  $R^2$  change = .17) than BAI ( $\beta = -0.47$ ,  $p < .05$ ;  $R^2$  change = .08). BAI and HRV were independent predictors of WM and did not interact. These findings suggest that HRV and anxiety impact WM through independent mechanisms, and underscore the importance of each.

## **Impact of School Climate and Bullying on Academic Achievement**

Esha Vaid, Claudia Kruzik, Gwyne White, Danielle Ryan Hatchimonji, Maurice J. Elias, PhD  
*Rutgers University*

Session Time: 1:00-1:15

Room: 509A

School climate can be described as including norms, values, and expectations that support students' feeling socially, emotionally, and physically safe (Cohen, McCabe, Michelli, & Pickeral, 2009). Research shows that students perform better on standardized tests when there is a positive school environment (MacNeil, Prater, & Busch, 2009). This study looked at the changes in climate and student self-reported bullying scores as predictors of changes in academic achievement in an at-risk urban middle school. Assessments were administered twice a year for three years. Results show that bullying scores significantly decreased from the first year to the third year although it did not act as a predictor of academic achievement. Implications for research and practice will be discussed.

## **Pain Experience in Pediatric Obstructive Sleep Apnea Patients: Relationship with Subjective and Objective Measures of Sleep**

Gunjan Desai, Boris Dubrovsky, PhD  
*Hunter College, New York Methodist Hospital*

Session Time: 12:30- 12:45

Room: 522W

Obstructive sleep apnea (OSA) is a sleep disorder that involves cessations of breathing due to a decrease in the normal flow of oxygen. Research has found that obstructive sleep apnea leads to oxygen desaturation (hypoxemia) and enhanced sensitivity to pain (hyperalgesia). Previous research has demonstrated that lower oxyhemoglobin saturation nadir was associated with lower postsurgical requirement for morphine in pediatric OSA patients who underwent adenotonsillectomy. Our study was conducted on 28 children referred by a physician for an overnight polysomnography recording as an evaluation for OSA. In order to assess pain perception, participants and their guardians filled out sleep habit and quality of life questionnaires. The results of this study will be applicable to fully understand the underlying mechanisms relating OSA and pain perception, since a concurrent examination of the effect of several sleep measures on pain perception in pediatric OSA patients has not been examined.

## **Can Attitudes About Smoking Impact Cigarette Cravings?**

Lauren Bertin, Joel Erblich, PhD, MPH  
*Hunter College, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai*

Session Time: 1:00-1:15

Room: West 509B

Cigarette cravings are reported as critical contributors to smoking behavior and relapse. Past studies have demonstrated significant individual differences in cue- and stress-induced cravings. This study examines the effects of attitudinal factors on craving as the literature suggests such factors can influence motivational states. We predicted that smokers who exhibited more favorable attitudes towards smoking would have greater induced cravings. Smokers (n=103) were exposed to smoking, stress, and neutral cues. Cravings were measured prior to and after exposure. Participants also completed a questionnaire having them rate: 1) desirability and 2) likelihood, for 18 smoking consequences. The results indicated that smokers who rated these items as less desirable had lower basal cravings than those who minimized consequences, while post-stimulus cravings were analogous across ratings. This suggests that attitudes toward smoking may play a crucial role in understanding cigarette cravings.

## **COGNITIVE PSYCHOLOGY**

### **Does Bilingualism Affect Working Memory?**

Rosaury Hernandez, Yasmine Ouchikh, BA, Vivien Tartter, PhD, Robert Melara, PhD  
*The City College of New York*

Session Time: 1:00-1:15

Room: West 509C

Numerous studies have investigated the role of bilingualism on performance of executive control tasks. Bilinguals outperform monolinguals on both visual executive control tasks and mental flexibility tasks (Bialystok, 2009). On one account, when bilinguals employ Language one L1 they must simultaneously inhibit Language two L2 (Bialystok, 2009; Martin-Rhee & Bialystok 2008), leading to an advantage relative to monolinguals in both switching and inhibitory control. This study investigated the role of bilingualism on auditory executive control. Participants completed auditory versions of Simon task, Eriksen flanker task, speech-in-noise task and visual and verbal working memory tasks. We found bilinguals outperformed monolinguals on visual but not verbal working memory, bilinguals edged monolinguals on the Simon task but performed worse on flanker and speech-in-noise tasks. The results indicate that a bilingual disadvantage in inhibition of sequential information held in working memory.

## **The Cognitive Mediators of Binge Drinking on GPA and Academic Performance**

Jannatun Ferdowsi

*Hunter College*

Session Time: 1:00-1:15

Room: West 522W

High rates of binge drinking have been reported on many college campuses, and binge drinking has been positively associated with a number of negative outcomes including, physical and sexual assault, injuries, and poor academic performance. Previous studies have reported prospective relationships between binge drinking and poorer academic performance. Studies exploring mediators of this relationship have examined the role of class attendance and study time. The aims of the present study were to replicate previous findings regarding a negative relationship between binge drinking and GPA and to explore the possibility that decreased cognitive functioning, specifically, impaired working memory, explains this relationship. This study was correlational and involved surveys assessing alcohol consumption and academic performance, as well as a memory task that measured working memory. The results of this study will be discussed along with limitations and future directions.

## **The Effect of Napping on Retrieval Memory Performance**

Kenneth Ng, BS, Miriam San Lucas, BA

*City College of New York*

Session Time: 1:30-1:45

Room: 509A

Studies show that sleep including short naps improve declarative memory performance. Recent studies show sleep inertia to have a connection with initial performance immediately from awakening. We conducted and compared results from two studies in which participants were given a working memory paradigm and two recognition tasks. The first study had fourteen participants who took a 30-minute nap between the first and second recognition tasks. The second study had ten participants that underwent wake processing in the lab for a 30-minute interval, instead of napping. Recognition performance of the first group after their nap was compared to the second group's recognition performance after wake processing. There was a small significant difference in accuracy performance of the non-napping group when compared to the napping group ( $F(1,22)=4.323$ , ( $p=0.049$ )) but the significance was too close to the confidence level of 95%, it cannot be confidently said to affect memory retrieval performance.

## **The Limits of Working Memory Capacity for Naturalistic Visual Scenes**

Luthfunnahar Dewan, Timothy Ellmore, Ph.D.

*The City College of New York*

Session Time: 1:30-1:45

Room: 509B

One theory of working memory is that it is capacity-limited, with humans only able to remember few items over a short time span of seconds. Findings from change-detection paradigms support the idea that even for simple colored shapes, a capacity of only 4 items can be retained at a time. Through a Sternberg working memory paradigm, we sought to further explore the notion of limited capacity in working memory using complex naturalistic visual scenes. Subjects were assigned to one of four scene conditions-color, grayscale, color blur, or grayscale blur. The task consisted of 300 visual scene images in 60 trials that varied in load from 2-7 randomized by trial. We predicted a peak in accuracy in load 4 and high accuracy for color scenes if color is relied upon. The results indicate subjects performed better in color scene than in the other conditions and performance was high beyond load 4; however, further research is needed to better understand working memory capacity for visual scenes.

## **DEVELOPMENTAL PSYCHOLOGY**

### **Teaching 5–8-year old Autistic Children**

Shandra Grantham-Powell, Samvel Jeshmaridian, PhD

*Technical Career Institutes College of Technology*

Session Time: 3:00-3:15

Room: 509B

I work in an Autism Spectrum Disorder program in a school that integrates children with Autism and general education students to help enhance their social interactions and self-help skills. My intentions are to enlighten the audience's understanding of Autism Spectrum Disorder and its effects on today's society not only in the United States but all over the world. Autism is associated with intellectual, attention, motor coordination and physical disabilities. Lack of knowledge about these disorders have left people unaware of how vast Autism has intensified in recent years. We need to be more mindful of their diverse needs and abilities. Awareness means that Autism Spectrum Disorder needs increasing acceptance, respect, support and understanding.

## HEALTH PSYCHOLOGY

### **Risk Factors Associated with the Criminalization of Black Adolescent Females in U.S. Schools**

Dana Seag, Roseanne Flores, PhD

*Hunter College*

Session Time: 1:30-1:45

Room: West 509C

Black girls face some of the highest rates of criminalization in U.S. schools. Despite representing only 7.8% of students, they represented 10.5% of expulsions, 13.5% of suspensions, and 9.8% of school arrests during the 2011/12 school year. Research suggests that adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) are linked to poor mental health and perceived misconduct. This presentation will study data from the 2011/12 National Survey of Children's Health. Preliminary results suggest that while more Black youth (60.4%) have one or more ACE than their White peers (44.3%), boys and girls do not greatly differ in this regard. Parents of girls (25.7%) receive fewer calls reporting issues at school than those of boys (37.4%), and parents of Black students (42.6%) receive more calls than those of White students (28.8%). Schools must develop better responses to student mental and behavioral health, particularly concerning minorities who tend to be pushed out of rather than supported in schools.

## FORENSIC PSYCHOLOGY

### **Latino Sex Offenders: Considering the Influence of Ethnicity**

Silvia Fraga Dominguez, BS, Elizabeth Jeglic, PhD,

Cynthia Calkins, PhD

*John Jay College of Criminal Justice*

Session Time: 1:30-1:45

Room: West 522W

While the population of sex offenders in the United States has become ethnically diverse, little to no literature has focused on Latino sex offenders and this population has been categorized as White in many studies. This study, by exploring the differences that exist between Latino sex offenders and other ethnic groups of sex offenders, sought to provide a more nuanced understanding of this specific population. In order to do this, archival data from a sample of sex offenders from New Jersey was used. Comparisons were made by looking at characteristics of the offenders, the offenses, and the victims. The results obtained showed differences between Latino sex offenders and other groups in several of the variables analyzed, such as the relationship to the victim. These differences point to the importance of developing culturally specific theories and establishing culturally informed treatment needs and goals.

### **The Impact of Personal Health Technologies on Stress Levels of College Students**

Noah Graham

*Springfield College*

Session Time: 2:00-2:15

Room: West 509A

Currently there is question as to the effectiveness of personal technologies in improving health knowledge, behaviors, and outcomes. Little is also known about the ways in which such technologies may impact stress levels. The primary objective of this investigation was to determine if there are differences in stress levels between college students who use personal health technologies and those who do not. A secondary objective was to explore any subgroup differences in usage to discover who is more or less likely to use them. Demographic data were collected alongside stress levels in a population of college students at a small institution in Massachusetts. Descriptive statistics were generated, and two sample t-tests were conducted to compare differences in stress levels between users and nonusers. Analysis of variance was also used to analyze differences in usage among the subgroups. Lastly, inferences were made as to why these technologies are used by some students and not others.

### **Nutrition Knowledge in Undergraduate Students**

Stephanie Foster, Christine Dunkley, Molly Jalbert

*Springfield College*

Session Time: 2:00-2:15

Room: 509B

The purpose of this investigation was to compare the relationship between perceived knowledge of basic nutrition compared to actual knowledge of basic nutrition. This was done by asking questions about students perceptions of how educated they feel they are about nutrition and comparing those responses with a fact based true/false quiz. Our interest is to see how big the gap between perceived knowledge and actual knowledge is, so that we can see where there are gaps in basic nutrition education. Student demographics such as gender, school major, GPA will also be considered.

# ORAL PRESENTATIONS

## **Financial Literacy and Mental Health in College Students**

Katherine Donahue, Emily Reynolds, Sarah Zieminski  
*Springfield College*

Session Time: 2:00-2:15

Room: West 509C

The purpose of this investigation is to see if undergraduate students, financial literacy status has an effect upon an individual's mental health. We will examine the relationship between financial literacy and demographic characteristics in undergraduate college students. Our interest is how these activities result in high levels of various negative student outcomes, especially mental health and well-being. Linkages to the cost of education, borrowing money for college, and the need to find a job after school will be considered. All of the above will be subsequently compared against self-reported perceptions.

## **INDUSTRIAL & ORGANIZATIONAL PSYCHOLOGY**

### **A Closer Look at Discrimination: Field Experiments on Productivity Perception, and Same Race and Gender Bias**

Daniel Cisneros  
*Hunter College*

Session Time: 2:00-2:15

Room: West 522W

The purpose of this study is to examine the effect of productivity perception and same-race and gender bias on wage differentials. Two experiments are carried out to accomplish this. In experiment I, students were asked to predict the productivity of an applicant based on the applicant's resume. In experiment II, students were asked to assign wages to a list of employees based on the amount of money they would make for the respondent and their chances of coming to work. To manipulate the perceived race and gender, resumé and employee names varied between Black and White sounding names and between male and female sounding names. I find that whites are perceived as being 10.88% more productive than blacks, and males as being 12.96% more productive than females. I also find that raters assigned higher wages to employees of the same race but not gender. Productivity perceptions and same-race preferences seem to be the root causes of labor market differences.

## **LGBTQ PSYCHOLOGY**

### **Cherry Picking: Virginity Loss Definitions and Experiences Among Homosexual and Heterosexual Young Men**

Howard Huang

*New York University*

Session Time: 2:30-2:45

Room: West 509A

The present paper explored virginity loss definitions and experiences among gay and straight men. An anonymous, online survey was distributed throughout NYC. Gay and straight men between 18 to 23 years old were recruited. Participants were asked to rate Male-on-Female (MF) and Male-on-Male (MM) sexual behavior as constitutive of virginity loss or not. They were given the First Coital Affective Reaction Scale (FCARS). Gay men were more likely to endorse MM Anal Reception (i.e., bottoming) and MF Anal Penetration as constitutive of virginity loss. Because of low internal consistency, the FCARS was abridged to include only items assessing negative constructs. Gay men scored significantly higher on Sorriiness and Embarrassment. Future researchers are encouraged to explore virginity loss definitions among other sexual minority populations. Results from the FCARS analyses should be interpreted with caution, as there were issues regarding its internal reliability.

## **SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY**

### **The Correlation Between the Frequency of Sexual Activity Among College Students and Their Grade Point Average (GPA)**

Abigail Rist, Michael Ethier, Kendall Krafick  
*Springfield College*

Session Time: 2:30-2:45

Room: West 509B

The purpose of this investigation is to examine the correlation between sexual frequency and academic performance. The investigators will use surveys to collect data from a number of college students. The investigators are interested to see if having an active sex life has positive or negative effects on a college student's academic performance. Other factors that can contribute to academic performance will be taken into consideration. Frequency of sex and type of sex will be compared to Fall 2015 grade point average (GPA).

## **Avoiding Temptations: Perceptual Distancing in Dieting Self-Control Conflicts**

Janna Kline, Shana Cole, PhD, Emily Balcetis, PhD  
*Rutgers University, New York University*

Session Time: 3:00-3:15

Room: West 509C

How are successful self-regulators able to resist temptations and instead make progress toward long-term goals? We suggest one tool that may enable people to resist temptations is distance. Within the dieting domain, we tested whether successful dieters distance themselves from unhealthy foods. Furthermore, we tested whether activating an avoidance motive would make unsuccessful dieters perceive greater distances to unhealthy foods. Using an approach-avoidance computer mouse task, we induced an approach or avoidance mindset. We then measured individuals' perceptions of distance to unhealthy snacks. Results suggest dieters may benefit from an avoidance training intervention; inducing motives to avoid unhealthy foods may shift how far away the foods appear, which in turn might help individuals resist the urge to give in to temptation.

## **Bias is in the Eye of the Beholder: A Perceptual Process Model of Transgender Discrimination**

Kristina Howansky, MS, Analia Albuja, Shana Cole, PhD, Samantha Bruno  
*Rutgers University*

Session Time: 2:30-2:45

Room: 522W

The current work examined the influence of a transgender label on perception and attitudes. Participants were randomly assigned to read a vignette in which a target either identified herself as a "female," or as a "transgender female." They then completed a visual matching task in which they attempted to identify the target's true face among of a series of morphed faces that varied in masculinity and femininity. Finally, participants reported their attitudes towards the target. Those in the transgender condition chose a more masculine version of the target face and reported more negative attitudes compared to those in the cisgender condition. A mediation model suggests that learning the target was transgender caused her to be perceived as more masculine, which resulted in more negative attitudes towards her. The notion that anti-transgender attitudes are rooted in perception can help us better understand how to achieve a more favorable climate for the transgender community.

## **College-Aged Adults Attitudes Towards Hookup Culture**

Allison Koshes  
*Springfield College*

Session Time: 3:00-3:15

Room: West 509A

A great deal of young, college-aged adults have had some casual, uncommitted sexual experience. The phrase hookup culture can be called many other things. Terms like no strings attached, casual encounters, or one-night stands are often used interchangeably with hookup. The purpose of the investigation was to examine the differences in attitudes towards "hookups" between male and female college-aged adults in regards to what defines a "hookup" and the frequency at which hookups happen. Surveys regarding students' definitions and frequencies of hooking up were administered to classes where permission was obtained by each professor.



# POSTER PRESENTATIONS

POSTER #	SUBJECT	TITLE	SESSION
22	Biopsychology/Behavioral Neuroscience	Activity-Based Anorexia Reduces Cell Proliferation and Delays Cell Maturation in the Ventral Hippocampus of Adolescent Female Rats	1
25	Biopsychology/Behavioral Neuroscience	Swimming Makes Me Anxious: Assessing Spatial Memory and Emotional State of Mold-treated Mice Using the Morris Water Maze	2
34	Biopsychology/Behavioral Neuroscience	Mold Exposure Increases Sensitivity to Pain	3
36	Biopsychology/Behavioral Neuroscience	Neurobiological Impacts of Maladaptive Childhood Experiences on Adult Attachment Style	1
56	Biopsychology/Behavioral Neuroscience	Does Methamphetamine Affect Short- and Long-Term Spatial Memory, Electric Behavior, and Endocrinology in Mormyrids?	2
67	Biopsychology/Behavioral Neuroscience	Effects of Fearful Face Primes on Orientation Tuning	3
72	Biopsychology/Behavioral Neuroscience	Methamphetamine-Induced Neuroinflammation Disrupts GluA2 Trafficking: Mechanisms Responsible for Cognitive Deficits Following Methamphetamine Abuse	1
73	Biopsychology/Behavioral Neuroscience	Neurogenesis in the Dorsomedial Hippocampus is Associated with Better Contextual Memory in Doxycycline-treated Mice, Unless Exposed to Mold	2
84	Biopsychology/Behavioral Neuroscience	Biphasic Alcohol Effects on Emotion and Amygdala fMRI Response	3
88	Biopsychology/Behavioral Neuroscience	Long-term voluntary oral methamphetamine administration increases hippocampal neuroinflammation and decreases spatial learning	1
105	Biopsychology/Behavioral Neuroscience	The Neural Benefits of Enrichment on Stress Response	2
111	Biopsychology/Behavioral Neuroscience	Selective potentiation of hippocampal-accumbal synapses in cocaine-conditioned place preference	3
112	Biopsychology/Behavioral Neuroscience	Noninvasive Measurement of Cortisol in weakly electric fish, <i>Steatogenys cf. elegans</i>	1
114	Biopsychology/Behavioral Neuroscience	Maternal Anxiety and Child Startle Reactivity: The Impact of Maternal Anxiety on Child Skin Conductance Response	2
115	Biopsychology/Behavioral Neuroscience	Environmental Enrichment Increases Neurogenesis to Improved Working Memory	3
122	Biopsychology/Behavioral Neuroscience	The Relationship Between Adult Neurogenesis and Temporal Discrimination is Altered in a Transgenic Huntington's Disease Rat Model	1
133	Biopsychology/Behavioral Neuroscience	Higher Body Weight and Brain IL-1B Associated with Increased Fear in Mold-Exposed Mice	2
136	Biopsychology/Behavioral Neuroscience	Low Level Lead Exposure Impairs Attentional Set Shifting Task Performance Depending Upon Sex and Developmental Periods of Exposure	3
137	Biopsychology/Behavioral Neuroscience	Low Level Lead Exposure Differentially Impairs Context Fear Conditioning in the Rat as a Function of Strain, Gender, and Developmental Time Period of Exposure: Reconsidering External Validity	3

# POSTER PRESENTATIONS

POSTER #	SUBJECT	TITLE	SESSION
4	Clinical Psychology	Examination of the moderator effect of socioeconomic status (SES) on the relation between acute exercise and cognition	1
8	Clinical Psychology	Trust in Dating Relationships: Who Expects to Be Ghosted in a Romantic Relationship?	2
9	Clinical Psychology	Recidivism rates in sex offenders who target male children: Does treatment make a difference?	3
14	Clinical Psychology	Parity and Post-traumatic Stress: A Preliminary Study	1
15	Clinical Psychology	Neural Differences in Reward Learning during Transition to Problem Stimulant Use	2
17	Clinical Psychology	The Association between Depressive Symptoms and Social Support	3
40	Clinical Psychology	An Epidemiological Study of the Selection and Usage of Alcohol and Drugs among Undergraduates Who Self-Report Symptoms of Depression, Anxiety and Stress.	1
41	Clinical Psychology	Effects of Meditation on Moods, Cognition, and Emotions	2
49	Clinical Psychology	Provider Attitudes Towards Advanced Care Planning	3
62	Clinical Psychology	Stress System Asymmetry is Associated with Hyperarousal Symptoms	1
75	Clinical Psychology	The Effects of Gender and Alcohol Use on Academic Performance in Trauma-Exposed College Students	2
85	Clinical Psychology	Less HPA Axis Activity and More Re-experiencing Symptoms in Sexual Trauma Survivors	3
86	Clinical Psychology	PTSD Symptoms are Associated with Difficulty Disengaging from Negative Distractor Stimuli in Complex Scenes	1
89	Clinical Psychology	Delay of Gratification and Emotional Development	3
97	Clinical Psychology	Case Conceptualizations in Emotion Regulation Therapy (ERT): Assessing Predictive Validity of Treatment Outcomes & Concordance with Clients' Self-Reports	3
108	Clinical Psychology	The Relationship Among Premenstrual Symptoms, Rumination and Caffeine Consumption	1
110	Clinical Psychology	Looking at You, Looking At Me: Positive and Negative Biases of Individuals With Social Anxiety Disorder	2
68	Cognitive Psychology	Unconditioned stimulus intensity increases fear generalization but not fear learning in humans	3

# POSTER PRESENTATIONS

POSTER #	SUBJECT	TITLE	SESSION
91	Cognitive Psychology	An Analysis of the Relation between Emotional Intelligence, Perceived Stress and Academic Performance among College Students	1
98	Cognitive Psychology	The Effects of Auditory Perceptual Load and Task Demand on Selective Attention: A Behavioral Analysis	2
102	Cognitive Psychology	Impairments in Sustained Attention following Concussive and Sub-Concussive Events	3
103	Cognitive Psychology	Concussion Cognizance and Cognitive Abilities	1
109	Cognitive Psychology	Behavioral and Neurophysiological effects of perceptual and inhibitory training on visual selective attention	2
130	Cognitive Psychology	Numerical and Spatial Cognition in Adults	1
132	Cognitive Psychology	Mental Rotation Response Time in Hearing Non-Signing Adults	2
134	Cognitive Psychology	Bilingualism and Co-Speech Gestures: Effects on Spatial Cognition	3
138	Cognitive Psychology	Mental Rotation Accuracy on Hearing Non-Signers on a Vertical and Horizontal Plane	1
74	Computer science	Stress in Pregnancy Research: Dynamic Database, Front-End and Back-End	3
29	Developmental Psychology	Relationships Between Secure-Attachment Related Behaviors and Joint Attention Skills in Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder	1
48	Developmental Psychology	The Relationship Between Obesity in African-American youth and the Federal Poverty Level:A Secondary Data Analysis	2
63	Developmental Psychology	The Mediated Relationship of Identity Distress and Juvenile Delinquency: The Role of Self-Esteem	3
81	Developmental Psychology	Mothers' Postpartum Depression and its Effects on Children's Gross and Fine Motor Skills	1
83	Developmental Psychology	Mother-Child Bonding and its Effects on Early Childhood Social-Emotional Development	2
95	Developmental Psychology	Creativity Development in Adolescence: Evidence for Task Specificity	3
104	Developmental Psychology	The Impact of Postnatal Cannabis Use on Infant Temperament	1
107	Developmental Psychology	Synchrony and Joint Attention in Toddlers	2
120	Developmental Psychology	Sustainable Development Goals and the Voices of Youth: The World They Want	3

# POSTER PRESENTATIONS

POSTER #	SUBJECT	TITLE	SESSION
128	Developmental Psychology	Emotional Intelligence and Academic Performance: A Correlative Study of New York City Public School Students Attending a Community-Based Organization's After-School Program	1
129	Developmental Psychology	AboutCollege Athletes Attitudes about Bullying and Sports Hazing	2
131	Developmental Psychology	Relations Between Cognitive Mechanism Words and Psychological Well-Being in Emerging Adults' Narratives about Shame	3
13	Forensic Psychology	Exploring sexual abuse victim's attitudes towards sex offenders.	3
32	Forensic Psychology	Offense-related Sexual Fantasies of Sex Offenders & Non-offending Adult Males	3
45	Forensic Psychology	Keep Safe Program: Do dynamic factors impact re-entry outcomes for sexual offenders?	3
23	Health Psychology	The Pathways to Well-being and Peace of Mind: The Effects of Mindfulness Meditation and Its Mediator	2
38	Health Psychology	Ethnic Group Differences in Diabetes-Related Social Cognition: Focus on Guyanese Americans	1
42	Health Psychology	The Emotional Fallout of Parenting an Adolescent or Young Adult with Cancer	3
55	Health Psychology	Why is the Relationship of Discrimination to Obesity Inconsistent? Examining the Effects of Smoking	2
64	Health Psychology	Drug Use, Sexual Agreements and Eriksonian Intimacy in Gay and Bisexual Men	1
92	Health Psychology	Body Image, Partner Pressure, and Sexual Risk in Gay Men	1
106	Health Psychology	Effects of Education and Health Literacy on Social Cognitions about Diabetes Management- Depression may play a role	2
113	Health Psychology	Reliability and Validity of an Adherence Self-Efficacy Scale (ASE) for HIV Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP)	3
116	Health Psychology	How Grade Point Average and Academic Self-Efficacy Affect Stimulant Use	1
118	Health Psychology	Health & Debt	2
26	Health Psychology & Social Psychology	Perceived Ethnic Discrimination and its Relationship with Cardiovascular Risk Factors	1
54	International Psychology & Social Psychology	Mental illness and mental health services: A cross-cultural perspective	2

# POSTER PRESENTATIONS

POSTER #	SUBJECT	TITLE	SESSION
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65	Other- Psychophysics	Effects of mild simulated visual impairment on tilt perception	1
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24	Social Psychology	Does Distance Equal Length? : The Effects of Relational Closeness on Lengths of Sentencing in Child Sexual Abuse	1
27	Social Psychology	Facebook and its Effects on Self Esteem	2
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59	Social Psychology	Characteristics of Treatment Providers for Sexual Offender Populations	1
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94	Social Psychology	The "liberal" and "conservative" correlates of life satisfaction	3
119	Social Psychology	Adult Adjustment Style Predicts Adjustment to Immigration	1
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126	Social Psychology	Psychological Predictors of Intragroup Competitiveness: The Role of Acculturation stress, Internalized Racism, and Stereotype Confirmation Concern	3
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## BIOPSYCHOLOGY/BEHAVIORAL NEUROSCIENCE

22

### **Activity-Based Anorexia Reduces Cell Proliferation and Delays Cell Maturation in the Ventral Hippocampus of Adolescent Female Rats**

Quiana Isaza, Antonio Aubry, Michael McGinnity, Rene Hen, Nicole Barbarich-Marsteller, Nesha S. Burghardt, K.A. Keene

*Hunter College*

Anorexia nervosa is modeled in rodents with the activity-based anorexia (ABA) paradigm, which combines limited access to food with unlimited access to a running wheel. Rats increase running activity with each day of food restriction, leading to a decrease in body weight. We used adolescent female rats to investigate the effects of ABA on neurogenesis in the dentate gyrus of the hippocampus. We found that ABA significantly decreased cell proliferation in the ventral but not dorsal dentate gyrus. These changes were not maintained following recovery from ABA. Quantification of cells expressing doublecortin protein revealed that the number of immature neurons was not altered after ABA or recovery, but there was a decrease in branching at both time points. Results indicate that ABA during adolescence reduces cell proliferation and delays the maturation of new neurons in the ventral dentate gyrus. These changes may contribute to symptoms of anxiety found in patients with anorexia nervosa.

36

### **Neurobiological Impacts of Maladaptive Childhood Experiences on Adult Attachment Style**

Hope Dickson

*Mitchell College*

Maladaptive environmental situations in which a child may not receive normal social and cognitive interaction can severely alter and impact neuronal synthesis and cortical pathway maintenance. Repeated exposure to abuse or neglect triggers networks which activate the fight-or-flight system, causing dysfunctional responses to benign situations and significant mental health impacts. Development of attachment may be anxious or avoidant and abused persons are more likely to experience relationship difficulties. Interestingly, little research has focused on whether attachment style is consistent across the lifespan. However, decreasing neurogenesis rates as the human ages suggests that attachment styles formed in childhood are sustained in adulthood. This literature review examined synthesis of neuronal networks, pattern integration, and resulting impact on attachment. It was found that traumatic patterns may eventually be diffused by facilitating secure attachment via therapeutic guidance.

72

### **Methamphetamine-Induced Neuroinflammation Disrupts GluA2 Trafficking: Mechanisms Responsible for Cognitive Deficits Following Methamphetamine Abuse**

Catherine Ubri, Jorge A. Avila, B.S., Stephen H. Braren, PhD, Damian Drapala, PhD, Peter A. Serrano, PhD  
*Hunter College, The Graduate Center of CUNY*

Methamphetamine (METH) is an addictive psychostimulant that induces neurodegeneration. Our lab has shown that two (30 mg/kg) doses of METH produce long-term spatial memory deficits and disregulate synaptic protein expression in mice brains (Braren, 2014). Our current goal is to delineate the mechanisms that produce these effects. We hypothesize that pro-inflammatory biological processes, such as glial activation, play a major role. Using immunohistochemistry, we examined the levels of microglia and AMPA-receptors in hippocampi of mice exposed to METH. Exposure to METH resulted in higher levels of microglia expression and greater levels of cluster-puncta GluA2 in mice hippocampi. We hypothesize that cluster-puncta of GluA2 indicate disrupted synaptic protein trafficking. These results reveal that METH induces neuroinflammation and disrupts synaptic protein trafficking

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### **Long-term Voluntary Oral Methamphetamine Administration Increases Hippocampal Neuroinflammation and Decreases Spatial Learning**

Shor Denis, Zanca Roseanna, Avila Jorge, Serrano A. Peter.

*Hunter College, The Graduate Center of CUNY*

Methamphetamine (MA) is a highly addictive neurotoxic-stimulant that in addicts produces working memory deficits and early onset Parkinson's disease. We assessed the effects of voluntary oral administration of MA in mice to model MA abuse. Mice were allowed to consume (1mg/kg meth chips in oatmeal) every day for 28 days. MA exposed mice consumed 5.23mg/kg per day on average (146.4 mg/kg over 28 days). Following one-week of MA abstinence, spatial learning was assessed with a radial 8-arm maze. MA exposed mice showed significantly more reference memory errors and lower asymptotic performance. Analysis of GFAP and Cox2, markers of neural inflammation were significantly increased in the MA mice hippocampi vs controls. PKM $\zeta$  and GluA2 receptor subunits, markers of synaptic plasticity and memory, decreased in MA mice. The results suggest that increased neuroinflammatory markers inhibit the trafficking of PKM $\zeta$  and GluA2 to the synapse impairing the necessary synaptic function during learning.

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## **Noninvasive Measurement of Cortisol in Weakly Electric fish, *Steatogenys cf. elegans***

Aida Davila, Chris Braun, PhD

*City University of New York, Hunter College*

The present study is a validation that *Gymnotiforme*, *Steatogenys cf. elegans*, cortisol levels could be measured directly from the water that they inhabit. Validation of this cortisol assay would allow for a noninvasive measurement of stress, to address our main hypothesis of whether jamming is a stress-induced behavior. Six subject fish were injected with one of the following conditions: high ACTH dose (.5 IU ACTH/g; n=3), medium ACTH dose (.25 IU ACTH/g; n=3). Samples of fish-holding water were collected on an hourly basis prior to and after injection for a total of six time points. Samples were extracted and analyzed through and enzyme immunoassay kit. Preliminary results did not show time or dose dependence in cortisol release rates.

122

## **The Relationship Between Adult Neurogenesis and Temporal Discrimination is Altered in a Transgenic Huntington's Disease Rat Model**

Jessica Fischetti, Shoshana Wodinsky, Alice Perez, Dan Garces Jennifer Rojas, Catherine Tsiris, Bruce Brown, PhD, Nancy Hemmes, PhD, Carolyn Pytte, PhD

*Queens College, Graduate Center of CUNY*

Huntington's disease affects adult neurogenesis in the striatum and hippocampus. Interestingly, both regions are functionally lateralized across hemispheres; however, potential hemispheric differences in adult neurogenesis have not been explored. The hippocampus plays a role in memory and processes timing information. We examined the relationship between bilateral hippocampal neurogenesis and processing of temporal information in a transgenic Huntington's disease (tgHD) rat model. New neurons were labeled with antibody to doublecortin and compared with behavior. We found that in wild type rats, the degree of left side lateralization of new neurons was positively correlated with precision of temporal discrimination. However, this relationship between number of new neurons and temporal discrimination did not exist in tgHD rats. These results suggest that tgHD rats may have altered inter-hemisphere processing, resulting in an aberrant

## CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY

4

## **Examination of the moderator effect of socioeconomic status (SES) on the relation between acute exercise and cognition**

Leo Salcedo

*The City College of New York*

Recent studies have focused on the extent to which acute exercise improves cognitive functioning in young adults. To date, however, factors that might affect this relation have not been explored. Particularly, the relation between acute exercise and cognition with socioeconomic status acting as a moderator has not been thoroughly researched. The proposed study will investigate whether socioeconomic status acts as a moderator between acute exercise and cognition in healthy, young adult population. We will recruit 70 participants aged eighteen through forty, who will either be randomized to the control group, which includes participants doing yoga, or the independent group, which includes participants using a bicycling machine, and would complete computerized tasks to test cognition.

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## **Parity and Post-traumatic Stress: A Preliminary Study**

Benjamin Reissman, BA , Sharmilla Amirthaglam, Gabriella Deanne, Jackie Finik, BA

*Queens College*

This study analyzes the risk for Posttraumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) in relation to parity (# of prior pregnancies). During the 2nd trimester, mothers n=158) were surveyed for the presence of PTSD related to Hurricane Sandy. Those with 2 previous pregnancies were, on average, at most risk. A near-significant difference was detected between 2 and 0 pregnancies ( $F(6, 151) = .876, p = 0.514$ ). There was greater variability between participants with 2 previous child pregnancies (n=37) than those with 6 (n=12). Parity didn't appear significantly connected to a risk for PTSD, but three facts must be considered: (1) The participant sample was small; (2) Trauma likely depended more on participants' residential area than on parity; (3) Other factors also affect the risk of PTSD. The next step involves case studies of participants of similar multivariate demographics (eg: Mothers in their 20s with GEDs). This can help tailor programs to mediate PTSD among high risk populations.

40

## **An Epidemiological Study of the Selection and Usage of Alcohol and Drugs among Undergraduates Who Self-Report Symptoms of Depression, Anxiety and Stress.**

Samantha Deokinanan, Aleksander Tikhonov, M.A.,  
Deidre M. Anglin, Ph.D.

*City College of New York; CUNY The Graduate Center*

We studied whether alcohol and marijuana use are associated with increased levels of stress, anxiety and depression, solely and as comorbid. A diverse sample of 1099 undergraduates ( $M_{age}=19.92$ ;  $SD=2.13$ ) from an urban university completed self-report inventories of perceived stress, anxiety, depression, and alcohol and marijuana usage. Sole and comorbid mental health issues were categorized based on score levels.

Substance usage was dichotomized based on frequency (usage vs no usage). Logistic regressions assessed the relationship between substance use and specific mental health issues. Results indicate that only stress significantly predicts increased alcohol use, ( $OR=2.01$ ;  $CI=(1.11, 3.63)$ ;  $p<0.05$ ). The presence of increased stress-anxiety, anxiety-depression and stress-depression were not significantly associated with substance use, ( $p>0.05$ ). With these results, this study further confirms that increased stress seems to be promoting the increase use of alcohol among emerging adults.

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## **Stress System Asymmetry is Associated with Hyperarousal Symptoms**

Erick J. Fedorenko, Jenna K. Rieder, Mariann R. Weierich, PhD

*Hunter College, The Graduate Center of CUNY*

An adaptive stress response requires coordination between the sympathetic nervous system (SNS) and the hypothalamic pituitary adrenal (HPA) axis. Trauma exposure is associated with higher SNS and lower HPA axis activity. Given that the functioning of both systems can be altered after trauma exposure, the asymmetry in sympathetic and HPA axis activity might be a predictor of PTSD symptoms. We tested the hypothesis that asymmetry in stress system reactivity to a trauma reminder would be associated with more PTSD symptoms. Twenty-four trauma-exposed women provided saliva samples during a structured clinical interview. Salivary alpha amylase (sAA) and salivary cortisol indexed SNS and HPA axis activity, respectively, and ratios of sAA over cortisol levels indexed stress system asymmetry before and after a trauma reminder. The change in asymmetry was not associated with total number of PTSD symptoms, but was associated with hyperarousal symptoms,  $r = .52$ ,  $p < .01$ .

108

## **The Relationship Among Premenstrual Symptoms, Rumination and Caffeine Consumption**

Reena Maharaj, Kathariya Mokruue, PhD  
*CUNY York College*

Research suggests that health compromising behaviors such as caffeine consumption (CC) and coping styles such as rumination are associated with premenstrual symptom (PMSx) severity. Yet, few studies have examined the relationship among PMSx severity, rumination and caffeine consumption (CC). The present study aims to determine whether rumination moderates the effects of CC on PMSx severity in college students. We hypothesized that the relationship between CC and PMSx severity will differ between students with high and low rumination scores. Preliminary results based on 100 students suggest that high/low ruminator groups differed significantly. Findings indicate that there were significant positive correlations between rumination and the PMSx subscales of behavior, control and negative affect. CC was correlated to water retention, behavior and control PMSx subscales. Thus, moderation analysis will be performed as additional data is collected. Implications of findings will be discussed.

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## **PTSD Symptoms are Associated with Difficulty Disengaging from Negative Distractor Stimuli in Complex Scenes**

Atara Siegel, BA, Diagou Regina Sissoko, Mariann Weierich, PhD

*Hunter College*

People with PTSD preferentially attend to negative stimuli, but it is unclear what mechanism drives this effect. We examined the role of delayed disengagement of attention from negative stimuli. We hypothesized that posttraumatic stress symptoms would be associated with delayed responses on tasks with distractor negative stimuli. Participants ( $n=96$ ) viewed positive, negative, or neutral faces superimposed on positive, negative, or neutral scenes, which were either congruent (same affect) or incongruent with the face. Participants were instructed to report whether the face was positive, negative, or neutral. Symptoms were associated with slower response time only on incongruent trials with a negative distractor scene and a non-negative face ( $r = .52$ ,  $p < .01$ ). Results support the hypothesis that difficulty disengaging from negative stimuli might be involved in the maintenance of PTSD symptoms.

## COGNITIVE PSYCHOLOGY

91

### **An Analysis of the Relation between Emotional Intelligence, Perceived Stress and Academic Performance among College Students**

Patrece Davis, Adriana Espinosa Ph.D., Samantha Deokinanan, Aleksandr Tikhonov, Deidre M. Anglin Ph.D.

*The City College of New York, The Graduate Center of CUNY*

Evidence suggests trait emotional intelligence (EI) and perceived stress affect academic performance differently across levels of academic ability. Accordingly, this study assessed the effects of trait EI, and perceived stress across portions of the probability distribution for academic performance, using a sample of undergraduate students ( $n=157$ ). Self-reported GPA ( $M = 3.2$ ,  $SD=0.5$ ) was used to assess academic performance. Quantile regressions with bootstrapped replications were used to predict GPA. Regressions controlled for age ( $M=19.8$ ,  $SD=2.2$ ) and gender (female = 57%). Perceived stress was found to negatively affect GPA for the 10th percentile ( $b = -.03$ ,  $p < .05$ ). Trait EI was a positive predictor of GPA for the 90th percentile ( $b = .11$ ,  $p < .05$ ). However, a higher order factor "sociability" predicted GPA for the 10th percentile ( $b = .20$ ,  $p < .05$ ). These results suggest sociability may attenuate the effect of stress on GPA among the most vulnerable students.

103

### **Concussion Cognizance and Cognitive Abilities**

Christopher Polidura, Diego Zarate, Jón G. Sigurjónsson, PhD, Nishanthi J. Anthonipillai, BA  
*The City College of New York*

Despite increased media coverage of mild traumatic brain injuries (mTBI) and more sophisticated detection methods, many athletes do not report having sustained an mTBI after suffering a blow to the head. Loss of consciousness does not always occur after an mTBI, which may contribute to an individual's reluctance to report an mTBI to physicians. To develop a greater understanding of the possible scope and effects of under reporting, 80 participants were given the Think First Concussion Questionnaire to assess history of concussions; and completed task switching and working memory function tests. Preliminary results indicate that a majority of participants in the experimental group were not aware of their possible concussive history, and that their task switching ability was impaired.

130

### **Numerical and Spatial Cognition in Adults**

Da Eun Chung  
*Hunter College*

We examine the relation between mental rotation abilities and the spatial representation of number in a sample of college-age adults ( $n=24$ ). In a mental rotation task, participants judged as quickly and accurately as possible which of two rotated mirror-imaged figures was a match to a third figure. In a second task, participants judged the position of a series of numbers (between 1 and 99) along a horizontal line (zero on the left and 100 on the right). Preliminary analyses show that adults over-estimate the position of small numbers and underestimate the position of large numbers. The analyses did not reveal a correlation between errors on the number line task and mental rotation on a horizontal plane ( $\rho = .868$ ). The mental rotation tasks correlation showed that participant performed consistently across all conditions.



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### **Mental Rotation Accuracy on Hearing Non-Signers on a Vertical and Horizontal Plane**

Zachary Newman, Amber J. Martin, PhD  
*Hunter College*

Past studies on mental rotation showed that deaf adults are more accurate when mentally rotating objects on a horizontal plane compared to a vertical plane, and when mentally rotating human figures compared to simple geometric shapes (Martin, Senghas & Pyers 2013). This study attempted to replicate these results in hearing non-signers ( $n=26$ ). In a mental rotation task, participants judged as quickly and accurately as possible which of two rotated mirror-imaged figures was a match to a third figure. Trials compared mental rotation abilities when objects were rotated on a horizontal plane versus a vertical plane, and when the object was a human figure versus a geometric shape. Results show that hearing non-signers are more accurate when rotating on a horizontal plane compared to a vertical plane ( $F = 6.243$  (1, 25)  $p = .019$ ). But not when rotating human figures compared to geometric shapes ( $F = .016$  (1, 25)  $p = .902$ ).

## DEVELOPMENTAL PSYCHOLOGY

29  
**Relationships Between Secure-Attachment Related Behaviors and Joint Attention Skills in Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder**  
 Thomas Kui  
*Hunter College*  
 Children with ASD lack joint attention skills. Previous research suggests a connection between joint attention and the quality of various parent-child relationships. Goals were to find correlations between secure attachment related behaviors and joint attention skills, and secure attachment with IQ and language age. There were 70 children (M=57.1 months old), average IQ was 39.8. Data was collected from the Early Social-Communication Scales (ESCS) manual; attachment related behaviors from the Proximity and Contact Seeking Behavior Scale. No significant correlations were found between any joint attention skills and attachment. Significant correlations were found between joint attention gestures and language acquisition ( $r = .275, p < .005$ ), and IQ and language acquisition ( $r = .850, p < .001$ ). Correlations found between language acquisition scores with both high joint attention skills and IQ suggests that language acquisition may be an accurate measure for high joint attention skills.

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**The Impact of Postnatal Cannabis Use on Infant Temperament**  
 Rex Chan, Jackie Finik, Rejina Daniel, Benjamin Reissman, Yoko Nomura, PhD  
*Queens College of CUNY*  
 Previous research revealed that prenatal and postnatal exposure to cannabis has significant adverse effects on child development (Marroun, 2010). The present study investigated the impact of postpartum maternal cannabis use of 89 participants in a longitudinal study of pregnancy (SIP Study) on offspring temperament of their children (18 to 36 months). They were administered the Cannabis Use Disorder Identification Test Revised to assess cannabis use, and the Early Childhood Behavior Questionnaire to assess offspring temperament via self-report. We hypothesized that postpartum cannabis use would be associated with externalizing problems on temperamental scales. After a one-way ANOVA, analysis revealed significances in discomfort ( $p = .007$ ), frustration ( $p = .024$ ), and motor activity ( $p = .003$ ) in children. Results indicated a negative impact of maternal cannabis use on offspring temperament. These observed effects of temperament may have long-term implications for child development.

81  
**Mothers' Postpartum Depression and its Effects on Children's Gross and Fine Motor Skills**  
 Jessica Willner, Jackie Finik, Jessica Buthmann, Yoko Nomura, Ph.D.  
*Queens College of the City University of New York*  
 The current study attempts to evaluate the impact of a mother's postpartum depression in particular on her child's gross and fine motor skills. Participants were administered the Edinburgh Postnatal Depression Scale (EPDS), with a score on the EPDS of 10 or above indicating depression status. The Bayley Scales of Infant Development was administered to determine the gross and fine motor ability of 148 offspring ages 18-42 months of age (M = 27 months, SD = 7.71). Two One-Way ANOVAs were used to examine the association between the mothers' postpartum depression and the children's gross or fine motor scores. Results indicated that both gross ( $p=.004$ ) and fine motor scores ( $p=.009$ ) were higher for children whose mothers experienced postpartum depression than those who did not. Results suggest that the development of a child's gross and fine motor skills may be influenced by maternal postpartum depression, although not in the expected direction.

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**Emotional Intelligence and Academic Performance: A Correlative Study of New York City Public School Students Attending a Community-Based Organization's After-School Program**  
 Isabella Fante, Adriana Espinosa, PhD  
*City College of New York*  
 Emotional intelligence (EI) describes how an individual understands, manages, and uses his/her emotions in everyday life. EI informs social-emotional learning practices that are being implemented in schools to support healthy psychological development of youth. While there is substantial research showing the importance of EI for success later on in life, there is little evidence to show EI is correlated with academic achievement. We examined the relation of emotional intelligence (EI) scores (using TEIQue-CF) to academic performance (using NYC DOE iReady data) for a cohort of 20 sixth grade students in the South Bronx. Preliminary results indicate no correlation between the two metrics but show that sixth grade girls have higher emotional intelligence scores than their male counterparts; this is significant at an 85% confidence level.

## HEALTH PSYCHOLOGY

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### **Drug Use, Sexual Agreements and Eriksonian Intimacy in Gay and Bisexual Men**

Kendell M. Doyle BA, Jeffrey T. Parsons PhD, Tyrel J. Starks PhD,  
*Center for HIV/AIDS Educational Studies & Training, Hunter College, The Graduate Center of (CUNY), CUNY School of Public Health*

The purpose of this study is to test the associations among Eriksonian intimacy, sexual agreements, and substance use in a sample (n=339) of gay and bisexual men. Results indicated monogamous men had the highest intimacy levels, were most likely to use marijuana, and were least likely to use other drugs. Individuals' capacity for intimacy, as conceptualized by Erikson, co-varies with marijuana use as well as sexual agreements. Intimacy may therefore explain in part why drug use varies across agreement groups. This study demonstrates that there is reason to believe that the development of capacity for intimacy at the individual may inform our understanding of the interdependent nature of couples' outcomes. Such knowledge points to the utility of couples interventions which address substance use and also incorporate a focus on the individual emotional development of partners within a couple.

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### **How Grade Point Average and Academic Self-Efficacy Affect Stimulant Use**

Yvonne Tapia, Kimberly Robinson PhD, Nicole Lashiker  
*Hunter College*

High rates of stimulant use have been on the rise throughout the years. Specifically, many undergraduate college students have been using stimulants whether they are prescribed or not. Preceding studies have reported that recreational motives, academic motives, and personality characteristics (e.g., among sensation-seeking and perfectionist individuals) have been related to stimulant misuse. Studies investigating these relationships have also discovered that men are more prone to stimulant use. The goals of the present study were to investigate the relationship between grade point average (GPA), academic self-efficacy, and stimulant use. Another goal of this study was to explore how personal issues, number of courses, and/or work can impact one's academic self-efficacy. This study is a correlational self-concept study. The results of this study will be explored, as well as its limitations and further guidance in this topic.

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### **Body Image, Partner Pressure, and Sexual Risk in Gay Men**

Patricia Ruiz, Sarit A. Golub, Inna Saboshchuk  
*Hunter College*

Research suggests that women who have poor body image are more likely to engage in sexual risk behavior, are more susceptible to partner pressure, and are more likely to take sexual risks. However, there is little information about the relationship between body image and sexual risk in gay men. Our study aims to explore partner pressure as the mechanism through which poor body image may lead to increased sexual risk, such as not using condoms. A sample of 130 gay men will respond to questions about partner pressure, sexual risk, and body image. Our findings may help create interventions that improve body image as a mechanism for improving sexual health.

## PSYCHOPHYSICS

38

### **Ethnic Group Differences in Diabetes-Related Social Cognition: Focus on Guyanese Americans**

Matthew Kang, Alexis Hiralall, BA, Daron Marino, BA, Michael Louro, Elizabeth Brondolo, PhD  
*St. John's University*

In the U.S., diabetes greatly affects members of minority groups and those of low socioeconomic status. Guyanese individuals residing in the U.S. have been identified at greater risk for diabetes, making it important to understand factors, which may support diabetes management. The aim of this study was to examine differences between Guyanese individuals versus members of other ethnic minority groups in the social-cognitive factors associated with diabetes management. Self-report data on diabetes adherence and social cognition were collected from Guyanese (n = 26) and non-Guyanese individuals, who identified as Black, Hispanic or Asian (n = 48) in community clinics and prayer services. The data suggest both groups show low adherence to diabetes management regimens. There were group differences in reliance on faith and spirituality to manage diabetes. Efforts to improve adherence may need to investigate culture group-specific strategies that facilitate adherence.

65

## **Effects of Mild Simulated Visual Impairment on Tilt Perception**

Monika Devi, Zena Dakmak, Deborah Watman, Byron Johnson, Silvia Calderon, Bryan Richgruber, Ayesha Shahab, Kimberly Paredes, Andrea Li  
Queens College

Visual impairment is reduced vision resulting from aging, disease, or injury that cannot be corrected by corrective lenses or surgery. We aim to understand how visual impairment affects the way individuals visually perceive objects and how it affects interaction with the environment. The brain is well equipped to perceive the orientation, or tilt, of object boundaries. We explore the effects of simulated visual impairment conditions on tilt perception in individuals with normal or corrected-to-normal vision. Gaussian blur and reduced contrast are applied to oriented Gabors to measure tilt threshold, the least amount of tilt that is still detectable, at 1.5 and 4.5 cpd, around vertical and horizontal orientations. Results suggest that mild contrast reduction, which reduces visual acuity to 20/40, greatly decreases orientation sensitivity for low and high spatial frequency stimuli, equivalently mild levels of blur has no effect on orientation perception.

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## **Perceived Ethnic Discrimination and its Relationship with Cardiovascular Risk Factors**

Michael John, Robert Lane BA & BS, Rebecca Wade, Melissa Renga, Tayla Crimmins, & Elizabeth Brondolo PhD

*St. John's University*

Perceived ethnic discrimination (PED) has been positively linked to cardiovascular risk via smoking (Brondolo et al., 2015), but inconsistently to body mass index (BMI) and binge-drinking. Participants included 358 adults (280 women; 140 Hispanic; 47 Black, 62 Asian, 114 White and 137 other). Self-report surveys assessed PED (Brief Perceived Ethnic Discrimination Questionnaire-Community Version; Brondolo et al. 2005); binge drinking (e.g., "How often do you have 6 or more drinks on one occasion?"); smoking (e.g., Do you currently smoke cigarettes?); and BMI. Logistic regression analyses revealed a significant positive association of PED on smoking status, adjusting for age, gender, race and education (OR = 1.8,  $p < .02$ ). There were no significant race/ethnicity differences in these effects. PED was not associated with BMI or BD (Hunte et al., 2010). It will be important to understand the mechanisms linking discrimination to smoking in future research.

## SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY

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## **Does Distance Equal Length? The Effects of Relational Closeness on Lengths of Sentencing in Child Sexual Abuse**

Brittney Peiffer, Elizabeth Jeglic, PhD  
*John Jay College of Criminal Justice*

This study is striving to achieve a broaden sense of biases that sexual offenders face in the judicial system. The goal is to look at how the relational closeness between a perpetrator and victim may elicit negative emotions that may result in longer sentencing in child sexual abuse cases. This study will also connect moral psychology and moral violations to child sexual abuse cases. This will provide a unique perspective on why jurors feel certain emotions about crimes, such as anger, disgust, and sadness. These emotions may lead to predetermined differences in lengths of sentencing regardless of the similar aspects of the crimes.

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## **Characteristics of Treatment Providers for Sexual Offender Populations**

Krystyn Margeotes, BA, Brielle Nuzzo, BA, Jacquelyn Mercer MSW, Robyn Moore, BA, Elizabeth Jeglic, PhD  
*John Jay College of Criminal Justice*

Mental health practitioners who specialize in the treatment of sexual offenders represent a unique group of individuals in a challenging and emotionally high-risk profession. While there is abundant research concerning those who have committed a sexual offense, there is a lack of literature regarding the professionals who engage with this population directly. Clinicians working with sexual offenders manage strong emotional reactions when exploring clients' deviant fantasies, criminal histories, cognitive distortions, and victim information. The purpose of this project is to investigate the personality characteristics of those who work with this specific population in comparison to those who do not work with sex offenders as their client demographic. Our research is of an exploratory nature, where we are examining levels of endorsement of empathy-related traits, as well as indications of variance in personality constructs in comparison to other mental health professionals.

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## **Trust for Outgroup as a Function of Self-Disclosure to an Outgroup Friend**

Christina Rivera, Kristin Davies, Ph.D.

*CUNY York College*

Prior research has assessed the development of cross-group friendships based on intergroup and interpersonal variables such as trust and self-disclosure (Davies, 2009). However, this prior work did not identify whether intimate processes such as self-disclosure and trust were present among cross-group partners within an online friendship. Therefore, the current study predicted that measures of self-disclosure and knowledge of the outgroup member relate to high levels of trust for the outgroup member in cross-group online relationships. According to the results of an online survey administered to a total of 287 college students using Sona Subject pool Software, as predicted, both self-disclosure and feelings of knowing the outgroup member related to greater trust felt for the outgroup member. Thus, the current research findings imply that interpersonal trust can develop between members of differing social groups via the internet.

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## **Religious differences in the effects of Media on Body/Self Esteem**

Mohammad Sankhla, Kimberly Robinson PhD

*Hunter College*

This study investigated the relationship between media exposure (i.e., television) and self-esteem and body-esteem in females. In addition, this self-report, online study examined differences among religious groups in regard to the impact of media exposure on general self-esteem and body-esteem. This study hypothesized that there are negative relationships between television watching and both self-esteem and body-esteem, such that a greater number of hours spent watching TV is predictive of lower body/self-esteem. Also, one's religious affiliation moderates the negative relationships between watching TV and both body/self-esteem, such that being Muslim weakens the negative relationships between television watching and esteem measures. Finally, for Muslim women, age moderates the relationship between television watching and esteem, such that being older weakens the negative relationship between TV watching and esteem. Results, limitations and conclusions will be presented.

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## **Perceptions of Cross-Group Friendship Importance and Longevity: Online versus Offline Friendship Development**

Christina Ramos, Kristin Davies, Ph.D.

*CUNY York College*

Past research has found that friendships that formed online and progressed to face-to-face interactions, along with purely offline friendships, are superior in quality to those friendships that solely interact online (Antheunis, Valkenburg, & Peter, 2012). Previous work has focused on online and offline relationships in same-sex and cross-sex friendships; however information on cross-group friendships is limited. Thus, the aim of this study was to compare perceived relationship importance and longevity in cross-group friendships that developed online, in-person (face-to-face), or in mixed mode settings (equally online and offline). Online surveys were administered to 288 undergraduates for research pool credit. In line with prior work and predictions, perceived relationship importance and longevity were greater in cross-group friendships that developed in-person or via mixed mode as compared to those developing solely online. Implications and future directions are discussed.

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## **Adult Adjustment Style Predicts Adjustment to Immigration**

Marta Balogh, Kimberly Robinson PhD

*Hunter College*

Several recent studies report that an immigrant's attachment style plays an important role in determining how well they adapt to life in a new country. This study looked into the relationship between attachment style and psychological and sociocultural adjustment among first generation Eastern Europeans immigrants to the United States. 63 subjects were given questionnaires to determine their attachment styles and their psychological and sociocultural adjustment. A secure attachment style positively correlated with adjustment and an ambivalent style negatively correlated with adjustment. Attachment style proved a better predictor of adjustment than traditional predictors: demographic variables such as income, length of stay in this country and language ability. These results indicate that an attachment perspective is useful in identifying immigrants most at risk. Further studies should use a longitudinal approach and subjects of different immigrant populations.

## BIOPSYCHOLOGY/BEHAVIORAL NEUROSCIENCE

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### **Swimming Makes Me Anxious: Assessing Spatial Memory and Emotional State of Mold-treated Mice Using the Morris Water Maze**

Iuliia Voronina, David Liao, Ksenia Denisova, Cheryl Harding, Ph.D.

*Hunter College*

Around 40% of homes and workplaces in the United States are contaminated by mold. The most common symptoms reported by those who lived or worked in moldy environments were chronic fatigue, headaches, joint and muscle pain, memory loss, anxiety, depression, and cognitive problems. We used the Morris water maze to assess the effects of mold exposure on spatial memory in mice. Mice were treated with either: 1) intact *Stachybotrys* spores (IN), 2) spores with toxins extracted and proteins denatured (EX), or 3) non-pyrogenic saline vehicle (VEH). Spore-treated mice took significantly longer paths to the platform compared to controls, indicative of spatial memory impairment. The poor performance of spore-treated mice was associated with two characteristics – faster swim speed and thigmotactic behavior. Both of these variables are often considered indicative of anxiety and fear. Therefore, exposure to mold appears to lead to spatial memory impairment and emotional dysfunction.

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### **Does Methamphetamine Affect Short- and Long-Term Spatial Memory, Electric Behavior, and Endocrinology in Mormyrids?**

Leslie Zhen, Rose Ng, Peter Moller, PhD

*Hunter College, The Graduate Center of CUNY*

Methamphetamine (METH) is a potentially addictive psychostimulant. The FDA's approval of METH to treat ADHD and obesity in humans adds emphasis on understanding its effects in living organisms. Previous studies suggest a role for gonadal steroids in modulating METH's neurotoxicity. This study examines the effects of METH on spatial memory, electric behavior, and endocrinology in *Gnathonemus petersii*, weakly electric fish. Fish will be tested in three separate spatial maze tasks for 37 days and bathed in METH-water solution for 30-minutes on day 2. METH exposure is expected to (1) improve short- but impair long-term memory; (2) affect the amount of PKM $\zeta$  expression in the lateral pallium; and (3) interfere with endocrine function and produce sex-dependent effects on EOD rate and waveform. Control experiments have been completed. This research will further our knowledge of neurostimulants' effects on memory and elucidate the behavioral implications of METH's relationship with estrogens.

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### **Neurogenesis in the Dorsomedial Hippocampus is Associated with Better Contextual Memory in Doxycycline-treated Mice, Unless Exposed to Mold**

Nohely Abreu, Ahmed El Razi, Iuliia Voronina, Kimberly Page, Ariel Lopez, Shana Uvaydov, Cheryl Harding, PhD, Carolyn Pytte, PhD

*Queens College, Hunter College, The Graduate Center*

Our labs have shown that mold exposure results in brain inflammation, decreased hippocampal neurogenesis, and impaired contextual memory in mice. Here we tested whether doxycycline, an anti-inflammatory, mitigates the effects of mold on neurogenesis and memory. Adult mice were intranasally instilled (3 times/week, 4 weeks) with either saline vehicle or *Stachybotrys* spores. Half of each group received either a doxycycline or control diet. We used immunohistochemistry to label doublecortin (DCX), a marker of immature neurons. DCX+ cells and measures of contextual memory did not differ across treatments. Mice treated with doxycycline showed a positive correlation between DCX+ cells and memory. However, mice given doxycycline plus mold showed an inverse correlation between DCX+ cells and memory. We propose that mold exposure in the doxycycline-treated mice negatively impacts the maturation, incorporation, or function of new neurons such that they are associated with poorer memory.

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### **The Neural Benefits of Enrichment on Stress Response**

Elena Byrne, Amber Alliger

*Hunter College*

Enriched environments (EE) allow for social relations between animals, as well as interactions with non-social stimuli, which have shown to lead to beneficial behavioral and neural modifications such as increases in spine density and decrease stress responses. We hypothesize that rats housed in EE for 30 days will have increased levels of PSD-95 and GluA2, the building blocks for mature spines in the hippocampus, over standard-housed control animals that help cope with stressful events. Immobility time was measured for 24 rats using the Porsolt swim test where the EE subjects (N=12) swam significantly longer than controls (N=12,  $t(22) = -3.938$ ,  $p = .001$ ). Golgi-Cox staining will be used to reveal count of PSD-95 and GluA2 on both CA1 and CA3 spines in the hippocampus and colocalization. Stressful environments may lead to a deficit of morphology in the hippocampus that enriched environments may be able to counteract.

### **Maternal Anxiety and Child Startle Reactivity: The Impact of Maternal Anxiety on Child Skin Conductance Response**

Cindy Flores, Aisha Ali, Andrea Garcia, Jenny Porter, Jessica Buthmann, Jackie Finik, Yoko Nomura, PhD  
*Queens College, The New York Hospital of Queens, Mount Sinai Hospital*

Research has found that anxious individuals exhibit higher physiological reactivity during startle-probe tasks (Campbell et al. 2014). This study investigates the impact of maternal anxiety on child skin conductance responses (SCRs). A cohort of 151 women who received prenatal care at New York Hospital of Queens or Mount Sinai Hospital were administered a Semi-Structured Clinical Diagnostic Interview and a Mini-International Neuropsychiatric Interview. A post-partum startle-probe task measured SCRs in children of mothers with and without a history of anxiety. We hypothesized a greater mean SCR magnitude in children of mothers with anxiety. Linear regression analysis found an association between presence of maternal anxiety and a significantly lower mean child SCR magnitude  $F(2,171) = 3.20, p = 0.04$ . This finding suggests that these children may possess superior emotion regulation skills. Future research may better elucidate the biological mechanisms underlying psychopathology.

### **Higher Body Weight and Brain IL-1B Associated with Increased Fear in Mold-Exposed Mice**

Linda Wong, Cheryl F. Harding, PhD, Ramona Persaud, Richie DeStefano, Kimberly Page  
*Hunter College*

To develop an animal model to determine if mold could cause health problems similar to those reported by humans, we treated mice with: (1) toxic mold spores, (2) nontoxic mold spore skeletons, and (3) vehicle. We investigated the effect of mold on learning to associate a tone with a mild footshock. When tested 25 hours after training, mice exposed to toxic mold spores were more fearful of the tone. We found that weight and brain IL-1B were highly correlated with fear. The more the mice weighed, the more they feared the tone. Additionally, the more brain cells labeled with IL-1B, the more they feared the tone. Although weight and IL-1B were both related to fear, they were not correlated with each other and affected different aspects of behavior. IL-1B was correlated with change in fear over time, while weight was correlated specifically with fear 25 hours after training. This suggests that weight and IL-1B work through different mechanisms to affect fear and learning.

## CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY

### **Trust in Dating Relationships: Who Expects to Be Ghosted in a Romantic Relationship?**

Taylor Liberta, Lawrence Josephs PhD  
*Adelphi University*

The present study explores variables that are associated with the expectation of being ghosted, or betrayed, in a romantic relationship context. The recent phenomenon of "ghosting" is the act of suddenly ceasing all communication with someone whom the subject is dating but no longer wishes to date, as opposed to explicitly stating that he or she is no longer interested. Despite extensive literature on the perpetrators of a deceitful, manipulative love style, little research exists on the victims. The ECR-S, B-PNI, SSS, and Trust Scale were utilized to examine expectation of being ghosted in 200 participants. Results revealed that anxious attachment and low levels of trust are associated with a greater expectation of being ghosted, while secure attachment and high levels of trust are associated with a lesser expectation of being ghosted. Additionally, women expect to be ghosted more than men do.

### **Neural Differences in Reward Learning during Transition to Problem Stimulant Use**

Mamona Butt, Jennifer L. Stewart, PhD, Susan F. Tapert, PhD, Martin P. Paulus, MD  
*Queens College, City University of New York, The Graduate Center of CUNY, San Diego University of California, Laureate Institute of Brain Research*

This longitudinal study investigated markers of transition from recreational to problem stimulant use during reward learning. Occasional stimulant users (OSU) completed a Paper-Scissors-Rock paradigm during functional magnetic resonance imaging to examine how individuals acquire the ability to make decisions associated with advantageous outcomes. OSU were then followed up three years later and classified as problem stimulant users (PSU;  $n=36$ ) or desisted stimulant users (DSU;  $n=74$ ) on the basis of interim drug use. Groups were compared on brain activation during decision-making: (1) for early trials, when contingencies were being learned, and late trials, when contingencies were being executed; and (2) for wins, ties and losses. Although groups did not differ in behavioral performance, PSU exhibited lower frontocingulate, temporal and insula activation than DSU. Transition to PSU is linked to reduced neural resources devoted to reward.

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## **Effects of Meditation on Moods, Cognition, and Emotions**

Anh Le, Christopher James, Dawn Dugan, PhD, Ria Kalyan, Azeem Yousaf

*Hunter College*

In this study, participants went through either mindfulness meditation or unconditional loving kindness meditation. A total of 90 participants were recruited from Psychology 100 at Hunter College where they voluntarily enrolled into the study through the SONA system. The study was composed of three groups: breathing meditation, unconditional loving kindness, and a control group who listened to a cooking instruction. Each group had an even number of 30 people and they were compensated with two credits for their course. Participants' cognition was also measured in conjunction with these two meditations where they solved a series of puzzles. It was predicted that participants in the meditation groups will report calmer and more relaxed states than those in the control group; and that these two meditation-conditioned groups will perform significantly better than the control group in the cognitive task. Results and implications of the current findings are discussed.

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## **Looking at You, Looking At Me: Positive and Negative Biases of Individuals With Social Anxiety Disorder**

Ria Kalyan, Steven Young, PhD, Amber Alliger, PhD  
*Baruch College, Hunter College*

Social anxiety disorder (SAD) or social phobia is characterized by an intense fear of negative evaluations resulting in extreme discomfort and excessive self-consciousness in everyday social situations. A specific bias in individuals with SAD is sensitivity to threatening faces, especially those in a crowd. In this study, we are examining how social anxiety predicts response times to locate a face in a crowd. To do so, participants will view positive and negative faces in crowds of 4 and 8 face matrices, presented on a computer monitor. For example, participants view matrices with 3 neutral faces and 1 angry face, and be tasked with locating this "target face" as quickly as possible. Following the task, social anxiety will be measured using the Social Phobia Inventory. 30 undergraduate students from Baruch College will participate in this study. We hypothesize that individuals with higher levels of social anxiety will be able to detect target angry faces faster than less anxious individuals.

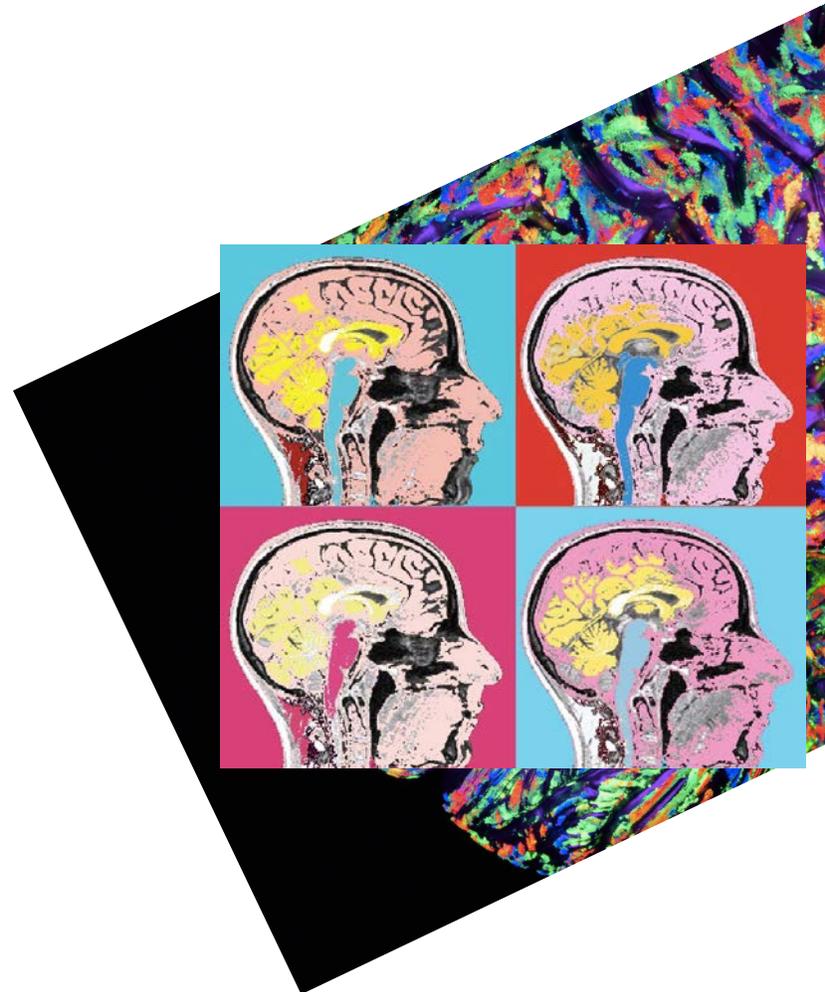
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## **The Effects of Gender and Alcohol Use on Academic Performance in Trauma-Exposed College Students**

Cameron Pugach, BA, Shannon Tomascak, BA, Maureen Allwood, PhD

*John Jay College of Criminal Justice*

Research has shown that college students, particularly college women, exposed to trauma consume more alcohol than those with no history of exposure (Kachadourian et al., 2014). Alcohol consumption has been associated with negative consequences, such as lower academic achievement (Singleton Jr. & Wolfson, 2009). However, few studies have examined the academic impact of higher alcohol use among trauma-exposed college students and we know little about the effects of gender. The current study examined the potential synergistic effects of trauma exposure, PTSD symptoms, and high alcohol use among a sample of racially and ethnically diverse college students (N>300). Preliminary findings indicate that trauma exposure is positively associated with frequency of alcohol use ( $r=.19$ ,  $p=.006$ ) and total drinking problems ( $r=.18$ ,  $p=.011$ ). Findings also indicate that for women, the number of drinks consumed on one drinking occasion is negatively related to GPA ( $r=-.30$ ,  $p=.001$ ).



## COGNITIVE PSYCHOLOGY

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### **The Effects of Auditory Perceptual Load and Task Demand on Selective Attention: A Behavioral Analysis**

Tanni Baidya, Robert Melara, PhD

*The City College of New York*

According to the load theory of attention, distractors are less intrusive to performance under high perceptual load than low perceptual load. Although there is extensive support for the theory in the visual modality, little research on perceptual load has been conducted in audition. Here, we asked participants to discriminate in a sequential flanker task the auditory frequency of a target tone that was preceded and followed by flanker tones. The target discrimination was either easy (low load) or hard (high load). We measured speed and accuracy of performance and the magnitude of the flanker effect: the difference in performance between congruent trials (targets and flankers match in frequency) and incongruent trials (targets and flankers mismatch in frequency). Preliminary results suggest poorer selective attention (larger flanker effect) when participants performed in the low load condition, in line

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### **Behavioral and Neurophysiological Effects of Perceptual and Inhibitory Training on Visual Selective Attention**

Shalini Singh, B.A., Denise Hien, PhD, Robert D. Melara, PhD.

*The City College of New York*

The current study investigated the effects of attentional training on behavioral and neurophysiological performance in a visual selective attention task. Thirty-four participants were tested on the first (pretest) and last (posttest) week in a modified flanker task, in which targets-horizontal or vertical lines-were preceded and followed by distractors. Regardless of training type, all participants showed behavioral and neurophysiological improvements at posttest. Participants became faster and more accurate, and showing smaller flanker interference at posttest. Also, we found training-specific effects: Participants with low interference at pretest improved most from perceptual training by showing a reduced P2 peak, whereas those with high interference at pretest improved most from inhibition training by showing a reduced P2 peak. Also, inhibition training eliminated the difference in N2 peak between congruent and incongruent for inhibition group but not for perceptual training group.

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### **Mental Rotation Response Time in Hearing Non-Signing Adults**

Anna Grasso, Maja Lukaszewicz, Amber J. Martin

*Hunter College*

A study that considered language and spatial orientation abilities of deaf adults found that accuracy was higher in mental rotation tasks on a horizontal plane, and for dolls rather than geometric objects (Martin, Senghas & Pyers 2013). This study implements the same mental rotations tasks with hearing non-signers (n=26). Participants were asked to determine, quickly and accurately, which one of two computer images is a duplicate of an object placed in front of them. Trials compared mental rotation abilities when objects were rotated on a horizontal plane versus a vertical plane, and when the object was a doll versus a geometric shape. Results indicated that for hearing non-signers speed was marginally higher when rotating on a horizontal plane versus a vertical plane ( $F = 3.78(1, 25)$   $p < .06$ ). Results also indicated that speed was higher when rotating a doll compared to geometric shapes ( $F = 63.81(1, 25)$   $p < .001$ ).

## DEVELOPMENTAL PSYCHOLOGY

48

### **The Relationship Between Obesity in African-American youth and the Federal Poverty Level: A Secondary Data Analysis**

Sharrone Francis, Roseanne L. Flores, PhD

*Hunter College, Ronald E. McNair Postbaccalaureate Achievement Program*

According to the WHO, in 2012, more than one-third of youth were overweight or obese. Obesity in youth has been known lead to premature death and disability in adulthood. Studies have shown that poverty has adverse effects on individuals such as higher levels of chronic disease and obesity. African-American and Latino youth living in low-income communities are more susceptible to having limited access to resources that help establish and maintain healthy lifestyle choices. Using the National Survey of Children's Health, the purpose of the current study is to examine youth well-being within the critical context of income status and participation in organized activities as leading indicators of childhood obesity in youth development (10-17 years of age) at the national level.

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## **Mother-Child Bonding and its Effects on Early Childhood Social-Emotional Development**

Rachael Lerner, Sheena Pierre, Jessica Buthmann, Yoko Nomura, Ph.D.

*Queens College of the City University of New York*

This study assesses the influence of mother-child bonding on early childhood social-emotional functioning. 84 women participating in a longitudinal study were administered the Parental Bonding Instrument, a self-report questionnaire assessing mother-child bonding, and the parent-report social emotional questionnaire of the Bayley Scales of Infant and Toddler Development, to evaluate social-emotional development. Mother-child bonding was categorized according to parental care and protection. Using Univariate Analyses of Variance, adjusted for age of offspring, we found that higher maternal protection ( $p=0.02$ ) significantly increased social-emotional functioning among males, but no such effect of maternal protection ( $p=0.28$ ) on females. There was no effect of maternal care on social-emotional functioning of either males ( $p=0.49$ ) or females ( $p=0.90$ ). This suggests that mother-child bonding with regard to protection may influence male's social-emotional development, more so than females.

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## **Synchrony and Joint Attention in Toddlers**

*Shakirah Wright*

*Hunter College*

Joint attention can be divided into higher-level skills (e.g., pointing and showing gestures) and lower-level skills (e.g., eye gazes). Children with autism show significant developmental delays, specifically, demonstrating fewer joint attention skills. Synchrony is the extent to which mothers' verbal and nonverbal input is contingent upon their infants' focus (Siller & Sigman, 2002). This study explores the interaction between lower and higher level initiations for joint attention (JA), and synchrony. The study hypothesized that as synchrony increase, lower and higher-level initiations for JA will increase. Participants were children between the ages of 32 and 76 months, diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder ( $n=34$ ). The Early Social Communication Scale assessment was used to obtain the frequency of initiations for JA at baseline and at 1 year follow up. Synchrony scores did not significantly predict growth in LJA or HJA over time as predicted.

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## **About College Athletes Attitudes about Bullying and Sports Hazing**

*Martha Mendez-Baldwin, PhD, Samantha Barbella, Marissa Acosta*

*Manhattan College*

Sports hazing and bullying in sports has not received as much research attention as physical and cyber-bullying. In order to understand bullying and hazing in sports more research is needed. The goal of this study was to obtain information about college athletes' attitudes about sports hazing and bullying. 103 athletes from Manhattan College completed a 25 item questionnaire consisting of questions about bullying and hazing in sports. Results show that 79.6% of the participants believe that hazing is a form of bullying, 67.9% believe that hazing can cause serious damage to an athlete, and 59.2% believed that the NCAA should have stricter rules against bullying. However, 42.7% believe that as long as no one gets hurt, a little hazing is okay and 38.8% believe that hazing is a part of sports culture. The results provide some helpful insight into college athletes views of hazing and bullying in sports.

## HEALTH PSYCHOLOGY

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## **The Pathways to Well-being and Peace of Mind: The Effects of Mindfulness Meditation and Its Mediator**

*Heeyewon Jeong, Kimberly Robinson, PhD.*

*Hunter College*

According to the American College Health Association, nearly 25 % of American college students have felt overwhelmingly anxious within the past two weeks. Research demonstrates that constant anxious emotion may be associated with the development of mood disorders. A number of researchers have recently shown that mindfulness-oriented therapeutic intervention produces beneficial results in reducing stress-related symptoms and anxiety. Mindfulness training has been associated with positive effects on managing emotional reactivity, such as anxiety, worry, and anger, and psychological health. This study investigates whether an 8-week mindfulness lowers stress and anxiety, and this occurs through the reduction of rumination. We are conducting the study with Hunter College students with a smartphone app. Self-report measures are collected at baseline, follow-up, and during the 8-week intervention. Preliminary results and implications of findings will be discussed.

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## **Why is the Relationship of Discrimination to Obesity Inconsistent? Examining the Effects of Smoking**

Evi Carrillo, Katriona Frederique, Daron Marino, Matthew Kang, Michael Louro, Emily Carpio, Luke Keating, Elizabeth Brondolo, PhD  
*St. John's University*

Racism/ethnic discrimination has been associated with deficits in self-control, as measured by the consumption of food, cigarettes, and substances. However, despite evidence that racism is associated with increased eating, investigations of racism and obesity have yielded mixed findings. We test the hypothesis that smoking attenuates the relationship of discrimination to obesity. Discrimination, eating behavior, body mass index (BMI) and smoking were examined in 552 adults. Measures of smoking and eating were obtained every 20 minutes for one day using electronic diaries. Lifetime discrimination was positively associated with the frequency of consumption of both cigarettes and food, but was not associated with BMI. However, when smoking was added as a control variable, the relationship of lifetime discrimination to BMI was significant. Investigation of discrimination and self-regulation may guide the development of targeted interventions.

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## **Effects of Education and Health Literacy on Social Cognitions about Diabetes Management: Depression May Play a Role**

Gina Benvenuto, Victoria Wales, Luke Keating, Evynn Stengel, Elizabeth Brondolo, Ph.D.  
*St. John's University*

Both education and depression are associated with higher risk for diabetes and poor diabetes management. We tested the hypothesis that these effects are mediated through health literacy and social cognitions about diabetes. Diabetic participants (n = 59) were recruited from community medical centers and a community-based religious event. Social cognitions were assessed with three subscales from the Diabetes Distress Measure. Depression was assessed with the PHQ-9. Education level was not associated with health literacy, social cognitions, or diabetes adherence, but depression and lack of health literacy were positively associated with negative social cognitions about diabetes management. The cognitive and motivational effects of depression may have a role in undermining health literacy and limiting adherence.

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## **Health & Debt**

Josh Sloan  
*Hunter College*

My research focuses on the different ways health is intertwined with debt and exactly how that interacts with the variable of gender. The three variables interact in unique ways, which I explore in my research. My research describes the multitude of difference between people of different financial strata and their health and how that



## SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY

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## **Assessing Decision-Making Skills After Foster Care**

Annika Olson, David Scherer, PhD, Andrew Cohen, PhD  
*The University of Massachusetts Amhers*

This research is the one of the first studies to look at the decision-making skills of adults that have aged out of foster care in their transition to independent life. The struggles youth face aging out of foster care have been well documented, and their decision-making skills may be one aspect playing a role in their negative outcomes. This study used a matched-comparison design in which the results from foster alumni were compared to their cohorts who were not involved in the child welfare system. Using a previously validated quantitative survey instrument, as well as open-response questions, participants described their general decision-making skills as well as elaborated on their personal experience turning 18. Several domains of decision-making including "identifying alternatives" and "evaluating the decision" appeared to be particularly difficult for the foster population.

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## **Facebook and its Effects on Self Esteem**

Dorin Levy, Henry Solomon, PhD

*Manhattan Marymount College*

Social media has not only changed the way we interact with each other, it has also changed the way we perceive ourselves. Facebook, being one of social media's cornerstones, has become an integral part of people's everyday lives. In this study, I wanted to explore the effects of Facebook on self-esteem by incorporating the Rosenberg Self Esteem Scale into a three-part survey. I hypothesized that students who spent more time on Facebook would have a lower self-esteem. The analysis of the collected data helped validate the hypothesis. By asking questions that compared the amount of time spent on Facebook per week, the primary reason for being active on it, and the extent to which one socially compares oneself on Facebook I was able to correlate the answers with the self-esteem scores. Although social comparison is found to be a natural everyday occurrence that may not always incur negative

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## **Closeness, Personal Similarity, and Trust among Cross-group Friends**

Nicole James, Kristin Davies, Ph.D.

*CUNY York College*

The current work examined whether the more similar and closer one feels to the outgroup member in an online cross-group friendship the more likely one is to trust him or her. Previous research by Davies (2009) has found that these variables were associated within offline cross-group friendships. Data received from an online survey was collected from a subject pool administered using Sona Subject Pool Management System software from 287 college participants, where the participants received subject pool credit for participation. Survey items were about interpersonal and intergroup variables, and inquired about the closest outgroup member with whom the participant interacts with online. We discovered that feelings of closeness and personal similarity were significant predictors of trust for the outgroup friend, while cultural similarity was not. Results imply that interpersonal processes between members of different social groups can be facilitated online.

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## **Mental Illness and Mental Health Services: A Cross-cultural Perspective**

Sonia Javani, Yvonne Rafferty Ph.D.

*Pace University*

Mental illness has been well recognized as a universal phenomenon. Its conception, perception, recognition, and treatment are influenced by various factors. This paper provides a cross-cultural critique between developed and developing countries. Factors such as cultural backgrounds, religious beliefs, education, availability of mental health services, and competency of the services are discussed as impediments of mental health care provision in developing countries. Additionally, these factors can influence help-seeking behavior of individuals with mental illness. The paper explores these barriers in depth and highlights a specific group of individuals affected by them.

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## **The Role of Online and Offline Cross-group Interactions in Encouraging Respect and Understanding for the Outgroup**

Khursheda Alam, Kristin Davies, Ph.D.

*CUNY York College*

Prior studies have found that individuals who have close cross-ethnic friends or increased exposure to different ethnic groups show greater empathy, reduced prejudice, and increased understanding of minority groups (Jugert, Noack & Rutland, 2013). The current study expands this prior work by investigating whether frequency of online and offline interactions between cross-group friends increases understanding and respect for the outgroup as a whole. An online survey collected data from 287 undergraduates using the Sona Online Subject Pool Management program. As predicted, both online and offline interactions were significant predictors of understanding for the outgroup. Interestingly, online but not offline interactions was a significant predictor of respect for the outgroup. Results show that online interactions may allow for more frequent and interpersonal communication between cross-group friends, which in turn allows for greater improvements in intergroup attitudes.

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## **Perceptions of Trust and Culture within Online Cross-Group Friendships**

Jasmin Indardeo, Kristin Davies, Ph.D.  
*CUNY York College*

Prior research on intergroup friendship has focused on interpersonal processes occurring within offline friendships, without inquiring about online interactions (e.g. Davies, 2009). Therefore, the current work focuses on cross-group friendship members having frequent online interactions. An online survey was administered to 288 undergraduates using the Sona Subject Pool Management Software in exchange for research pool credit, and survey items focused on intergroup and interpersonal processes. Using hierarchical regression we discovered that, in the first step, feelings of trust for the outgroup member was a significant predictor of closeness, explaining 54% of the variance. In the second step, discussing cultures and perceiving similar cultures were added to the model, yielding a significant change. Despite this, only feelings of trust and discussion of cultures were significant predictors of closeness in the final model. Implications and future directions are discussed.

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## **Neural Representations Demonstrate the Intersection of Social Categories**

Ying Xie, Ryan Stolier, Jonathan Freeman, PhD  
*New York University, Hunter College*

A person's facial characteristics from physical features to emotional expression provide a rich context for people to draw a multitude of information. Social categories such as sex and race are often seen as separate entities. In the present study, MouseTracking data were collected as participants sorted stimuli varying in gender (male and female), race (African American, Caucasian, and Asian), and emotion (happy and angry) into their respective categories. Neural representations of gender, race, and emotion categories in the fusiform and orbitofrontal cortices were collected via fMRI scans and analyzed alongside dissimilarity matrixes obtained from MouseTracking data. The neural representations were stereotypically biased and correlated with the each participant's subjective perceptions suggesting that social categories are intertwined and represented likewise in brain.

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## **Microaggressions, Ethnic Identity, and Anxiety**

Troyana Smalls, Elvine Belinda A.  
*The City College of New York*

The impact of microaggressions on anxiety has been extensively documented. Ethnic identity, defined as one's self-categorization & attachment to a specific ethnic group, may buffer the effect of racist experiences. The association between microaggressions & anxiety was examined, along with possible moderation effects that ethnic identity may have on that relationship. Microaggression experiences, anxiety & ethnic identity were assessed from a sample of 572 undergraduate students using the Racial & Ethnic Microaggressions Scale (REMS), the State-Trait Anxiety Inventory (STAI), & the Multi-Group Ethnic Identity scale (MEIM-R), respectively. Linear regression analyses were conducted to assess main & interaction effects. Findings revealed that while the experience of microaggressions was associated with higher anxiety levels ( $\beta = -2.26$ ,  $t(571) = 5.529$ ,  $p < .005$ ), ethnic identity had no effect on microaggressions ( $\beta = -0.19$ ,  $t(571) = -.236$ ,  $p > .005$ ) or anxiety ( $\beta = -.86$ ,  $t(571) = -1.75$ ,  $p > .005$ ).

## SPORTS PSYCHOLOGY

21

## **Assessing Risk Factors for Elbow Injury and Subsequent Tommy John Surgery in Professional Baseball Pitchers**

Sadiq Rahman, Jón G. Sigurjónsson, PhD  
*The City College of New York*

A significant increase in Tommy John surgeries in the last decade has led to growing interest in the contributing factors. The lead factors that have been proposed are workload increase and biomechanical variables. Increased pitch count, number of innings and high leverage innings could increase the probability of Tommy John surgeries. Publicly available data of MLB pitchers that had undergone UCL reconstructive surgery since 2006 was collected. The control group consisted of MLB pitchers that had not undergone UCL reconstructive surgery. A between group analyses of Innings Pitched (IP), changes in IP, total season pitches, change in total pitches, fastball and slider velocity, fastball percentage, and cutter percentage was calculated with a between samples t-tests. A significant difference between the UCL and control group was found in cutter percentage. The findings indicate that biomechanical explanations might be more likely to account for UCL injuries than workload explanations.

## BIOPSYCHOLOGY/BEHAVIORAL

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### **Mold Exposure Increases Sensitivity to Pain**

Anzhela Tsomyk, Iuliia Voronina, Ryan Pang, Cheryl Harding

*CUNY Hunter College*

People working or living in moldy buildings often report chronic pain. Exposure to other pathogens is known to activate the immune system and cause inflammation, increasing sensitivity to pain. We tested pain sensitivity in three groups: 1)mice treated with saline vehicle (VEH), 2)mice given non-toxic, extracted *Stachybotrys chartarum* spore skeletons (EX), and 3)mice given intact, toxic *Stachybotrys chartarum* spores (IN). The mice took part in standard tail flick tests, measuring their pain sensitivity when their tails were exposed to a heat lamp. One experiment tested all three groups and found that EX and IN mice reacted more quickly to the heat, indicating a heightened sensitivity to pain compared to the VEH group. The second experiment tested only VEH and EX groups, and EX were even more sensitive. As we predicted, exposure to both toxic IN mold spores and non-toxic EX spore skeletons increased the mice's sensitivity to pain.

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### **Effects of Fearful Face Primes on Orientation Tuning**

Mehreen Ahmed, Andrea Li, PhD

*CUNY Queens College*

Bocanegra and Zeelenberg (2009) showed that fear enhances orientation sensitivity for low spatial frequency information but hinders it for high spatial frequency information. Our goal was to see if these results can be explained by the effect of fear on orientation tuning of perceptual mechanisms. We used orientation masking to quantify orientation tuning at low and high spatial frequencies for 1 and 4 cpd. Stimuli were preceded by fear or neutral faces to determine effects of fear on orientation tuning. The results suggest that fear and neutral face cues similarly minimized orientation tuning as the contrast thresholds remained constant as a function of mask orientation for both face conditions. Thus although faces in general appear to reduce orientation tuning for low and high frequencies, Bocanegra and Zeelenberg's results cannot be explained by differential effects of fear on orientation tuning.

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### **Biphasic Alcohol Effects on Emotion and Amygdala fMRI Response**

Kelvin De Leon, Mollie Monning, PhD, Tara White, PhD, Adam Nitenson.

*Hunter College*

Heavy drinking individuals, per NIAAA criteria, tend to experience greater stimulant and rewarding responses and lower sedative responses than light drinkers. We investigated how ascending and descending breath alcohol concentrations correspond to brain responses, mood, and subjective responses in healthy adults. Thirty-two (32) male and female volunteers (ages 21-55) participated in a three-session study involving alcohol administration, counterbalanced with a 40 minute functional MRI session at the peak period of alcohol effects. Blood-oxygen-level-dependent activity in the left amygdala showed a significant interaction of alcohol phase and the drinking status reported at intake. These findings suggest that heavy drinkers may be more responsive or sensitive to reinforcing effects of alcohol.

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### **Selective Potentiation of Hippocampal-accumbal Synapses in Cocaine-conditioned Place Preference**

Andrea Cumpelik, Lucas Sjulson, MD, PhD

*New York University*

Conditioned place preference (CPP) is a simple rodent model of addiction, the mechanisms of which are not have not been well described. Previous research suggests that CPP is mediated by two brain regions, the hippocampus and the nucleus accumbens (NAc). The key part of this interaction is thought to be between hippocampal place cells, which encode location, and D1 cells in the nucleus accumbens, which encode reward. We hypothesize that CPP acquisition is correlated with selective potentiation of hippocampal inputs to D1 cells. Using silicon probes we will record activity from both areas, and examine changes in accumbens firing as a CPP effect is acquired. We expect to find that during and after CPP acquisition, a subset of NAc cells will show stronger response to the hippocampal input, and begin to fire more in response to the same input from the hippocampus.

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## **Environmental Enrichment Increases Neurogenesis to Improved Working Memory**

Muyu Situ, Amber Alliger, PhD

*Hunter College*

There is insufficient research on the paradigm of environmental enrichment (EE) on the brain and behavior to understand the neuroplasticity of the brain; thus our aim is to test if there is a relationship of neurogenesis and working memory in the hippocampus. We hypothesize that EE will lead to enhanced working memory, which will then lead to an increase in neurogenesis. After 30 days of respective housing, EE rats (N=24) were tested against single housed subjects (N=24) on a radial arm maze where working memory was measured. We found that enriched subjects,  $p = .0025$ , had improved working memory over days compared to the control group,  $p = .178$ . Using immunohistochemistry-staining, we will measure neurogenesis and propose that EE subjects will have an increase in neurogenesis. We predict that enriched environments will promote neurogenesis in the hippocampus improving spatial learning and memory. The enhanced behavior of the enriched animals may in turn promote further neurogenesis.

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## **Low Level Lead Exposure Impairs Attentional Set Shifting Task Performance Depending Upon Sex and Developmental Periods of Exposure**

Sidrah Masood, Zachary Best, Lorenz S. Neuwirth, Ph.D.

*SUNY Old Westbury, SUNY Neuroscience Research*

*Instituted, Old Westbury*

Lead (Pb) is a neurotoxin that causes lifelong cognitive dysfunction. Here we examined the effects of an environmentally relevant Pb exposure (150 ppm) in Long Evans Hooded rats abilities to learn simple (SD) and complex (CD) discriminations with reversals (Rev) of compound stimuli (i.e. odors and digging materials presented simultaneously) in the Attention Set Shifting Task (ASST). Rats also learned to cognitively shift within a stimulus dimension (i.e. odor-to-odor) as an Intra-Dimensional Shift (ID) or between stimulus dimensions (i.e. odor-to-material) as an Extra-Dimensional Shift (ED). We examined the differences between gender and three treatment groups: 1) Control (Cont - No Pb Exposure), 2) Perinatal Exposure (Peri- from pairing to birth), and 3) Early Postnatal Exposure (EPN - from birth to parturition). Results show Pb induced ASST specific deficits on rats cognitive task performance as a function of gender and time of developmental Pb exposure disrupting frontal lobe maturation. (R01 NIEHS ES015295)

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## **The Association between Depressive Symptoms and Social Support**

Ginger Cates

*Binghamton University*

In this study, I examined the association between depressive symptoms and the quality of social support one is able to offer their spouse. I hypothesized that one partner's depressive symptoms will be predictive of the other partner's level of depression and that this association will in part be facilitated by perceived social support. I also hypothesized that individuals with higher depressive symptoms will provide less effective social support, which in turn will result in higher reports of depressive symptoms in their partner. I aim to use structural equation modeling to look at direct and reciprocal feedback loops between social support and depression with a sample of 191 married heterosexual couples who participated in a broader study on the role of social support in mental and physical health functioning.

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## **Low Level Lead Exposure Differentially Impairs Context Fear Conditioning in the Rat as a Function of Strain, Gender, and Developmental Time Period of Exposure: Reconsidering External Validity**

Bettina Tranquille, Veni Thiruverkadu, Nimra Hameed, Lorenz S. Neuwirth, Ph.D

*SUNY Old Westbury, SUNY Neuroscience Research*

*Instituted*

Neurotoxicology studies use albino rats with inherent visual deficits reducing full assessment of lead effects and gender differences cautioning external validity. We examined the differences between gender and three treatment groups: 1) Control (Cont - No Pb Exposure), 2) Perinatal Exposure (Peri- from pairing to birth), and 3) Early Postnatal Exposure (EPN - from birth to parturition) of adult Sprague Dawley (SD) (albino) and Long Evans (LE) (non-albino) rats in the context fear test (visual cues and chock). Results showed that lead differentially affected each strain of rats in a sex dependent manner and were further influenced by the developmental timing of lead exposure. SD males have the largest memory impairment when compared to SD females and both sexes of LE rats. Our findings support the need for reconsidering rat strains prior to use in experimental studies of Neurotoxicology in order to increase learning and memory external validity. (R01 NIEHS ES015295)

## CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY

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### **Recidivism rates in sex offenders who target male children: Does treatment make a difference?**

Nishma N. Ramos-Gonzalez, B.A.

*John Jay College of Criminal Justice*

Research studies agree that sex offenders who target males have a greater risk of reoffending than those who do not. This study examined the relationship between the gender of child victims, treatment status and reconviction rates among sexual perpetrators incarcerated in a state prison. Chi-square tests were used to measure group differences for categorical variables and found no significant differences in general and sexual recidivism rates among the sample by victim type. The study failed to support literature that indicates sex offenders who attack males have a greater risk of committing more offenses than those with both males and females or just female victims. However, there were statistical differences between all the non-treated and treated participants, supporting the impact of treatment in reoffending. Yet the study did not find if treatment completion and recidivism is impacted by victim type.

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### **Less HPA Axis Activity and More Re-experiencing Symptoms in Sexual Trauma Survivors**

Diagou Regina Sissoko, Jenna K. Rieder, Mariann R. Weierich, PhD

*Hunter College, The Graduate Center*

Sexual versus non-sexual interpersonal trauma is associated with more PTSD symptoms, negative cognitions, and poorer long-term outcomes. Trauma exposure is associated with heightened sympathetic nervous system (SNS) activity and HPA axis dysfunction, and these differences might be pronounced in sexual trauma survivors. We tested the hypotheses that women exposed to sexual versus non-sexual interpersonal trauma 1) would endorse more PTSD symptoms and 2) would show lower HPA axis and 3) higher sympathetic activity. Contrary to hypothesis 1, women exposed to sexual trauma versus non-sexual interpersonal trauma did not report more total PTSD symptoms, but did report more re-experiencing symptoms  $t(20) = -1.4, p = 0.16, d = 0.6$ , although this medium effect was not statistically significant.

Consistent with hypothesis 2, sexual trauma survivors showed lower HPA axis activity, but contrary to hypothesis 3, there were no differences in SNS activity.

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### **Provider Attitudes Towards Advanced Care Planning**

Amandeep Kaur, Virginia Sims, Luke Keating, Gina Benvenuto, Evynn Stengel, Gabriella Damewood, Jhoanny Perez, Angelica Paguyo, Elizabeth Brondolo, PhD  
*St. John's University*

Advanced care planning (ACP), including patient-provider communication about end-of-life issues is invaluable. However, provider concerns about managing their emotions and those of their patients during ACP may present a highly salient barrier to effective ACP. To test this hypothesis, physicians were recruited from community hospitals to participate in two studies. Participants completed scales measuring emotion regulation (i.e., concerns about managing their own and patients' negative emotions), and scales assessing ACP engagement (i.e., the frequency with which they engaged in or delayed ACP conversations) with patients with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD: Study 1) or congestive heart failure (CHF: Study 2). In both Study 1, (n = 143 physicians) and Study 2 (n = 78 physicians) concerns about emotion regulation were negatively related to engaging in ACP discussions and positively associated with delaying ACP. Interventions for physician emotion regulation are needed.

## COGNITIVE PSYCHOLOGY

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### **Unconditioned Stimulus Intensity Increases Fear Generalization but Not Fear Learning in Human**

Stephen Braren, Joseph E. Dunsmoor, Marijn Kroes, & Elizabeth A. Phelps

*Hunter College, City University of New York, New York University*

Fear conditioning studies in animals have enhanced our understanding of anxiety disorders, such as PTSD. Studies show that increases in aversive unconditioned stimulus (US) intensity produce increases in conditioned fear responses and fear generalization. How these models translate to humans remains unexplored. We investigated the effect of US intensity on fear learning and generalization in humans. In Exp. 1, 42 adults underwent fear conditioning with either a high or low intensity aversive US prior to generalization testing. In Exp. 2, 27 adults underwent fear conditioning with either a high or low intensity aversive US. Skin conductance and ratings of risk served as dependent measures. Results show that high US intensity did not enhance fear conditioning, but increased fear generalization. These findings provide insight into the transition from normal to generalized fear in humans as a function of threat intensity and contribute to our understanding of factors involved in PTSD.

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## **Delay of Gratification and Emotional Development**

Joshua Schwartz, Sarah Babkirk, MA, Tracy Dennis, PhD

*Hunter College*

Behavior during emotional challenges has been linked to emotional development (Mischel & Peake, 1990). Ability of 59 children aged 5-7 to use effective waiting strategies was examined during the delay of gratification (DoG) task (Mischel et al., 1989). Children could have rewards immediately or have more rewards later. Behavior during the DoG has been found to predict adjustment (Mischel et al., 2011), but less is known about links with internalizing problems. Parents reported children's social-emotional well-being using the Child Behavior Checklist (CBCL; Achenbach & Ruffle, 2000). Longer time waited related to greater use of alternative activities ( $r = .397, p = .00$ ) and less attention to the reward ( $r = -0.73, p = .00$ ). Alternative activities correlated negatively with anxiety ( $r = -.26, p = .05$ ), and depression/withdrawal ( $r = -.34, p = .01$ ), whereas focusing on the prohibited object correlated

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## **Impairments in Sustained Attention following Concussive and Sub-Concussive Events**

Nishanthi J. Anthonipillai, BA, Jón G. Sigurjónsson, PhD

*The City College of New York*

Sustained attention is an individual's ability to detect rarely occurring and unpredictable stimuli amongst frequently repeating stimuli. Impairments in this lower level ability to monitor sources of information rapidly and pinpoint aberrations lead to larger impairments in higher order cognitive abilities. Though the relationship between mild traumatic brain injuries (mTBI), sustained attention, and cognitive impairments have become increasingly clear, the utility of the Sustained Attention to Response Task (SART) which measures reaction times and response inhibition, is unclear. Preliminary results indicate that compared to controls, individuals who have experienced concussive symptoms have impaired response inhibition, thus validating the utility of the SART in mTBI research.

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## **Case Conceptualizations in Emotion Regulation Therapy (ERT): Assessing Predictive Validity of Treatment Outcomes & Concordance with Clients' Self-Reports**

Ryan C. Zurich, Jean M. Quintero, Richard G. Heimberg, Ph.D., David M. Fresco, Ph.D., Douglas S. Mennin, Ph.D.  
*Hunter College, The Graduate Center of CUNY, Temple University, Kent State University*

Extant literature on clinical case conceptualizations in psychotherapy suggests that formulation of a case is critical to understanding clients' presentations within the context of a particular theory or treatment plan. However, there is conflicting evidence for the reliability and usefulness of approaches to case conceptualization, particularly for manualized treatment plans. ERT is such a treatment for Generalized Anxiety Disorder (GAD) that integrates principles of CBT, affect science research, and mindfulness exercises. The case conceptualization form used in ERT prompts therapists to identify clients' on scales that focus on the motivational, regulatory, and contextual learning mechanisms thought to be critical to ERT's clinical significance. The present study explored the relationship between therapists' and clients' reports of emotion regulation skill learning throughout ERT, as well as the predictive validity of therapists' case conceptualization for clinical outcomes.

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## **Bilingualism and Co-Speech Gestures: Effects on Spatial Cognition**

Audris Wong, Amber Martin, PhD

*Hunter College, Barnard College*

Adult ASL (American Sign Language) users display higher spatial processing, performing faster and more accurately than non-signers in mental rotation tasks. It is possible that long-term experience with manual modality movement as well as perspective-based spatial grammar enhances cognitive-spatial processing. Because many native ASL signers also learn to read and write English at a young age, bilingualism may also be another contributing factor. This study investigates these two variables (bilingualism and modality- measured by occurrence of co-speech gesture) in hearing non-signers. No difference in rotational response time was found between individuals who reported one vs. more than one native language, however, native monolinguals ( $n=8$ ) in our sample performed better than bilinguals ( $n=13$ ) in rotational accuracy;  $t(19) = 2.12, p < .05$ . Implications of these results will be discussed in this study. Additionally, ongoing analyses will examine the relation between gesture use and mental

## DEVELOPMENTAL PSYCHOLOGY

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### **The Mediated Relationship of Identity Distress and Juvenile Delinquency: The Role of Self-Esteem**

Emely Moreta, BS, Mike Ferrara, BA, Maria Gianoli, MS, James McCarthy, PhD, Baptiste Barbot, PhD  
*Long Island University Brooklyn, Columbia University, Pace University, Adelphi University, Yale University*  
 Developmental challenges related to forming a cohesive identity in adolescence have been described as a critical pathway to delinquency (e.g., Barbot & Hunter, 2012). The present study explored the effect of identity-related problems as a predictor of delinquency amongst juvenile offenders, and the potential mediating role of self-esteem in this relationship. Measures of identity distress (ID), self-esteem (SE), self- and peer-delinquency, and problem behaviors, were administered to a sample of 112 males ranging from ages 12-18 (mean age = 15.3) in a detention center setting. A latent variable mediation model showed that ID and SE predicted 50% of the variance in delinquency, 37% of which was underlined solely by ID's direct and indirect influences (through a decrease in SE). In sum, juvenile's ID reduces SE and, in turn, increases risks for delinquency. Therefore, we discuss the promise of programs focusing on juvenile's identity

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### **Creativity Development in Adolescence: Evidence for Task Specificity**

Michael Ferrara, BA, Emely Moreta, BS, Baptiste Barbot, PhD, Catalina Morgues, PhD  
*Columbia University*  
 Despite an established "4th grade slump" in divergent thinking, observations of discontinuous creativity development in later ages, especially around 9th grade, have not been consistent. This study examines age group differences in three types of creative thinking tasks in order to explore variance in developmental patterns that may be attributed to unique features of each task. Using a counter-balanced design, 630 participants in 7th grade, 8th grade and High School were assigned to three groups and completed parallel versions of three tasks: a graphic and a verbal divergent thinking task, and a graphic convergent-integrative thinking task. Group analyses revealed inconsistent performance patterns in both age group and task type. This suggests that developmental trends might be a result of task-specificity, more than a feature of creativity development. Implications for the study of creativity development are discussed, including the need for new measures and longitudinal designs.

## COMPUTER SCIENCE

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### **Stress in Pregnancy Research: Dynamic Database, Front-End and Back-End**

Serena Schauer, Gabriel Campos, Joseph Huaynate, Yoko Nomura  
*Queens College, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai*  
 Since we analyzed the system, we can create a normalized database design, allowing for grouping of spreadsheets according to data types. An Entity – Relationship Diagram will follow. Afterwards, the creation of the tables will be made using SQL, allowing us to deliver the physical database. Through the use of SQL Loader Programs and batch files, the loading of data from the spreadsheets into the database will be possible. Adjustments will be made to the database, to cater to idiosyncrasies. Stored data will be up to date. Screens will be created in order to allow maintenance of every table. The data migration plan will require freezing the spreadsheets on scheduled times and dates. Screens will be tested, once the imported data has been validated. Precautions and procedures will be established prior to making the data writable

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### **Sustainable Development Goals and the Voices of Youth: The World They Want**

Joel C. Zinsou, Roseanne L. Flores, PhD, Valeriya Babak Thornsby, Sharrone Francis, Kitty Huang, BA, Cristel Jalbert, Dana Seag  
*Hunter College*

On September 25, 2015 the United Nations adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Seventeen Sustainable Development Goals were established to ensure the human rights and well-being of all peoples and pursue gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls. Using data from the MY World survey the purpose of the present poster is to examine the priorities voiced by youth across low, middle, high, and very high income countries for their future.

## FORENSIC PSYCHOLOGY

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### **Exploring Sexual Abuse Victim's Attitudes Towards Sex Offenders.**

Susanne Spoo, Michelle Rosselli, Anniken Laake, Leah Kaylor, Sarah Schaaf & Christina Johnson  
*John Jay College of Criminal Justice*

An often used argument that is often raised against rehabilitative approaches in the treatment of sex offenders concerns the assumption that victims want retributive justice to heal. However, given that the vast majority of sex offenders are known to their victims prior to the crime, it is suggested that victims of sexual abuse are in fact more favorable in their attitudes towards sexual offenders compared to the general public. The current study aimed at exploring the difference between the attitude of victims of sexual offences and the general public toward sexual offenders. In order to investigate reasons for a possible difference in attitudes, the influence of the relationship between the victim and the offender, as well as the general knowledge of the participants was assessed. The results confirm that victim's attitudes are less punitive towards sex offenders, which might support a shift from ineffective punitive to more

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### **Offense-related sexual fantasies of sexual offenders and non-offending adult males**

Kevin M. Jones, B.A. Elizabeth Jeglic, Ph.D.  
*John Jay College of Criminal Justice*

Numerous studies have found that deviant sexual fantasies are a strong predictor of sexual recidivism among sex offenders. Furthermore, clinicians and researchers have reported that masturbation to deviant sexual fantasies plays a crucial role in building, reinforcing, and maintaining deviant sexual arousal through mechanisms of conditioning. Although masturbation has been shown to act as a behavioral reinforcer for sexual fantasies, which may therefore increase the possibility of sexual recidivism, few studies have looked at its association with sexual fantasies that contain previous offending behavior (offense-related sexual fantasies). The current study assesses an outpatient, sexual offender groups' (N=103) offense-related sexual fantasies, and whether or not they engage in masturbatory practices of these fantasies compared to non-offending, adult males.

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### **Relations Between Cognitive Mechanism Words and Psychological Well-Being in Emerging Adults' Narratives about Shame**

Donnie Newman, Kelly A. Marin, Ph.D.  
*Manhattan College*

Individuals make sense of experiences through the telling of autobiographical narratives. Through the narrative process individuals create causal cohesiveness between the event and self. Researchers have found several narrative components related to positive well being. In the present study, 47 emerging adults wrote about a time when they felt ashamed. We analyzed the narratives using the Linguistic Inquiry and Word Count program, which counts the proportion of words falling into specific linguistic categories. For the present study, we were interested in cognitive mechanism categories. We explored relations between narrative characteristics and well being. We found that significant correlations suggesting that those participants who constructed a narrative indicative of active processing reported lower depression and anxiety, whereas those participants who construct a narrative indicative of reappraisal and regret in the absence of meaning reported more depression, anxiety and stress.

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### **Keep Safe Program: Do Dynamic Factors Impact Re-entry Outcomes for Sexual Offenders?**

Andrea Patrick, B.S., Jennifer Schneider, Ph.D., Elizabeth Jeglic, Ph.D.

*John Jay College of Criminal Justice*

The Special Treatment Unit has treated individuals committed under the Sexual Violent Predator Act in New Jersey focused on reducing risk to gradually reintegrate individuals back into the community. The Keep Safe program was created to provide social support to positively impact dynamic and stable factors. The current study examined if Keep Safe participants have higher rates of successful transition based upon the STABLE-2007's factors 'significant social influences' and 'poor cognitive problem solving.' The STABLE-2007 is a common risk assessment tool that assesses stable dynamic factors of sex offenders. Also, participants in the Keep Safe program were compared to other general outcome measures. It was found that Keep Safe participation did not result in statistically significant differences for the two factors. These clinical implications create a practical baseline for future applied research and hopes for a more standardized implementation and expansion of the Keep Safe program.

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## **Reliability and Validity of an Adherence Self-Efficacy Scale (ASE) for HIV Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP)**

Joshua Salazar, Inna Saboshchuk, Kailip Boonrai, Sarit Golub PhD.

*Hunter College*

Adherence to Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) – a pill used to prevent HIV – is vital in averting infection. PrEP is 99% effective when taken as prescribed, but past research shows that self efficacy, i.e., patients' beliefs in their ability to take pills correctly, is critical to adherence. This paper analyzes the reliability and validity of an adapted Adherence Self-Efficacy Scale (ASES) designed for PrEP users. A sample of 257 men (ages 19 to 63; 51.6% White) enrolled in a PrEP demonstration project and completed the ASES at baseline, 3- and 6-month follow-ups. The ASES demonstrated strong internal consistency (alphas > .90), and ASES scores did not differ by age, race, or other demographic variables. Lower adherence self-efficacy was associated with greater depression, anxiety, and perceived stress. Higher ASES scores were significantly associated with better adherence at 3- and 6-months. Data indicate the reliability and validity of the scales for future use in PrEP programs.

## HEALTH PSYCHOLOGY

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### **The Emotional Fallout of Parenting an Adolescent or Young Adult with Cancer**

Emilia E. Mikrut, Betty Y. Lung, Aliza A. Panjwani, MA, Rebecca Cipollina, BA, Tracey A. Revenson, PhD.

*Hunter College, CUNY, The Graduate Center, CUNY*

Little is known about the psychological well-being of parents of adolescents and young adults (AYA) with cancer. Research suggests differences in children's levels of distress depend on the match between the parent and child's gender, with adolescent daughters of mothers with cancer reporting higher levels of distress compared to other parent-child dyads (Compas et al., 1994). The current study examined parents' level of distress and tested whether it was greater among same- or mixed-sex parent-child dyads. Data were collected with an Internet survey of 38 parents (90% mothers) of AYA cancer patients, aged 14 to 39. Distress was assessed by a validated measure of post-traumatic stress (PTS). High levels of PTS were found. Contrary to Compas' findings, parents in opposite sex dyads (primarily mother-son) reported higher levels of distress ( $p < .05$ ) compared to parents in same-sex dyads on the summed scale and all three subscales of the PTS measure.

## COMMUNITY PSYCHOLOGY

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### **How Age and Length of Residence Relate to Sense of Home In a Non-White, Urban Sample**

Denise Celestino, Alana Sandoval, Vincent Prohaska, Ph.D.

*CUNY Lehman College*

We examined the relations among a number of home-related concepts, such as clutter, possessions, social desirability and person-thing orientation. One specific question we asked was whether age and how long one has remained in the same residence affect one's psychological sense of home? We explored these issues with a population that generally is not well represented in psychological research. Our participants were predominantly Hispanic and African-American.

## SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY

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### **Communication with those 'Back Home' and Ethnic Identity of Immigrant New Yorkers**

Michell Orellana, Rebecca Farmer Huselid, PhD

*Hunter College*

There is tremendous variation in how immigrant families adapt to life in America and technology is changing communication options. This study examines effects of modern communication (internet, smart phones, etc.) on bicultural ethnic identity and perceived social support. Survey data will measure diverse NYC immigrant college students' involvement within their ethnic culture as well as the frequency and quality of contact maintained with those in the native land. We will compare across immigrant generations as well as test predicted relationships between communication and feelings of ethnic identity and social support from one's cultural group. Immigrant college students today are undoubtedly influenced by technology allowing them to communicate directly with friends and family across the globe. These influences have not been previously examined much in psychological research, but are expected to contribute to both sense of identity and feelings of support.

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## The "Liberal" and "Conservative" Correlates of Life Satisfaction

Sayed George, Nicole James, Ian Hansen, PhD  
*York College, CUNY*

How are personal values related to life satisfaction? Do these values have political implications, and if so do relationships between values and well-being vary by political orientation? Examining data obtained from a large online sample, we found Life Satisfaction (LS) weakly but reliably positively correlated with Schwartz Value subscales suggestive of religious conservatism—Benevolence, Tradition and Conformity—but weakly negatively correlated with a value suggestive of “tough minded” or “self-enhancing” conservatism: Power. Hedonism was also weakly negatively related to LS. Values considered particularly “liberal”—Self-Direction, Stimulation, and Universalism—were orthogonal to LS. Unexpectedly, all these relationships were similar within different ideology groups: liberal, moderate, and conservative. Life Satisfaction seemed most consistently related to values and inclinations whose fulfillment was more under one’s personal control.

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## The Impact of Social Constraints on Psychological Adjustment: A Systematic Literature Review

Amanda Lebron, Keith Anne Ilagan, Katie Darabos, MS  
Tracey A Revenson, PhD,  
*Hunter College & The Graduate Center, CUNY*

The psychological construct of social constraints is the perception that your social network is unresponsive to your emotional disclosure. We are conducting a systematic literature review and meta-analysis to summarize knowledge about the impact of social constraints on adjustment among individuals facing severe life stressors. This poster will focus on the steps of the systematic review process: the literature review and inclusion and exclusion criteria used to identify eligible studies using the Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Review and Meta-analyses (PRISMA) guidelines. Articles were identified through searches of six databases for the years 1996-2015 resulting in 606 articles. After removing duplicates, N=59 studies were identified based on four inclusion criteria: 1) original empirical research, 2) individuals facing a major stressor, measures of 3) social constraints and 4) psychological adjustment or distress. We also provide information about development of the coding scheme for full-text coding of those articles.

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## Psychological Predictors of Intragroup Competitiveness: The Role of Acculturation stress, Internalized Racism, and Stereotype Confirmation Concern

Simran Tak, Kimberly Robinson PhD  
*Hunter College*

The purpose of this study is to identify how acculturation stress and two different types of minority stress, namely, internalized racism and stereotype threat, affect intragroup competitiveness (i.e., the conflict and competition that exists among members of a particular minority group). Previous studies have examined the benefits of belonging to in-groups, specifically for minorities, however little attention has been given to drawbacks of minority group belongingness, with the exception of in-group conformity pressure. Participants from racial and ethnic minority groups will be recruited from a college setting and given an online survey that asked them to report on racial/ethnic stress, acculturation stress, intragroup competitiveness, and physical and psychological well-being. It is hypothesized that higher scores in acculturation stress, internalized racism and stereotype confirmation concern will independently predict higher levels of intragroup competitiveness. Results, limitations, and implications of this study will be discussed.



# NOTES

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44<sup>th</sup> Annual Hunter College Psychology Convention, City University of New York, Hunter College  
695 Park Avenue, New York, NY 10065  
*Hunter Psychology Collective*  
TH 218

This program is funded by Hunter College's Psychology Collective, and is distributed free throughout the university. This edition was published by Publisher's Printing Company.

The cover image was put together by our Program Director Valerie Cosgriff, using images of her own. The paper was edited and formatted by Ria Kalyan and Marina Iskhakova. We would like to thank UGS for their help and contribution to this event.

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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## WE WOULD LIKE TO ACKNOWLEDGE AND KINDLY THANK:

OUR FACULTY ADVISORS, DR. DAWN DUGAN AND DR. KIMBERLY ROBINSON FOR THEIR DEDICATION TO HELPING THIS EVENT RUN SMOOTHLY.

DR. MELISSA FERGUSON, OUR KEYNOTE SPEAKER, FOR TRAVELING A LONG DISTANCE TO JOIN US AT OUR CONVENTION.

MS. JULIE HECHT, OUR FEATURED SPEAKER, FOR KEEPING OUR MORNING TALK INTERESTING.

MS. PAULA WICKLOW, DR. ALICIA WALF, DR. HARRIS O'BRIEN, & DR. TAKOOSHIAN FOR THEIR DEDICATION TO HELPING STUDENTS BY HOLDING INFORMATIVE PANEL SESSIONS.

OUR VOLUNTEERS, WHO WERE THE FRAMEWORK OF OUR ENTIRE CONVENTION. YOUR HELP IS EXTREMELY APPRECIATED!

LAST BUT NOT LEAST, WE WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT GOVERNMENT FOR THEIR COOPERATION IN OUR EVENT, AS WELL AS THEIR CO-SPONSORSHIP.