DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY

**MONMOUTH
UNIVERSITY**
WHERE LEADERS LOOK *forward*

60th Semi-Annual Student Conference

Coordinated by: Dr. Janice C. Stapley

Schedule at a Glance: April 26, 2014
Wilson Hall

8:00 AM: BREAKFAST and Poster Session I
Great Hall

9:00 AM: WELCOMING REMARKS
Wilson Auditorium
Dr. Gary Lewandowski, Chair, Department of Psychology
Dr. Paul Brown, President, Monmouth University
Dr. Stanton Green, Dean, School of Humanities and Social Sciences
James Morecraft, Psi Chi President

9:30 AM – 10:40 AM: Paper Session I
Wilson Auditorium

10:55 AM – 12:00 noon: Paper Session II
Wilson Auditorium

12:00 PM– 1:00 PM: Poster Session II
 and LUNCH (*Box lunches in Wilson Great Hall)*

1:00 PM – 2:20 PM: Paper Session III
Wilson Auditorium

2:30 PM- 3:30 PM: Paper Session IV
Wilson Auditorium

3:40 PM AWARDS AND CLOSING REMARKS
Wilson Auditorium
Dr. Gary Lewandowski, Chair, Department of Psychology
Cake and Celebrations in Wilson Great Hall

SPECIAL THANKS: Worth Publishers for their Generous Support!
Mrs. Evelyn Carlson, Office Coordinator, Department of Psychology, Psi Chi
Drs. Demarest, Dinella, Hatchard, Holmes, Lewandowski, Stapley, & Strohmetz for mentoring students!

SESSION ABSTRACTS

POSTER SESSION I
8:00 AM -9:00 AM, Great Hall

Brielle Aaron, *Long Branch High School*, Long Branch, NJ, **guidance counseling**

Dina Badawy, Guiding Light Behavioral Health, Inc., Neptune, NJ **Mental Health Treatment**

Jessica Dooley, *Lisa Harmon Mollicone, LLC,* Freehold, NJ, **alcohol and drug abuse counseling**

Marilynn Garcia, *Long Branch High School*, Long Branch, NJ, **guidance counseling**

Melina Morel, *Mary's Place By The Sea*, Ocean Grove NJ, **holistic center for women with cancer**

Rachel C. Aliotta
The Effect of Income Disparity on Men's Likelihood to Date
This study examines the effect of income disparity on how likely men are to date women. A sample of 65 heterosexual males from a medium sized private University in the Northeast were asked to read brief descriptions of three potential dates with different incomes, and then complete surveys assessing the likability and social attraction of each of the three women. A one-way repeated measures analysis of variance revealed a significant difference in likability ratings between the three potential dates ($F(2,130) = 10.25$, $p < .001$, effect size = .136 A follow-up paired samples t-test revealed a significant difference of men's rating of likability, ($t (65) = -4.15$, $p < .001$ (two-tailed), effect size = .56 between the potential date who made more money (M = 4.72; SD = .540) and the potential date who made less money (M = 5.08; SD =.741). A second one-way repeated measures analysis of variance revealed no significant difference between the three potential dates on how likely men were to date them ($F(2,130) = .629$, $p = .535$, effect size = .010. This finding suggests that men found women who make more money than them less likable than women who make the same or less money.

Matthew Cascello
The Monmouth Bachelorette: The Impact of Controlling and Spoiling Traits
There are many influences that affect a female's mating selection of a potential male partner. Exposure to different types of males and other environmental experiences may affect the final selection a female makes when choosing a mate. This study expanded on previous mating selection research by examining whether females prefer controlling traits more than submissive traits when combined with whether a potential mate tends to spoil his female partner or not when dating. Additionally, this study examined whether a participant's family income, current relationship status, prior dating experiences or prior experience to being cheated on in a relationship had an effect on which type of potential mate they found most attractive. Participants were exposed to a tape-recorded script for each of the five conditions; controlling/spoiling, controlling/not spoiling, submissive/spoiling, submissive/not-spoiling and a final control condition (not containing any of these traits). Participants rated the potential male partners on several different traits. They rated each partner in regards to attractiveness, potential controlling behavior, potential spoiling and a final selection of the partner they would most like to date. Participants then completed a demographic questionnaire containing items in regards to prior experience to being cheated on, relationship, relationship length and combined family income.

Shannen Deptula
Fatal Attraction: The Effects of Attraction and Hyperfemininity on Female Task Performance
Previous research has explored female task performance and found evidence of underperforming (Lenney, 1977). This study examines how levels of attraction and hyperfemininity affect a female's performance on a task. A sample of 87 female college students completed 2 memory tasks. Attraction and hyperfemininity were manipulated and the results of both memory tasks were assessed to compare the amount of words remembered each time and measured for underperformance using a 2x2 factorial ANOVA. As hypothesized, attraction had a significant effect on female performance, such that females who found the male more attractive performed better on the second memory task. Contrary to the hypothesis, hyperfemininity had no significant effect on female performance. These results support the idea of social facilitation theory that suggest that when in the presence of others, arousal increases, which increases drive and improves performance (Geen & Gange, 1977).

Michelle Maniscalco
You, Your Partner and their Wardrobe: The Psychological Reasons Why People Care about what their Partner Wears
Research up to this point has looked at how what people wear is influential in attracting potential partners but not on its influence in relationships. Specifically, this study examines how certain psychological factors influence why people care about what their partner wears. A sample of 51 students currently in romantic relationships completed a behavioral task of creating an outfit for their partner and a survey measuring levels of relationship satisfaction, jealousy, self-esteem, self-consciousness, self-monitoring, and caring about what their partner wears in different scenarios and as a whole. It was hypothesized that these five psychological variables would be positively correlated with caring about partner's dress. Relationship satisfaction and jealousy were not significantly correlated with caring about partner's dress. However, there was a significant positive correlation between self-esteem, self-consciousness, self-monitoring and caring about partner's dress. These findings suggest that individuals project their own feelings onto their partner's appearance.

Robert McNamara
Anxiety-Like Drug Withdrawal in Long-Evans Rat: Concurrent Measurements of Activity and Gnawing
Adolescence is a time of increased experimentation with drugs and alcohol, and less responsiveness to the hypnotic effects which cue moderation in adults. Past research suggests that adolescents rebound from drug and alcohol withdrawal quicker and with less distress than adults. The adolescent Long-Evans hooded rat was used in the present study due to a strain-specific sensitivity to ethanol and similarities to the adolescent traits that promote drug use in humans such as increased novelty seeking, social activity and exploration. Thirty LE rats were assigned to one of five conditions: ethanol only, amphetamines only, ethanol and amphetamines, a non-drug control group and a non-liquid diet control. Rats were fed a daily liquid diet supplemented with drugs for experimental rats for a 5 or 6 day feeding period. Researchers weighed and placed wooden blocks in each individual cage for enrichment and gnawing. The animals were tested for activity, gnawing and body weight on day 1 and during 6–12 hour withdrawal periods following each feeding trial. I hypothesized that rats receiving a trial of amphetamines after a trial of ethanol would score lower than the ethanol alone rats on the anxiety induced activity chamber measures. I also predicted that gnawing as a measure of anxiety would be positively related to the activity chamber results, i.e., gnawing is an indicator of anxiety in rats. The results of my study will be compared to the hypotheses.

Neha Panda
Going to Work... On My Relationship
The present study examines when effort and investments were expended in romantic relationships and its influence on relational commitment. It also investigates a form of divestiture; removing once invested resources from a partnership. A sample of 71 college students in dating relationships completed a series of surveys and drew a graph assessing when (early or late) effort and investments were expended and how much they were committed to their partner. Early effort and investments were not significantly correlated with commitment. Contrary to predictions, there was a significant positive correlation between late effort and investments, and commitment. As hypothesized, divestiture and commitment were negatively correlated. The findings suggest that recently investing and giving effort in your relationship increases feelings of commitment rather than investing initially, and those who reclaim or stop investing are less likely to be dedicated to their partners.

Nicholas L. Rossi
HELP! A glance at commuter students' preferences for seeking academic advice.
The purpose of this research was to receive a better understanding of the academic advice seeking behaviors of commuter students. The study was established to determine whether there are differences in relation to how commuter students seek out academic advice when compared to their resident counterparts. It was hypothesized that commuter students would prefer to seek advice through e-mail communications. Additionally, it was hypothesized that commuter students would exhibit differences overall in regard to their academic advice seeking behavior. A sample of 184 students from a private, liberal arts university in New Jersey was obtained. A majority of participants completed a demographic survey and an academic advising questionnaire. Additionally, a small portion of the sample also completed a semi-structured interview to gain deeper insight into their experiences. Cross tabulations were run to determine differences between commuter students and resident student. Interestingly, no differences were found which contradicted the proposed hypotheses. Additional insight from interviews will be discussed.

Lauren Saliski
The Effect of Idealized Beauty in Cosmetic Advertising on Female Self-Perceptions
The purpose of this study was to examine the relation between femininity and masculinity and self-dissatisfaction resulting from exposure to magazine advertisements. Three aspects of self-dissatisfaction were measured (appearance anxiety, appearance consciousness, and sociocultural attitudes towards appearance) using self-report methods. A hierarchical regression was used to analyze participants' levels of self-perceived femininity and their level of self-dissatisfaction after viewing a series of cosmetics advertisements, while controlling for the their reported self-dissatisfaction before viewing the cosmetic advertisements. Furthermore, whether the same relation existed between participants' self-perceived masculinity and their level of self-dissatisfaction was also examined. It was hypothesized that females with high levels of femininity would be more susceptible to negative effects of cosmetic advertisements than participants with lower levels of femininity. Similarly, it was hypothesized that participants with higher levels of masculinity would be less susceptible to negative effects of cosmetic advertisement exposure than those participants with lower levels of masculinity. No significant relation between femininity and self-dissatisfaction was found. There was a significant relation between masculinity and appearance anxiety. Results suggest that the more masculine traits individuals perceive themselves as having, the less susceptible they are to the negative effects of cosmetic advertising.

Christopher T. Tylutki
On-again/Off-again relationship Consequences
On-again/Off-again relationships (on/off relationships) are a relatively new relationship phenomena, therefore leaving the door open for many areas still not explored. This study looks to expand on the growing understanding of this phenomena, by delving into the residual effects that being in such a relationship could induce. Unlike past literature this study seeks to see the effects, not just within a current on/off relationship, but also the views and predictions that can be altered within an individual's mindset on their current or future relationship, after having been in an on/off relationship. In order to find these answers the current study compared participants who had been in an on/off relationship to those who had not been in an on/off relationship, in the areas of relationship optimism, relationship happiness, commitment, cheating, relationship satisfaction, and prevalence of rebound relationships. These dependent variables were measured by using a series of questionnaires, containing scales generated from previous research.

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Paper Session I
MODERATOR: Veronica Ozog, VP Psi Chi
9:30 – 10:40 AM, Wilson Auditorium

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9:30-9:37 AM
Jennifer Townsend, *Celtic Charms Therapeutic Horsemanship*, Howell, NJ, Therapeutic horseback riding and carriage driving for those with mental health disabilities

9:38-9:45 AM
Britney Acquaire
Is So Many Too Much?: Expectancy and Choice Overload in Online Dating
This study examines how the matching method used by online dating sites and the number of available partner options influence feelings of compatibility toward a chosen partner. The researcher told a sample of 74 single college students that a mathematical algorithm matched them with compatible partners or they chose their partner selection groups randomly. Participants chose a partner from minimal or extensive lists of online dating partners and rated their feelings of compatibility with their chosen partner. Results indicated insignificant main effects for matching method and number of partner options. There was a significant interaction between matching method and number of partner options. These findings suggest that when partners are matched using an algorithm they feel more compatible with a partner when there are fewer options available, but when they are matched randomly they prefer extensive partner options.

9:46-9:56 AM
April Figueroa, *The Law Offices of Christopher T. Campbell*, Freehold, NJ, and **Lisa Lazzaro**, *Law Offices of Cham, Rosen, Uliano & Witherington*, West Long Branch NJ, criminal defense and personal injury

9:57-10:04 AM
Melissa Caicedo
Effects of Menstruation Stigma in Media
Menstruation stigma is common in many societies and confirmed in media (Johnston-Robeldo & Christler, 2013). There is no past research that measures how these negative attitudes affect women. The current study hypothesizes that women will rate higher negative attitudes towards their menstruation and body shape after being exposed to menstruation stigma in media. The study sampled 60 female students from a private University. The participants were randomly assigned in one of two conditions; experimental group, or the control group. The experimental group was shown brief clips from movies depicting negative attitudes towards menstruation. The control group was shown a neutral nature video clip. Both groups were then given the Menstruation Attitudes questionnaire and The Body Shape questionnaire. Results show no significance in female's attitudes towards menstruation and body shape. This concludes that media has deeply engrained this stigma; despite which video was given, participants still rated high levels of negative attitudes towards their menstruation.

10:05-10:12 AM
Amanda Branick
Can You Make a Boring Job Better?
In the workforce, individuals constantly face boring tasks that they need to complete by a deadline. If there were ways to make boring tasks such as filing, making copies and data entry more enjoyable, employees could execute their tasks with increased enthusiasm and enjoyment/satisfaction. The present study examined whether integrating new, interesting, and challenging tasks into the workplace can make a boring job more enjoyable. To accomplish this, researchers randomly assigned 71 undergraduates to one of three conditions where participants listened to; a TED Talk on "How to Spot a Liar" (self-expansion condition), rippling water (non self-expansion condition), or nothing (control condition) while entering 21 lines of random characters into a computer document. Contrary to prediction, individuals in the self-expansion condition did not enjoy the boring/mundane data entry task more so than those in the non self-expansion condition as well as those in the control condition. These results go against Studies 1 and 2, which indicated that engagement in a self-expanding activity can make a boring job more enjoyable.

10:13-10:20 AM
Stephanie Naishtut
The Impact of Sex-Specific Traits on Female Mate Selection
The current study sought to determine if a relationship exists between a female's traits and her perceived attractiveness by a male across different dimensions. It was hypothesized that females described in feminine terms would be more desirable as mates, whereas females described in masculine terms would be more attractive as non-sexual companions or in the workforce. To test these hypthoses, 77 heterosexual male Monmouth University students were randomly assigned to one of three groups in which they viewed images of five women and filled out questionnaires regarding their preferences. In the masculine condition, one of the females in the photographs was described as having masculine traits; in the feminine condition she was described as having feminine traits. In the control condition, images were not accompanied by descriptions. Participants then completed a Bem Sex Role Inventory for exploratory purposes. Results will be discussed.

10:21-10:28 AM
Matthew J. Fernandez
What Do You Think?: How People Form Interpersonal Judgments
The purpose of this study was to see if style of dress and body art influenced perceptions of trust. 56 undergraduate college students were randomly assigned into four different groups: professionally dressed with tattoo visibility, professionally dressed with no tattoo visibility, casually dressed with tattoo visibility, and casually dressed with no tattoo visibility. Each participant was handed a folder with the same scenario, resume, short blurb, and a 4x6 inch photograph based on what condition they were in. The short blurb provides the applicant's age, current job, previous experiences, interests and hobbies. The scenario describes a situation where your younger brother is doing poorly in precalculus and your mother asks you to post an ad on Craigslist. Only one applicant applied for the position. Based on what was provided in the folder, the participant was asked to provide his or her impressions of the applicant using a six-question Interpersonal Judgment and Impressions Scale. Participants then completed a nine-question Attitude Towards Tattoos Scale and a short demographic survey. Findings show that due to the current generation, their views on how they perceive tattoos and style of dress did not make a difference in terms of trustworthiness, as they have been more trusting than participants in past studies.

10:29-10:39 AM
Jenn Pacheco, Jennifer Ruggiero, and Nicole Conklin
Six Flags Field Experience

PAPER SESSION II
MODERATOR: Veronica Ozog, VP, Psi Chi
10:55 AM – 12:00 PM, Wilson Auditorium

10:55-11:02
Jennifer Ruggiero
The Relationship between Personal Characteristics and Preferences Regarding the Leadership Styles of Resident Assistants.
This study investigated leadership style preferences in Resident Assistants (RA). 82 undergraduate resident students (24 male, 58 female) first answered items on a survey measuring their self- esteem and self- perceived leadership. Then, each participant was exposed to three leadership conditions represented through a written scenario describing a RA conducting a first floor meeting. The three conditions were Autocratic , Democratic, and Laissez- faire (Lewin, Lippitt, & White, 1938). Participants then rated their opinions of each RA based on likability, effectiveness, willingness to be led by, and perceived sex. The current study hypothesized that participants with low self- esteem would prefer the Autocratic RA, those with high self- perceived leadership would prefer the Democratic RA, and participants would perceive the Democratic RA as female and the Autocratic and Laissez- faire RA as male. As hypothesized, women were more perceived as the Democratic RA and males were more perceived as the Laissez- faire RA. However, there was no significance in the perceived sex of the Autocratic RA. In addition, self- esteem and self-perceived leadership did not influence preference for RA leadership style, but the Democratic RA was rated the highest overall. Results suggest residents prefer an RA who is more engaged and collaborative with them than one who strictly enforces the rules or one who is not involved and gives complete freedom.

11:03-11:10
Anna Gruvman
Help Me Out, Hottie: Are We More Likely to Ask Attractive People for Help?
This study examines the effects of physical attractiveness on participants' likelihood to ask for help. It was hypothesized that people would be more likely to ask for help the more attractive the perceived helper is. 43 college students (33 females, 10 males) were asked to complete an anagram task, and were told they would be receiving help from a fellow participant completing the same task in a separate lab. Participants were given either an attractive photo, unattractive photo, or no photo of the fellow participant. The number of questions from the anagram that participants requested help on were recorded as the measure for help-seeking. Results yielded no significance between conditions, indicating that people did not seek more help from attractive as compared to unattractive individuals ($F(2,40)= .025$, $p = .975$). Implications of these findings are that a person's level of attractiveness does not make them more or less likely to be asked for help.

11:11-11:18
Cathy Jakobsze
All In: The Effects of Arousal on Risk-taking Behavior
This study explored the effects of arousal, in the form of excitement, on risk-taking behavior. It was hypothesized that participants who were more excited from a video clip would bet more in a game of chance. 65 college students viewed a video clip of an Olympic swimming race. In the first video clip, the race was narrated by an enthusiastic announcer, in the second video clip, the race was accompanied by just crowd noise, and in the third video clip, the race had no sound. The participants were then asked to place three bets in a game of roulette. During the clip, the participants' pulse was taken, which acted as a behavioral measure for arousal. The participants later filled out a questionnaire and demographic sheet including a self-report measure of arousal as well. The results yielded no significant difference in betting patterns among the groups. Despite finding no significance in the self-report of arousal, findings show there was an increase in pulse rate among participants in the first condition, so these individuals were physiologically aroused. It is concluded that arousal, through excitement, does not influence risk-taking.

11:19-11:26
Samantha Messina
I Think I Can, I Think I Can: Time Constraint and Self-Awareness Influences on Performance
This study examines how self-efficacy, time constraint, and self-awareness influences anxiety levels while performing a public speaking task. 46 college students were asked to complete an impromptu speaking task. Participants were under the impression that the speech would be put into possible submission for the Faces of Monmouth website. Before beginning the speech, participants completed a self-efficacy scale. Half of the participants gave their speech in front of a video camera, while the other half spoke just in front of the researcher. Participants had a one-minute time constraint. For half of the participants, the timer was visible, while the other half the timer was not. The amount of times the participants said the word "um," which served as the hesitation measure, was recorded while participants gave their speech. Participants then filled out an anxiety scale after the speech. The self-efficacy scale was found to be unreliable, therefore was no longer looked at throughout the study. Participants in the visible timer condition had the most number of um's while performing the impromptu speaking task. The self-awareness variable, which was represented by the video camera, did not affect participants' performance or anxiety levels. The findings suggest that being aware of time constraint could impair performance, while self-awareness had no influence on participant's performance or anxiety.

11:27-11:34
Ryan Mirrione
Does the Institution Defeat the Purpose? Aspects of classroom environment and their effect on test performance.
This study examines how aspects of classroom environment (test anxiety and labeling of task) can influence test scores. Previous research found that test anxiety can reduce performance on a test (Speilberger & Vagg 1995). It was also found that activating a stereotype can negatively influence performance on a task (Steele & Aronson 1995). 39 (9 males, 30 females) college students completed a short word puzzle task and a brief questionnaire. Half the participants were told it was an intelligence test, while the others were told it was a brain teaser. They all had three minutes to complete as many items on the task as they could; half of them had a timer in front of them to create anxiety while the other half did not. Anxiety ($p= .61$) and the interaction of anxiety and labeling ($p=.43$) had no effect on test scores. As hypothesized labeling of a task ($p=.04$) did significantly affect the scores on the test. Those that were told the task was an "intelligence test" in the directions did significantly worse on the task than those who were told it was a "brain teaser". The findings suggest that although test anxiety may not have an effect on test performance, labeling of the task does have an effect. The implications of this study are that simply labeling a task something different can influence the performance on this task (ex.- test, quiz, homework etc.)

11:35-11:42
Jenn Carmen Pacheco
You Be The Judge: Social Setting, Stereotypes, and Sexual Aggression
This research question examined the influence of social setting and stereotypes on perceptions of sexual aggression. 45 college students were randomly assigned to one of four conditions in which they viewed a video portraying a feminine or masculine stereotype, followed by a written synopsis of an altercation between a man and a woman. The altercation either took place in a bar or coffee shop. This was followed by a questionnaire assessing the participant's views on how guilty the man or woman was, as well as their overall sensitivity to aggression. Results indicate that exposure to stereotypes and the presence of alcohol do not influence perceptions of guilt or sexual aggression. However, all participants were provided with the opportunity to take an educational brochure at the conclusion of the study; the brochure described information on the prevention of sexual aggression. Participants who watched the video of a woman engaging in feminine stereotypes were more likely to take the brochure with them as they left after debriefing. These findings suggest that exposure to feminine stereotypes increases interest in relevant subject matter with lasting effects.

11:43-11:50
Angelica A. Scheddin
Are You in Charge?; The Effects of Teaching Emotional Regulation on Conflict Resolution
This study examines how a brief lesson on emotional regulation (E.R) can promote positive conflict resolution. 60 college students were randomly assigned to one of three groups. One group watched a video of a brief lesson on E.R being taught by an alleged professional, one group watched a brief video of a lesson on E.R. being taught by a student, and one group received no lesson. All groups then read a hypothetical conflict situation and completed a personal resolution form as well as an emotional regulation scale. Individuals who were taught a brief lesson used more emotional regulation steps to resolve the conflict and identified embarrassment as the underlying cause of anger in the hypothetical conflict more than those in the control group. Being taught by professional was not significantly different than being taught by a student. Emotional regulation may be used as another strategy to promote positive conflict resolution.

11:51-11:58
Valerie E. Siano
Money Talks: What Influences Familiarity?
This study was conducted to examine if manipulating familiarity between the server and the customers using pronoun usage can influence tipping behavior in a restaurant. A sample of 84 dining parties eating at the restaurant the night's data was collected. This study had 1 independent variable; pronouns, with 2 levels "we" vs. "you." Half of the dining parties were exposed to the "we" level and the other half of the dining parties were exposed to the "you" level. This study found that servers who used the pronoun "we" or the pronoun "you" did not influence the customers to tip more. It is argued that by the server familiarizing herself with the customers using the inclusive pronoun "we" this did not influence the customers to tip better than when the server used the pronoun "you".

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POSTER SESSION II
12:00- 1:00 PM Great Hall

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Jason Caianiello, *Monmouth University*, West Long Branch NJ, **Human Resources**

Lindsey Pieschl *Waters and Sims Employment Services , Inc.,* Red Bank, NJ, **Human Resources**

Deanna Puglio, *Cheryl Lemanski, LCSW*, Brick, NJ, **psychotherapy practice**

Lindsay Redfern, *Long Branch High School*, Long Branch, NJ, **guidance counseling**

Stephanie Thompson, *Long Branch Senior Center*, Long Branch, NJ, **recreational assistant**

Natella Zaslavsky, Guiding Light Behavioral Health, Inc., Neptune, NJ **Mental Health Treatment**

Lauren Cofield
Perceptions of Sexual Promiscuity in Print Advertisements of Male and Female Professional Athletes
Female athletes have become susceptible to being portrayed as sex symbols rather than athletes in media advertisements (Knight & Guiliano, 2001; Shores et al., 2005). This study examines how people perceive male and female athletes in print advertisements in terms of their promiscuity, and their desire to have short term and long term relationships. A within- subjects design measured three levels of the independent variable of attire (street clothing, swimwear, and uniform) on ratings of sexual promiscuity. A total of 91(19 male, 64 female) undergraduate students participated in this online survey. It was hypothesized that female athletes shown in swimwear would receive the highest ratings of promiscuity, followed my females shown in street wear attire, and then uniform. Whether this pattern existed for male athletes was also investigated. Results indicated that female athletes shown in street clothing were rated higher on promiscuity compared to those shown in swimwear or uniform. Results also showed male and female athletes did have significant differences in ratings of promiscuity. Based on these findings, these results suggest perceptions of promiscuity can be influenced by the portrayal of athletes in accordance to their attire in print advertisements.

Christina Green
Do I Wiggle While I Walk?
The current study examines the effects of self-awareness and distraction on exercise behavior. A sample of forty undergraduates participated by completing a series of surveys followed by a small regimen of aerobic activity. Mirrors were used to raise self-awareness within the conditions while a set playlist of music was used as the distraction placed upon participants. The 2x2 factorial design consisted of four conditions; Distraction/Low Self-Awareness, Distraction/High Self-Awareness, No Distraction/Low Self-Awareness, No Distraction/High Self-Awareness. It was hypothesized that participants in in the high self-awareness condition would not experience an intense aerobic exercise compared to those with low self awareness. It was also hypothesized that the music as a distraction would allow participants to experience a more intense aerobic exercise. Although no significance was found within the self-awareness conditions, a significant difference (p<.05) was found for distraction in contribution towards end time as well as total distance. As majority of the participants were female and the location was heavily populated by females, considerations for future research would be incorporating a gym of equal gender or considering alternate distractions.

Alexia Konko
The Green Eyed Monster: The effect of relationship dependency and romantic jealousy on women's self-esteem
This study examines what effect relationship dependency and romantic jealousy have on self-esteem. 63 female college students read one of two brief scenarios about a hypothetical boyfriend who was either spending time planning a social mixer with a sorority member or doing lab reports with a lab partner. They also completed questionnaires assessing romantic jealousy, relationship dependency, and self-esteem. Unexpectedly, those in the high jealousy condition had a higher self-esteem than those in the low jealousy condition $F(1, 59) = 10.44$, $p = .002$. Those with high dependency and low dependency did not differ significantly on self-esteem $F(1,59) = .156$, $p = .694$, partial. The interaction between jealousy and dependency was trending towards significance and those who were in the high dependency/high jealousy condition had the highest self-esteem $F(1, 59) = 3.23$, $p = .077$. One possible reason might be that high self-esteem individuals are so sure of what they are doing that they do not hesitate to partake in dependent or jealous behaviors in a relationship, and also, they aren't threatened by the loss of the relationship due to their high confidence.

Caitlin Larkin
Does Physical Activity Increase Object Memory?

Katey McElroy
Responses to Chic Flicks: The Influence of Romantic Comedies on Relationships
This study examines romantic movies and how they may affect expectations in relationships. 57 college students watched either a romantic movie clip or a non-romantic movie clip and completed a questionnaire that assessed expectations in relationships. I hypothesized that those who were exposed to the romantic movie would have higher expectations in relationships than those who were exposed to the non-romantic movie. I also hypothesized that those who are in a relationship and were exposed to the romantic movie would have higher expectations than those who are single and were exposed to the non-romantic movie. A two-way ANOVA was used to determine whether romantic movies or relationship status had a significant effect on relationship expectations. An analysis of the results indicated that there was a significant difference between the two levels of movie genre and expectations. My hypothesis was supported; those who were exposed to the romantic movie had higher expectations in relationships than those who were exposed to the non-romantic movie. However, relationship status does not have an effect on expectations. It was found that romantic movies do create high expectations in relationships.

Briann Lentine
Male Perceptions of Female Height
Mate selection and interpersonal attraction has attracted interest from both evolutionary and social theories (Darwin, 1871; Graziano, Jensen-Campbell, Shebilske, & Lundgren, 1993). It has been widely studied from a female's point of view and supports the socially constructed ideas of the "male-taller" norm. Here, the aim is to address males' perceptions of female height and the implications it has on physical attraction, dating desirability, and commitment level. Thirty male participants from a private university were asked to read a vignette and to imagine having an interaction with a life-sized female figure whose heights were tall (5"10) and short (5"0). The participants were exposed to both women at separate times and completed an interpersonal attraction inventory after each interaction. The results from a within subjects repeated measure analysis of variance implicate that height has an effect on physical attraction as well as social attraction of females yet yielded no implications for level of commitment.

Lauren Muffley
Like Mother, Like Daughter? Mate Value and Generational Influences on Perceived Future Mates
Research in evolutionary psychology has shown that females are the more selective sex when it comes to finding a mate (Kelley & Malouf, 2013). This current study looked at perceived mate value (MV) and the differences between college-aged females (N = 72) and their mothers/female guardians (N = 56) to see what traits they would expect to find in a potential mate. Participants evaluated their own MV and then rated both personality and physical traits for a potential mate. Mothers/guardians completed these materials and sent them back to the researcher via mail. It was hypothesized that those with high MV will be more rigorous in their mate requirements than those with low MV. It was also hypothesized that the college-aged participants would choose physical characteristics more often than the older generation. Furthermore, it was hypothesized that participants would overall choose personality characteristics more often than physical characteristics. Significant results indicated that those with higher MV are more rigorous in their mate choices and females, overall, prefer personality characteristics to physical ones.

Kathryn Riordan
Attitudes Toward Gender Norms: Backlash and Feminist Self-Identification
The current study explores how people respond to being labeled a feminist, whether individuals have a negative response to being labeled a feminist, and whether the feminist label can influence how individuals identify with tenets of feminism. Participants consisted of 104 individuals (88 female, 16 not female). Participants were randomly assigned to a feminist label condition (no label n = 23, "progressive" n = 46, "feminist" n = 35) and then indicated their agreement and dissatisfaction with the given label. The hypotheses were not supported. Results of a one-way ANOVA indicate the label manipulation did not have a significant effect on how dissatisfied participants were with being labeled a feminist ($F_{(2, 101)} = 1.877$, $p = .158$) and did not have a significant effect on measures of feminist self-identification ($F_{(2, 99)} = 1.477$, $p = .233$). Post-hoc exploratory analyses of specific items indicate that "feminists" report greater anger at experienced sexism than progressives ($F_{(2, 99)} = 3.453$, $p = .036$) and at portrayal of women in history than "progressives" ($F_{(2, 99)} = 4.671$, $p = .012$). Individuals with no label indicate more agreement with traditional marital norms than "feminists" ($F_{(2, 56)} = 3.804$, $p = .028$). Results suggest that the label "feminist" only minimally influenced individuals' perceptions of injustice towards women.

Lucy Russo
Death Disclosure on Social Media and Perceptions of the Virtual Legacy
The current study addresses male and female college attitudes towards posting about death on social media, how they feel about death disclosure on social media, how they feel about their own social media pages used as a virtual legacy after they die, and their level of current use of social media. Participants were given a death on social media questionnaire and a virtual legacy questionnaire. The predictions for this study were (1) there would be a larger number of people willing to engage in death discussions on social media platforms among those who are regular users than those who are not regardless of who the deceased person is, (2) there would be more comfort with the idea of leaving their social media platform active after they die among those who are regular users than those who are not, and (3) there would be more comfort with how one's appearance on their social media platforms will look after death among those who are regular users than those who are not. Statistically significant results were found supporting hypotheses one and two.

Kierstan Tagnosky
The Influence of Environmental and Technological Stimuli on Ratings of Pleasure and Speed of Processing
The purpose of this study was to combine the Savanna Hypothesis from Evolutionary Psychology with the Distributed Network Theory of Memory Organization from Cognitive Psychology to test the idea that modern humans process information about natural environments more rapidly and with more positive affect than they process information about man-made, technological environments. Fifty-nine undergraduate participants viewed 10 nature words and 10 technological words on a computer screen, first in a pre-established random order, then in reverse order. Participants were asked to rate the words as either pleasant or unpleasant by pressing a designated key as quickly as possible. As hypothesized, the results indicated that nature words produced significantly more pleasurable emotions than technological words, there was a significantly faster reaction time to nature word than technological words, and there were no sex differences in mental processing of these words. These findings suggest that humans have evolved cognitive brain mechanisms for processing stimuli representing natural, ancestral environments but not for processing stimuli representing man-made, technological environments.

Stephanie Thompson
Does Self-Perceived Mate Value Influence the Factors that Make us Jealous and the Types of Jealous Behaviors we Exhibit?
The researcher conducted a study to see how self-perceived mate value in men and women influences jealousy. The goal was to examine if undergraduate heterosexual participants with high self-perceived mate value will continuously be less jealous and act in a less jealous manner than those with low self-perceived mate value. Self-perceived mate value was measured on two levels (high, low). Participants first rated their self-perceived mate value that was followed by a set of questions on reasons/motives for jealousy and a separate set of questions on reactions to jealously inducing situations. The jealously inducing situations were categorized into emotional, behavioral, and cognitive jealousy reactions. Each participant rated how likely they would feel jealous and how often they have reacted in the given jealous inducing situation. There were no significant differences between self-perceived mate value and jealously. However when sex was measured to see if differences exist, significant differences were found. There were also signifance differences between participants who have been cheated on and those who have not. This study further helps support the speculation that females will be and act in more jealous ways than men.

PAPER SESSION III
MODERATOR: Veronica Ozog, VP Psi Chi
1:00 PM – 2:20 PM, Wilson Auditorium

1:00-1:07
Natella Zaslavsky
Is He Watching Me?: The Influence of Religious Symbols on Cheating Behavior
This study examines how the presence of religious symbols affects cheating behavior. 62 (16 males and 46 females) college students completed the Circle Test and the Maze Test in the presence or absence of a Bible, a Cross, or both. Participants were asked to close their eyes during these tests. It is impossible to get above a certain score; therefore, the fewer the number of errors, the more likely the participant had cheated. For the Circle Test, planned contrasts indicated that those in the no symbol condition cheated less (p= .042). For the Maze Test, planned contrasts indicated that those in the no symbol condition cheated more (p= .025). For both tests, there was no difference in errors between the type or the number of religious symbols. These findings suggest that the mere presence of a symbol can impact our behavior.

1:08-1:15
Erika L. Lorenzini
Excuse me, but (s)he's mine!: The influence of Self-esteem on the likelihood to Mate Guard
The purpose of the present study was to investigate if level of self-esteem influenced the likelihood of human mate guarding. Prior research suggests that higher levels of sex-esteem are beneficial for romantic relationships however there is no research study found connecting self-esteem to likelihood to mate guard. It was hypothesized that participants with higher levels of self esteem would mate guard less than participant with lower levels of self-esteem. In addition both women were more likely to mate guard than men as well as participants whom have a history of being victimized by infidelity and mate poaching. College students from a small private northeastern university were issued a packet containing a series of hypothetical scenarios where an imaginary mate was engaged in flirting with another partner. Participants were then asked their likelihood mate guarding strategy.

1:16-1:23
Jennifer Dwiggins
Does Hard Work Pay Off? The Influence of a Target's Perceived Effort on Attraction
This study examines how a person's willingness to put in effort affects their dating desirability. The study also examines whether the participants' implicit theory of personality (incremental or entity) influences ratings of the target's desirability based on the target's level of effort. Seventy-eight (17 males, 61 females) single college students participated in the study. Participants read one of four descriptions of a target. The descriptions manipulated both the ability (hard work or natural ability) and success (successful or unsuccessful) of the target. Participants also completed a measure to assess their implicit theory of personality. Participants then rated the target's desirability as a date. There was a significant difference in desirability ratings of the target for the main effect of ability (F (1, 74) = 80.52, p = .001). There were no other significant differences found between the variables. The findings suggest that when a person puts effort into different tasks, they are seen as more desirable as partners regardless of how successful they are. The findings also suggest that a person's implicit theory of personality does not affect how desirable they find the person to be.

1:24-1:31
Casey McCabe
Are You Really Just Best Friends? Psychological Factors That Influence Cross-Sex Friendships
The present study investigates psychological factors that prevent cross-sex friendships from transitioning into romantic relationships. It is hypothesized that love type, or whether a person prefers passionate or companionate love in relationships and attraction will influence the likelihood of cross-sex friends (CSF) transitioning into romantic relationships. The participants were 79 undergraduates from a private university in the Northeast from the online participation pool completed several surveys. The results indicate that love type does not affect the likelihood of the cross-sex friendship turning into a romantic relationship. It was found that participants who perceive their cross-sex friends as highly attractive are more likely to transition into a romantic relationship. The researcher also found that almost half of participants have kissed their cross-sex friend. Finally, participants who perceive their CSF as low attractiveness are more likely to believe their friend wants to transition into a romantic relationship.

1:32-1:39
Caitlin Moore
Family Matters: Parental Influence On Partner Choice
Researcher examined the effects of parental influence on practical (pragma) and romantic (romanticism) love beliefs when choosing a partner. Seventy college students were randomly assigned to either the parental influence (prime) condition or the no parental influence (no prime) condition. Love beliefs when choosing a partner were measured on two different scales, one practical (Love Attitudes Scale) and one romantic (Romantic Beliefs Sclae), as well as by rating desirable traits (romantic and practical) in a partner. To achieve the manipulation of parental influence through priming, participants were given a family and parent related word search. A control group (no parental influence) was given a completely parallel, but ambiguous word search. The manipulated parental influence did not affect the love beliefs when choosing a partner. Limitations to the study are discussed to understand the results, as well as future directions.

1:40-1:47
Jessica A. Trucillo
Risking your Relationship: Risk and Instability on Infidelity
In the present study, the influence of risk and instability on one's susceptibility to infidelity was tested. It was hypothesized that those in the risk and instability conditions would be more susceptible to infidelity than those who were not. It was also hypothesized that the combination of both risk and instability would report the most susceptibility to infidelity. To test these hypotheses, seventy-six undergraduate students were randomly assigned to one of four conditions. The manipulation of risk was created with a shuffling and cutting of cards task in order to gamble one's SONA credits for participating in the study. The manipulation of instability was created by placing several coasters underneath both opposite legs of a desk to make it wobble. Afterwards, participants were asked to answer a six-item scale to assess their susceptibility to infidelity. A significant difference was found for the manipulation of risk. A significant difference was also found for those in the gamble and no wobble condition in that they were more likely to report susceptibility to an affair. This may provide further insight into pursuing the influence of risky-behavior on infidelity.

1:48-1:55
Jeremy Michael Uccello
Stress' Influence on Criticism in a Romantic Relationship
This study examines how stress level affects relationship behavior in desire to criticize their romantic partner. A sample of 60 (14 males, 46 females) college students in dating relationships completed activities assessing their criticism regarding their romantic partner. This study examined if individuals in a romantic relationships act differently towards their romantic partner when experiencing external stress. In comparison to participants who experienced no stress, participants who experienced high levels of stress reported more criticism of their partner (p= .04). Furthermore, participants experiencing a high level of stress reported more significant criticisms than participants who experienced no stress (p= .042). The findings found that when individuals experience higher levels of stress they are more likely to be more critical of their partner in terms of quantity and criticism and significance of their criticism.

1:56-2:03
Tia Walt
Parental Psychological and Behavioral Control's Influence on Romantic Relationships
This study examines how the level of parental psychological control and parental behavioral control influences response to conflict and controlling behaviors in romantic relationships. Previous research shows that when parents display high levels on control, these patterns of control continue throughout the child's lifetime (Barber, 1996). The researcher hypothesized that high levels of parental psychological control and high levels of behavioral control leads to more controlling relationship behavior than those whose parents displayed low levels on control. Seventy-nine participants from a private university in the northeast completed multiple surveys including the psychological control scale, the behavioral monitoring scale, a conflict scenario and behavioral response scale, and a dominance scale. Results show that when the participant reported high levels of both psychological and behavioral control, they displayed more controlling behaviors over their over romantic partner ($F(1, 73)= 4.12$, $p = .046$) In additional to controlling relationship behavior, high psychological control and high behavioral control significantly relates to destructive relationship behavior when facing conflict ($F(1, 73) = 4.22$, $p = .044$). These results demonstrate how parental control cannot only disrupt self-esteem and attachment to others, but can be detrimental to the child's future relationships.

2:04-2:11
Joseph Boyle
Listen carefully: A study of heavy metal music on self perceived masculinity and femininity
Music has been shown to prime aggressive behaviors (Barongan & Hall, 1995). Metal music in particular is preferred by males (Christenson, & Peterson, 1988), and is often associated with masculinity (Dunn, McFadyen, & Wise, 2005). This study explored the relationship between heavy metal music and masculinity and femininity. It was hypothesized that listening to heavy metal music would result in higher levels of self-reported masculinity and lower levels of self-reported femininity. Participants were assigned to one of two conditions: the heavy metal condition or the silence condition. Participants in the heavy metal condition were asked to listen to a heavy metal song, and then listen to the song again while filling out the Bem Sex Role Inventory (Bem, 1974) to test their masculinity and femininity. Participants in the silence were not exposed to the song. Participants who were exposed to the heavy metal music (M = 4.87, SD = .64) did not report higher levels of masculinity than those who were in silence (M = 4.95, SD = .65), t(51) = -.492, p = .625. Participants who were exposed to the heavy metal music (M = 4.23, SD = 1.13) did report lower levels of femininity than those in silence (M = 5.07, SD = .85), t(51) = -3.07, p = .003. This study shows that heavy metal music can have an effect on a person's self-reported femininity. These findings support previous findings of music having effects on people and goes against the idea that personality traits are stable.

2:12-2:19
Juliana DePazza
Like What You See?: The Effects of Facebook Social Cues on Impression Formation
The current online study explores Facebook "likes" as a social cue influential to impression formation, and gender differences in receiving "likes" for reassurance on a profile picture. A sample of 148 (69 males, 79 females) students rated attraction for a mock Facebook profile picture of the opposite sex with either a high or low number of "likes" and answered questions about their reassurance seeking behavior on Facebook. There was no significant main effect for condition on physical attraction although a trend level result was found for the Facebook social attraction subscale F(1,144) = 3.47, p = .065. There was a significant interaction effect for gender and condition on physical attraction F(1,144) = 4.95, p = .02, which further analyses indicated only males were influences by "likes" t(67) = -2.48, p = .016. There was also a significant difference between males and females on reassurance seeking behavior t(147) = -5.33, p < .001, such that females placed a higher value on receiving "likes" than males. This research suggests that there are gender differences in how social cues are interpreted on Facebook as well gender differences in reassurance seeking through receiving "likes".

2:30-2:37
Laina DiMento
The Influence of Gender Socialization on Men and Womens' Motivations to Volunteer
Women see volunteer work as an extension of their roles as wives and mothers, whereas men see volunteer work as complimentary to their career (Negrey, 1993; Little, 1997). This study observes the relationship between gender socialization and volunteer motivation among men and women. Participants were asked to complete two surveys which assessed how gender socialized they felt, and what motivated them to volunteer. Gender socialization was divided into four subscales: gender typicality, gender contentedness, felt pressure, and intergroup bias. Motivation to volunteer was divided into six functions: altruistic, social, guilty, career enhancement, egotistical, and intellectual. It was expected that the more gender socialized women were, the more motivated they would be by typically female reasons to volunteer (e.g. altruistic, intellectual, guilty, and social), and less likely to be motivated by typically masculine reasons to volunteer (e.g. career enhancement and egotistical). In contrast, it was expected that the more gender socialized men were, the more motivated they would be to volunteer by typically masculine reasons (e.g. career enhancement and egotistical), and less likely to be motivated by typically feminine reasons to volunteer (e.g. altruistic, intellectual, guilty, and social). The hypotheses were not supported. An unexpected finding showed a positive correlation between men's felt pressure and altruistic ($r(16) = .532$, $p = .023$) and intellectual ($r(16) = .495$, $p = .037$) motivations to volunteer.

2:38-2:45
Teresa Mathews
Are All Parents Equal?
The current research investigates perceptions of same-sex and heterosexual couples' parenting skills. A sample of 95 college students from a medium private university read vignettes describing gay, lesbian, and heterosexual parents and completed evaluations of them using the Parenting Assessment Scale. After completing the evaluation, participants then rated their feelings about lesbian and gay men on a Revised Homonegativity Scale. A repeated measure ANOVA was conducted on participants' answers on the Parenting scale; it was found that there was no significance overall ($F (1, 94) = .840$). Despite no significance overall, a Pairwise Comparison revealed significant differences between rating of gay men's ($M = 4.24$; $SD = .823$), lesbians' ($M = 4.01$; $SD = .872$), and heterosexual couples' ($M = 4.02$; $SD = .750$) parenting skills. Gay men were rated to be the best parents, significantly higher than lesbians ($t (94) = 3.210$, $p = .002$) and heterosexuals ($t (94) = 3.213$, $p = .002$). Although gay men were rated higher on the parenting scale, no significance was found correlating perceptions of gay men as parents and the participants' scores on the homonegativity scale ($r (93) = .137$, $p = .185$). There was also no significance found between the ratings of lesbians as parents and the participants' score on homonegativity ($r (93) = .050$, $p = .632$). The findings suggest changing perceptions of family systems and same-sex parenting.

2:46-2:53
Isarlene Perez
Perceptions of Children at Play
The present study was designed to measure adults' perceptions of children playing with masculine, feminine, and neutral toys. Seventy-five undergraduate students from a private university served as participants. Participants viewed six different pictures of a child playing with a toy. Participants were then asked to complete questionnaires measuring perceptions of children's masculine and feminine personality traits, future job aspirations, sexual orientation, and intelligence after each picture. Results showed that children playing with a masculine toy were rated highly on masculine personality traits and children playing with feminine toys were rated highly on feminine personality traits. There was a significant difference in perceived sexual orientation for a boy playing with a feminine toy ($M = 3.01$ $SD = 1.25$) versus a girl playing with a masculine toy ($M = 2.61$ $SD = 1.29$); $t(74) = 3.14$, $p =.002$. A boy playing with a feminine toy was perceived as having higher ratings of homosexuality than all other condition. There was a significant difference in perceived intelligence for a boy playing with a neutral toy ($M = 5.84$ $SD = 1.12$) versus a boy playing with a masculine toy ($M = 5.0$ $SD = 1.07$); $t(74)= -6.52$, $p =.001$. The boy playing with a neutral toy had higher ratings of perceived intelligence than all other conditions.

2:54- 3:11

Victoria Rivera

Sorry, Not Sorry: A Study of Apology Behavior

The present study seeks to investigate whether women apologize more often than men for occurrences that are not their fault. This type of apology behavior has been anecdotally supported in research, but not experimentally supported. Research assistants intentionally interrupted people walking across campus by stepping into their paths. They then assessed whether participants offered an apology or not. They also noted whether participants were in a solitary versus group setting, and the gender of the researcher and participant.Chi-square analyses indicated that there were no significant difference in apology behavior between men and women $X2$ $(1, N = 94) = .211$, $p = .64$. However, males apologized more than females in a group setting, $X2$ $(1, N = 94) = 4.95$, $p = .02$. Those in a group setting apologized significantly less than those who were alone, $X2$ $(1, N = 94) = .4.148$, $p = .04$. Past research states that men and women have different reasonings to define their behavior. The present research question implied that women and men partake in different apology behaviors, however, the actual results are contradictory to the anecdotal claims.

3:12-3:19

Briana Aceti

"Naughty or Nice?: What Boys Want in Girls"

Previous research has looked at bad and good boys and how girls feel about them, but has not explored what boys want in girls in terms of being good or bad. The current study hypothesizes that boys will have higher interest in good girls versus bad girls, short-term relationships versus long-term relationships, and good girls for long-term relationships and bad girls for short-term relationships. A total of 81 male college students participated in the study by reading a description of either a good or a bad girl and answering two questionnaires that assessed their interest. Type of girl was significant such that as hypothesized, boys had higher interest in good girls versus bad girls. Length of relationship was significant such that males had higher interest in long-term relationships versus short-term relationships, which is contrary to the hypothesis. The interaction between girl type and length of relationship was significant and reveals that boys preferred good girls and bad girls for long-term relationships. These results demonstrate how type of girl and length of relationship influence interest in a relationship.

3:20-3:27

Jessica Dooley

Nature is nurture: The influence of environmental stimuli on cognitive and emotional restoration

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