

MONMOUTH UNIVERSITY

DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY

62nd Semi-Annual Undergraduate

Student Conference

May 2, 2015

Pollak Auditorium

Schedule at a Glance

8:00 – 8:30 AM **Breakfast**

8:30 – 8:45 AM **Welcome Remarks**

Pollak Auditorium

Dr. Gary Lewandowski, Chair, Department of Psychology
Dr. Laura Moriarty, Provost
Jason Caianiello, Psi Chi – President

8:45 – 10:15 AM **Paper Presentations: Session I**

Pollak Auditorium

10:15 – 11:15 AM **Poster Presentations: Session I**

Pollak Auditorium

Department Career Initiative:

LinkedIn Sign-up and Free Professional Headshots (*Courtesy of Career Services*)

11:15 – 11:45 AM **Lunch**

Pollak Lobby

Department Career Initiative:

LinkedIn Sign-up and Free Professional Headshots (*Courtesy of Career Services*)

11:45 – 1:00 PM **Paper Presentations: Session II**

Pollak Auditorium

1:00 – 2:00 PM **Poster Presentations: Session II**

Pollak Auditorium

2:00 – 2:15 PM **Coffee Break**

Pollak Lobby

2:15 – 3:45 PM **Paper Presentations: Session III**

Pollak Auditorium

3:45 PM **Awards and Closing Remarks**

Pollak Auditorium

Dr. Gary Lewandowski, Chair, Department of Psychology

Paper Presentations: Session I

8:45 – 10:15 AM, Pollak Auditorium

Lindsey Pieschl

What Do You Want in a Job?: The Influence of Core Self-Evaluations and Need for Cognition on Occupational Choices

This study examined what influences people to choose an occupation. Sixty-three participants (37 female; 26 male) selected which job they would prefer: a tedious, challenging and interesting position or a simple, easy and mundane position. They then completed surveys measuring their core self-evaluations and their need for cognition. I hypothesized that participants with high core self-evaluations would be more likely to choose the challenging and interesting position than those with low core self-evaluations. I also hypothesized that participants who had high need for cognition would be more likely to choose the challenging and interesting job rather than the easy and mundane job. A series of independent samples t-tests revealed that need for cognition was the only significant predictor of choosing a more challenging occupation. However, significantly more participants chose the challenging and interesting job than the easy and mundane job, rendering the results from all analyses tenuous.

Supervising Professor: Dr. Lewandowski

Eryn J. Siddall

Internship: Making Daughters Safe Again, Long Branch, NJ

Supervising Professor: Dr. Hatchard

Justin Kirberger

To the Beat of Your Own Memory: The Relationship Between Binaural Beats and Memory

Listening to tones separated by 40 Hz, one in each ear, produce an unusual auditory illusion of percussive beats (Binaural beats). Research has shown that binaural beats improve attention and memory. This study compared the influence of binaural beats to control conditions on memory for words and memory for images. Participants were assigned to one of four conditions: (1) Alpha beats, (2) Theta beats, (3) identical tones in each ear, or (4) silence, while memorizing and being tested on two tasks (A) a list of word pairs, and (B) an array of various visual nonsense stimuli. It was hypothesized that participants exposed to Alpha binaural beats would perform best on the memory tasks, with the Theta binaural beats group performing better than the pure tones group, and the pure tones group performing better than the group who learned and were tested in silence. Sex differences were also expected based on previous memory research with words and visual arrays. The results did not reveal sex differences or significant differences due to the listening conditions. Marginal differences comparing the binaural beats conditions to the control conditions will be discussed.

Supervising Professor: Dr. Demarest

Deandra Clerigo

What a Girl Wants, What a Girl Needs: The Role of Feminism on Attraction

This study examines how women's personal attitudes regarding feminism affect their attraction to a potential romantic partner. It compares the importance of gender role stereotypes and physical attractiveness in relation to feminist beliefs. A sample of 114 heterosexual female college students completed surveys to assess their feminist beliefs. In addition, participants evaluated four possible males with varying gender role beliefs (traditional or nontraditional/egalitarian) and physical attractiveness (more or less attractive) using romantic attraction surveys. Overall, women rated the most attractive, egalitarian man the most romantically attractive, and the least attractive traditional man the least romantically attractive, $F(3,108) = 6.949, p < .001$. However, there was a difference in how feminist versus non-feminist women rated the men in terms of romantic attraction. Feminist women based their romantic attraction on the men's gender role beliefs, whereas non-feminist women determined how romantically attractive the men were based on how attractive the men were.

Supervising Professor: Dr. Dinella

Tiffany Hackett

“Let’s Talk About Sex Baby”: A Woman’s Appearance as an Indicator of Sexual Promiscuity

According to previous studies, many people believe a woman’s appearance is a good indicator of whether she lives a promiscuous lifestyle (Mathes & Kempfer, 1976; Swami & Furnham, 2007). This study investigates whether there is in fact a correlation between a woman’s appearance and a sexual promiscuous lifestyle. Sixty-six participants, all female, were approached inside of bars in the Long Branch area, prior to them ordering any drinks. With permission, photos were taken of their outfits, from the neck down, and they were asked to fill out a short survey. The hypothesis predicted a positive correlation between appearance and sexual promiscuity. Each participant’s photograph was evaluated using coding scheme developed specifically for this study to rate the sexual suggestiveness of her attire. Then, a correlation was tested between appearance ratings and the indicated number of sexual partners, and attitudes towards sex on the first date. The results indicate no correlation between a woman’s appearance and her number of sexual partners. There was no correlation between the participants’ reported number of sexual partners and their sexual attitudes. However there was a positive correlation between the coder’s assessments of suggestive attire and the participants’ reported sexual attitudes. Ultimately, the results of this study suggest that while a woman’s appearance may be an indication of her sexual attitudes, it does not indicate her number of sexual partners, which is the main predictor of sexual promiscuity.

Supervising Professor: Dr. Dinella

Amy L. Rochette

The Relationships between Childhood Tomboyism, College Athletic Involvement, and Sorority Involvement

This study examined the relationship between childhood tomboyism and college extracurricular involvement. Sixty-two female participants received a series of questions regarding their childhood activities and current involvement in college athletics and sororities. Specifically, participants were asked to rate: activities and desires they had before age twelve relating to tomboyism, their current involvement and interest in athletics, and their current involvement and interest in Greek Life/sororities. A median split was conducted to divide participants into two groups: tomboys and non-tomboys. It was hypothesized that participants in the tomboy group would report more involvement and interest in athletics than those in the non-tomboy group. Additionally, it was also hypothesized that those in the tomboy group would report more sorority involvement and interest than those in the non-tomboy group. Using a series of independent samples t tests, the results indicate that those in the tomboy group were significantly more involved and interested in athletics in college than those in the non-tomboy group. However, participants in both the tomboy and non-tomboy groups reported similar levels of sorority involvement and interest. When taken together, these results suggest that tomboyism in childhood is related to some extracurricular involvement (athletics) but not necessarily all college activities (sororities).

Supervising Professor: Dr. Van Volkom & Dr. Lewandowski

Alexa Clemente

The Influence of Cell Phone Ring, Cell Phone Attachment, and Gender on Separation Anxiety

This study evaluated the influence of cell phone separation on anxiety levels. Additional IVs included cell phone ring during the study, where the phone was located (apart vs nearby), sex of the participant, and cell phone attachment. College undergraduates (N=120) were randomly assigned to one of four conditions: (1) Ringing-Stored Away, (2) No Ring-Stored Away, (3) Ringing-Nearby, or (4) No Ring-Nearby. Pulse rates were recorded as a physiological measure of anxiety three times while participants worked on an unrelated cognitive concentration task, and an anxiety survey was completed at the end of the study. Participants completed a cell phone use scale, a manipulation check, and demographic items. It was hypothesized that participants with their cell phone nearby would experience less anxiety than participants whose cell phone was stored away, especially if they heard a ringing phone. Participants with higher cell phone attachment were expected to exhibit greater anxiety than participants with low cell phone attachment in each condition. Males and participants with high cell phone attachment said they experienced greater separation anxiety than females and participants with low cell phone attachment. There were no differences between the four manipulation conditions, or for any of the physiological measures.

Supervising Professor: Dr. Demarest

Raquel B. Warehime

What's Communication Got to Do With it: The Influence of Jealousy and Ego Depletion on the Relationship

This study examined the influence of jealousy and ego depletion on the relationship. Seventy three participants (16 male, 57 female) were randomly assigned to a writing prompt based on one of the four conditions, high jealousy/high depletion, high jealousy/ low depletion, low jealousy/ high depletion, and low jealousy/ low depletion. After completion of the writing prompt, participants rated how comfortable they feel communicating with their partner. I hypothesized that those who felt a higher level of jealousy would communicate better than those who felt a lower level of jealousy. Also, those who engaged in a higher level of depletion would have worse communication than those who engaged in a lower level of depletion. Lastly, those who felt jealous and engaged in a lower level of depletion would be the best indicator of good communication within one's relationship. Using a two by two factorial my results concluded the following. There was no difference between how jealous someone felt and how they communicated with their partner. However, there was a difference between the level of depletion and communication; such that those who engaged in a higher level of depletion communicated worse than those who engaged in lower level of depletion. Lastly, as predicted, the best communication in a relationship is seen when both high jealousy and low depletion are displayed. Therefore, despite common misconceptions, jealousy can actually be good for the relationship, especially if one displays a level low depletion.

Supervising Professor: Dr. Lewandowski

Carly Eckert

Gender Differences of Performance Evaluations after a Mistake is Made at Work

This study investigated the influence of gender on performance evaluations after a mistake is made at work. Seventy-eight participants (46 female, 32 male) were randomly assigned to read a short vignette about a male employee or a female employee making a mistake. Both vignettes were identical except that the employee's gender was changed. Participants then completed a performance evaluation based on what they read. I hypothesized that male employees would receive higher evaluation scores overall. I also hypothesized that female participants would award higher scores than male participants in their evaluations. Finally, I hypothesized an interaction, such that female employees would receive higher scores than male employees when their evaluator was a woman rather than a man. Using a factorial analysis of variance, the results showed that male employees did receive significantly higher evaluation scores than female employees after the mistake was made at work. However, the study could not conclude a significant difference between the scores awarded by men or women, nor could it conclude that there was an interaction between gender of the evaluator and gender of the employee. Female evaluators were trending towards significance, with female participants giving lower scores overall to the employees. Results suggest that there is another gender difference in the workplace and the new generation graduating college and entering the workforce will not change that.

Supervising Professor: Dr. Van Volkom

Jordan Levinson, Carly Eckert, Caitlin Golden, and Kathleen Piccoli

A Whole New World: Six Flags as Our Classroom

The Animal Behavior Internship course not only satisfied Monmouth's Experiential Education requirement, but it also opened up countless opportunities to Psychology majors. As one of the only courses of its kind in the country, students were able to take the content they learned in the classroom about animal behavior and training and then actually see those psychological principles being demonstrated by the animal care staff and trainers. Under the supervision of Six Flags trainers, students were able to personally work with the animals as part of their coursework. This unique opportunity gave students the chance to walk in the shoes of animal trainers and interact with animals such as giraffes, elephants, and sea lions! Back on campus, students participated in roundtable discussions about how each psychological principle involved in animal training can be integrated into the success of their own career fields, such as clinical work with children or even public relations. Assignments in class and on-site required professional development skills such as public speaking, creating educational and entertaining presentations, conducting research, and engaging in effective communication with a team. Additionally, students had the opportunity for personal growth by stepping outside their comfort zones and challenging themselves. This class is the perfect way to inspire students to take their Psychology degree in whichever direction they choose. The exclusive affiliation between Monmouth University and Six Flags serves for an unconventional, yet highly beneficial field experience course.

Supervising Professor: Dr. Dinella

**The Power of Our Alumni Network:
Jennifer McCarthy (Class of 2001 and 2003)**

Introduction by: Dr. Dinella

Jennifer McCarthy has leveraged her Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology and Master of Arts degree in Psychology Counseling from Monmouth University to build a highly successful career in pharmaceutical clinical research. She is currently a Protocol Manager in Oncology at Bristol-Myers Squibb. She provides scientific and operational support for clinical trials conducted as part of an investigational drug or clinical biomarker development program. She has more than 10 years of clinical research experience and project management of early to late-stage development programs across multiple therapeutic areas. She speaks today about the importance of the alumni-student relationship.

Poster Presentations: Session I

10:15 – 11: 15 AM, Pollak Auditorium

Krystin Ferrari

You Eat What You Are: Eating Habits Among College Students

This study examines the effects of mood on the food choices of college aged students. I hypothesized that those in the positive mood condition will be more likely to choose healthy eating choices than those in the negative and neutral mood condition, those in the neutral condition will choose healthy food more than those in the negative condition, those in the negative mood condition will be more likely to choose unhealthy food than the positive and neutral conditions, and those in the neutral condition will choose unhealthy food less than the negative condition. A sample of sixty-seven (11 male, 56 female) were randomly assigned into one of three mood conditions – positive, negative, and neutral. The relationship between mood and food choice was examined. In contrast with the hypotheses, there was no significant difference in the healthy eating habits between those in the positive mood condition compared to the negative and neutral conditions ($p = .507$). There was also no significant difference in eating habits between those in the neutral and negative conditions ($p = .187$). There was no significant difference in the unhealthy eating habits between those in the negative mood condition as compared to those in the positive and neutral conditions ($p = .099$). There was, however, a significant difference between the unhealthy eating habits of those in the neutral condition as compared to those in the negative condition ($p = .018$). Further exploratory results and implications will also be discussed.
Supervising Professor: Dr. Van Volkom and Dr. Lewandowski

Melissa A. Galvin

Accepting Bisexuality: The Impact of Role Models in LGBTQ Television Media

This study observed the influence of bisexual female role models in LGBTQ television media on an individual's acceptance of bisexuality. Seventy-three participants (41 women, 32 men) were randomly assigned to one of three role model conditions and asked to watch one, two-minute video based on their condition. Participants were then asked to complete a modified version of the Riddle scale, which assessed their attitudes toward bisexuality. I hypothesized that individuals exposed to positive bisexual female role models in LGBTQ television media would be more likely to accept bisexuality as a legitimate sexuality than individuals exposed to negative or no bisexual female role models. Multiple one-way analysis of variances provide results that show a significant difference in only one of eight subscales; repulsion. Results suggest that those exposed to a positive or no bisexual female role model are more likely to feel repulsed by bisexuality than individuals exposed to a negative bisexual female role model.
Supervising Professor: Dr. Dinella

Jay Cittadino

Gender Influencing Ambition in Women

This study examines how levels of ambition in women, including their personal and professional aspirations and self-efficacy, are influenced by exposure to men. I hypothesized that women who were exposed to pictures of all businessmen will have lower levels of ambition than women who were exposed to a mixture of pictures of businesswomen and businessmen. Female college students were randomly assigned to one of two conditions, with half of the women completing a survey about their ambition and self-efficacy while sitting in a room with portraits of all businessmen, and the other half completing the same survey while sitting in a room filled with portraits of both businessmen and businesswomen. Results did not show significant differences in self efficacy $t(25) = -.80, p = .43$ or aspirations $t(25) = -.67, p = .51$ between the two conditions. The findings suggest women's ambition levels are not influenced when they are exposed to pictures of businessmen. Future research with a more robust sample size and potentially stronger manipulation should be conducted.
Supervising Professor: Dr. Dinella

Brianna Freno

What's Height Got To Do With It? The Effect of Sex, Self Esteem, and Height on One's Romantic Preferences

Heterosexual mate choice reveals height preferences that have existed across recorded history and probably over evolutionary history. In addition, height influences the way we think about others. This study examined attributions we make about others based on height, as well as how our height preferences in relationships vary by sex, the self-esteem of the participant, and the relative height of the participant and a potential partner. Participants (32 males, 47 females) completed questionnaires about their height preferences for a potential partner in several types of short and long term relationships, as well as the relative importance of various personality traits in this hypothetical person. It was predicted that males would be more willing to engage in a relationship with a shorter female than a taller female, while females would exhibit the opposite preference. Furthermore, I hypothesized that the greater the height difference between participant and potential partner, the greater the importance placed on personality traits. Lastly, participants with high self-esteem were expected to be more flexible than those with lower self-esteem with regards to height preferences. As predicted, males preferred females at least three inches shorter than themselves, while females preferred males at least six inches taller than themselves. Females also placed greater importance on the personality traits of potential partners than did males. Males placed more importance on the physical height of a potential partner. Unexpectedly, the participants' self-esteem did not impact their height preferences.

Supervising Professor: Dr. Demarest

Andrew Joseph Spirito

The Influence of Emotional Mindset and Mental Imagery on Basketball Performance Success

Research in sport psychology treats mental imagery (i.e., visualization) and emotional mindset as separate entities that influence athletic success. This study examined the combined impact of these two performance-enhancing strategies on a basketball tossing task. Participants (60 male, 60 female) were randomly assigned to one of six conditions involving visualization of the task and priming of emotional mindset (i.e., positive, neutral, or negative words in a word search task). These included (1) positive words-imagery, (2) positive words-no imagery, (3) neutral words-imagery, (4) neutral words-no imagery, (5) negative words-imagery, and (6) negative words-no imagery. Success was measured before and after the imagery/emotional priming tasks. It was hypothesized that: (1) Men would make more successful basketball tosses than women; (2) Positive mindset (i.e., positive words in the word search task) would result in more successful tosses than both negative and neutral mindset; (3) Participants in the mental imagery (i.e., visualization) condition would make more successful tosses than those not using imagery; and (4) Males primed with both positive mindset and mental imagery would make more successful tosses than all the other conditions. Results revealed significant improvements in overall accuracy, accuracy in the first 10 shots, and speed of completing the basketball task across all conditions involving imagery or positive mind set, but not practice alone (i.e., neutral words-no imagery). As expected, the largest improvements were due to the joint influence of imagery and positive priming. Unexpectedly, females performed as well as males and, in the positive imagery condition, females showed greater improvement than males.

Supervising Professor: Dr. Demarest

Stephanie DeNicola

The Relationship between Types of Revenge, and an Individuals Desire to Seek Revenge

Revenge and forgiveness are alternative reactions to a violation of one's trust. This study examined whether there are sex differences in how much individuals utilize forgiveness or revenge, and the type of revenge used most often. Participants (46 males, 57 females) completed a survey of 30 items that provided various scenarios involving either revenge or forgiveness. They indicated how likely they would respond in the way the item was phrased. Using all the items, participants were assigned to a low or high revenge group. In addition, 16 of the items were phrased in such a way to identify four types of revenge: (1) verbal direct, (2) verbal indirect, (3) physical direct, and (4) physical indirect. Participants were also asked about the amount of conflict in their home as a child. It was predicted that males would be more forgiving than females, and that women would be more vengeful than men. It was also hypothesized that men, more than women, would engage in physical direct revenge, while women would prefer verbal indirect revenge. As predicted, results showed that men were more forgiving than women, but men were also more likely to resort to revenge than women. As expected, men utilized physical direct revenge more often than women however both males and females utilized verbal direct revenge more than any other type. These results also suggest that those who are raised in an amicable home are more likely to be forgiving than those who are raised in an argumentative home.

Supervising Professor: Dr. Van Volkom

Habiba Atiq**Valued Traits and Dating Decisions: A Study of Gender-Role Orientation, Sex, and Racial Differences**

This study examined how important various personality traits are in making dating decisions, whether there are sex and race differences, or differences due to gender-role orientation. Participants (47 males and 68 females) were shown a picture of an opposite sex, same ethnicity, potential dating partner. They completed a dating survey and the Bem Sex-Role Inventory (Bem, 1974). The dating survey consisted of 26 traits and participants rated how interested they were in the person if the person exhibited each trait. It was hypothesized that gender-stereotyped individuals would place greater importance on traditional traits (e.g., religion, obedience, ambition) than non-stereotyped individuals. Females were also expected to be more interested than males in dating someone who was humorous and loving. African Americans were predicted to be more interested than Caucasians in dating a person based on confidence and especially religious traits. Finally, it was hypothesized that trustworthiness, cooperativeness, kindness, understanding, loyalty, and intelligence would be valued more highly for dating decisions than any other traits. A 2x2x2 factorial design MANOVA showed that African Americans showed far more interest in a potential mate with similar religious traits than Caucasians. However, there were very few sex or ethnicity differences in preferred personality traits aside from religion and, unexpectedly, no differences at all in preferred traits due to gender-role orientation. As predicted, trustworthiness, kindness, understanding, and loyalty were valued more than any other traits. In general, people place the same relative importance on the personality traits of a dating partner regardless of sex, ethnicity, or gender-orientation.

Supervising Professor: Dr. Demarest

Michael R. Napkori**Health is the Greatest Wealth: The Effects of Gender, Competiveness, and Involvement in Sports on Self-Initiatives towards One's Health**

This study was carried out to determine the effects of gender, competitiveness, and participation in sports as a kid with self-initiatives towards one's health as an adult. Ninety-one participants (46 male, 45 female) were asked to complete a series of questionnaires that measured their competitiveness, sports involvement in childhood, and health initiatives (i.e., habits and activities that promote health). Participants were assigned to groups based on their gender, their competitiveness score (high, moderate, low), and childhood sports involvement (high and low). It was hypothesized that those high in competitiveness and sports involvement as a kid would show the highest levels of self-initiatives towards their health. A significant positive relationship was found between sports involvement as a kid and self-initiatives. Marginally significant differences were found between competitiveness and self-initiatives, with those who were most competitive being most involved in health initiatives. As predicted, a significant interaction between competitiveness and sports involvement revealed that people who were most competitive and had the most sports involvement growing up also exhibited the most self-initiatives towards their health. Notably, there were no sex differences. This study suggests that an emphasis on sports involvement in childhood, as well as encouraging other forms of competition, can result in taking more responsibility for one's health as an adult. Moreover, the results indicate that this is true for both males and females.

Supervising Professor: Dr. Demarest

Krista N. Lucas**Internship: YMCA Human Resources, Eatontown, NJ**

Supervising Professor: Dr. Hatchard

Tricia M. Race**Internship: The Ashley Lauren Foundation, Colts Neck, NJ**

Supervising Professor: Dr. Hatchard

Edward E. Hunt**Internship: Bancroft Neurohealth, Brick, NJ**

Supervising Professor: Dr. Hatchard

Elizabeth L. Hall**Internship: Family Resource Associates, NJ**

Supervising Professor: Dr. Hatchard

Brianna G. Goitiandia

Internship: The Center for Advanced Behavioral Health, Lakewood, NJ

Supervising Professor: Dr. Hatchard

Samantha Artese

Internship: Mundaca Artese Law Firm, New York, NY

Supervising Professor: Dr. Hatchard

Taylor Zaborney

Internship: New School of Monmouth County, Holmdel, NJ

Supervising Professor: Dr. Hatchard

Diana A. Schacht

Internship: Children's Center of Monmouth County, Neptune City, NJ

Supervising Professor: Dr. Hatchard

Deanna S. Williams

Internship: Symrise, Branchburg, NJ

Supervising Professor: Dr. Hatchard

Meredith P. Maxwell

Internship: Speech Pathology, Old Bridge School District, NJ

Supervising Professor: Dr. Hatchard

Rebecca E. Nicola

Internship: Make-a-Wish Foundation, Monroe, NJ

Supervising Professor: Dr. Hatchard

Brittani R. Hrehorovich

Internship: The Boys and Girls Club, Asbury Park, NJ

Supervising Professor: Dr. Hatchard

Paper Presentations: Session II

11:45 AM – 1: 00 PM, Pollak Auditorium

William J. Cittadino

Internship: Spherion Staffing, Tinton Falls, NJ

Supervising Professor: Dr. Hatchard

Samantha Artese

A Bit of a Fixer Upper: Desired Change and Relationship Quality

This study set out to discover if there is a connection between desired changes in an intimate relationship and overall relationship quality through the measurement of satisfaction and commitment and love through the measurement of companionate and passionate love. Fifty-nine participants (11 male, 48 female) were asked to “list as many or as few of the things you would like your partner to change.” They were then asked to rate how important each change was to them as well as if it was something they thought would or would not change. A survey to assess relationship quality and feelings of love followed. I hypothesized those who listed more changes would have lower relationship quality through less feelings of commitment and satisfaction as well as less feelings of companionate and passionate love. I also hypothesized that those who listed more personality-based changes would have lower relationship quality and less feelings of love than those who listed behavioral-based changes. A Pearson correlation revealed a significant relationship between number of complaints and relationship quality and love. Analyses revealed a significant correlation between relationship quality and love and more personality-based changes. These results indicate that more complaints effect relationship quality and feelings of love, and more complaints that are personality based also effect relationship quality and love. A significant correlation between behavioral-based changes and relationship quality and love was not found, indicating that behavioral changes are not as important as personality changes.

Supervising Professor: Dr. Lewandowski

Robert J. Gaven

How Different Relationships Influence Text Messaging Behavior

This study examined whether men and women use and perceive text messaging features differently for three types of relationships (i.e., a Friend, Family member, and Romantic/Sexual interest). Participants (17 male, 71 female) recorded the number of words, abbreviations, and emoticons, as well as the time and date of their three most recent messages sent to a friend, a family member, and a romantic/sexual interest. Participants also completed a brief survey regarding when the use of these texting features became excessive or annoying in their relationships. It was hypothesized that women would use more emoticons, words, abbreviations and take less time between sent messages compared to males, especially if the relationship type involved a family member. I also hypothesized that females would exhibit greater acceptance of these texting features in their messaging relationships. A series of ANOVAs supported some of these predictions but not others. There were no sex differences in either the use of or preference for the number of words, abbreviations, or emoticons in their text messages and, surprisingly, there were more of these text features in their friend messages than in their family or romantic interest relationships. Both males and females expected faster message response time for family and romantic/sexual interest relationships. Results also revealed that single and dating adults had different usage of these texting features than adults in exclusive relationships. These findings suggest that different types of interpersonal relationships can significantly influence texting communication style.

Supervising Professor: Dr. Demarest

Jason R. La Raia

Perceptions of Gender in the Law Enforcement Occupation

This study examines public perceptions of male and female police officer job effectiveness. A sample of 60 (16 males, 44 females) undergraduate college students were asked to rate male and female police officers' perceived job effectiveness by being randomly assigned to either a male police officer exposure group (shown a picture of a male police officer) or a female police officer exposure group (shown a picture of a female police officer). It was hypothesized that male and female participants would rate male and female police officers differently for overall job effectiveness. In addition, male police officers would be rated higher in overall job effectiveness. Furthermore, it was expected that participants would rate same sex police officers as more effective overall. A two-way factorial analysis of variance showed no difference between male and female participants' ratings of police officer effectiveness or the interaction. After conducting exploratory analysis, the results showed that male participants rated male police officers' personalities more positively ($M = 6.04$) as compared to female officer ratings ($M = 5.75$) while female participants rated female police officers' personality more positively ($M = 6.20$) than male officers ($M = 5.41$). The findings suggest that although men and women may be seen as equally effective in policing occupations, people tend to have more positive attitudes towards same sex officers in regard to personality traits.

Supervising Professor: Dr. Van Volkom and Dr. Lewandowski

Jordan A. Levinson

The Celebrity Experience: The Influence of Celebrities on the Perception of Others

Mental illness is often associated with words such as "bad" and "helpless" (Teachman, Wilson, & Komarovskaya, 2006).

This study examined the influence of celebrity status and gender of an individual on perceptions of mental illness.

Seventy-eight participants (71 females and 7 males) were randomly assigned to read identical descriptions of one of the following individuals with mental illness: a male celebrity, male non-celebrity, female celebrity, and female non-celebrity and then asked to complete a survey about their perceptions of mental illness. I hypothesized that those who read about a celebrity with mental illness would have more negative perceptions than those who read about a non-celebrity with mental illness. I also expected that those who read about a male with mental illness would have more negative perceptions than those who read about a female. Furthermore, I predicted that those who read about a male celebrity or non-celebrity would have more negative perceptions than those who read about a female celebrity or non-celebrity. I conducted a factorial ANOVA to examine the effect of celebrity status and gender on perceptions of mental illness. The analysis determined that there were no significant differences in perceptions of mental illness across all conditions.

Results suggest that celebrities with mental illness may not influence perceptions of mental illness in general.

Supervising Professor: Dr. Van Volkom

Alyssa Lynn Basile

Does the Apple Fall Far from the Tree?

This study examines one's relationship with their closest parent and one's values in intimate relationships to test if one's relationship with their parent influences their values in intimate relationships. Sixty-one participants (17 males, 44 females) completed surveys that assessed parental closeness, parental trust, parental authority, value of good behaviors in intimate relationships, and willingness to accept bad behaviors in intimate relationships. I hypothesized that people who feel close to their parents would place a higher value on good behaviors in relationships. Using correlations, results show that this hypothesis is supported. Similarly, I hypothesized that people who feel close to their parents would have a lower acceptance of bad behaviors in relationships, which is also supported. I hypothesized that people who feel that they can trust their parents would place a higher value on good behaviors in relationships and have a lower acceptance of bad behaviors in relationships. However, both trust hypotheses are not supported. Findings suggest that our level of closeness with our parents influences our values in intimate relationships.

Supervising Professor: Dr. Lewandowski

Sarah Dubin

The Concept of a Positive Self

This study evaluated the effect of a Positive Thinking Intervention (PTI) on women's self-concepts. Sixty-six college women were randomly assigned to a Control condition, a Positive Thinking Intervention condition, or a Positive Thinking and Video condition. Participants in the Neutral Control condition were asked to engage in a neutral writing task. In the PTI condition participants wrote answers to questions about their own innate positive qualities. In the third condition, participants completed the same PTI activity after watching a YouTube video in which people set a positive example by sharing the things they love about themselves. It was hypothesized that the Video + PTI condition would produce the most significant increases in the self-concept, followed by the PTI condition alone. A One-way ANOVA was conducted to determine if any conditions produced significant differences across the three aspects of the self-concept. However, the effect of the Video + PTI, as well as the PTI condition alone were not strong enough to influence a woman's self-concept. Specifically, there were no significant differences between any of the three conditions as compared on their General Self Efficacy $F(2,63)=.72, p = .493$, Personal Growth Initiative $F(2,63)=2.30, p = .109$, or Self Compassion $F(2,63)=.624, p = .539$. Results suggest that this Positive Thinking Intervention does not have a significant impact on a woman's self-concept.

Supervising Professor: Dr. Dinella

Macy Elder

Think Pink: Endorsing the Color of Gender

This study observed how gender-typed color impacted college students' decision making. Upon arrival, 60 participants were asked to choose a pink or blue cup and pen. Participants were shown four pink or blue gender neutral objects and asked to rate how masculine or feminine the objects were on a 7-point Likert-scale. I hypothesized that men would choose the blue cup and pen, while women would choose the pink cup and pen. I also hypothesized that both men and women would categorize the pink objects as feminine and the blue objects as masculine. A chi-square determined relations between gender and cup and pen colors chosen, and results show that females mostly chose the pink cup and males mostly chose the blue cup ($\chi^2(2, N = 60) = 11.988, p = .002$), and that both males and females most often chose the blue pen ($\chi^2(2, N = 60) = 7.256, p = .027$), which was counter to my hypothesis. A repeated measures ANOVA compared men's and women's categorization of objects as masculine or feminine. Results show both genders are traditional in their categorization of pink objects and more flexible in their categorization of blue objects. The main effects of color ($F(1, 58) = 168.37, p < .001$) and gender ($F(1, 58) = 7.64, p = .008$) were found significant, as well as the interaction ($F(1, 58) = 4.074, p = .048$). Results suggest that college students may develop flexibility in their gender schemas.

Supervising Professor: Dr. Dinella

Katarina Kneer

Internship: Monmouth University Polling Institute, West Long Branch, NJ

Supervising Professor: Dr. Hatchard

Michelle E. Grushko

Women Belong in the House...and the Senate: An Examination of Masculinity, Femininity, and Politics

This study examines the connection between one's major in college and work life/family life balance attitudes, as well as interest in politics. One hundred sixty six participants (65 male, 101 female) were categorized based on their gender, and whether they were in a gender stereotyped versus non-traditional major. It is hypothesized that males pursuing a masculine major will view the work life/family life balance as easier than females pursuing a feminine major. Further it is also hypothesized that a gender difference will exist in interest in politics, with males showing more interest in politics than females. Using a series of independent samples t tests and two-way analysis of variances the results show that males pursuing a masculine major are less worried about work interfering with family life than females pursuing a feminine major. In addition, males pursuing a masculine major are more interested in politics and believe they have more knowledge of politics than females pursuing a feminine major, while females pursuing a masculine major are more interested in politics and believe they have more knowledge of politics than females pursuing a feminine major. Further, males and females significantly differ in their views of opportunities for women in politics. Results suggest that views of important issues are influenced by way of thinking and lifestyle choices rather than gender.

Supervising Professor: Dr. Dinella

Erin Hughes

What Your Self Wants: Expansion versus Conservation

The current study observed the differences between people who identified and scored as either self-expanders or self-conservers. Seventy-four participants (20 male, 54 female) completed a scale created for this study, which they scored higher as either an expander or conserver and decided which definition they identified with more. All the participants completed scales examining personal growth, self-esteem, and personality. I hypothesized that those who identified with the expander definition would score higher on the expander scale, while those who identified with the conserver definition would score higher on the conserver scale. Additionally, I hypothesized that those who scored higher on expander would score higher in personal growth and self-esteem. In the personality scale, I hypothesized those who scored higher on the expander scale would score higher in openness to experience. Utilizing independent sample t-tests, the results indicate that those who chose expander scored higher on the expander scale while those who chose conserver scored higher on the conserver scale. Using bivariate correlations, results show there is a significant, moderate, positive relationship between the expander scale and personal growth. There was no relationship between the conserver scale and personal growth. Furthermore, there was no significant correlation between the expander scale nor conserver scale and self-esteem. Expander scale and openness to experience had a significant, moderate, and positive correlation, while there was no relationship between the conserver scale and openness to experience. Results suggest people who identify with expander aspects or conserver aspects are different in other facets of their lives.

Supervising Professor: Dr. Lewandowski

Poster Presentations: Session II

1:00 – 2: 00 PM, Pollak Auditorium

Nigjusua Nelson

For the Love or Money?

This study observed the influence of materialism on possession choice, conflicts, relationship satisfaction, and romance. Forty- seven (24 male, 23 female) were assigned to complete a series of questionnaires. I hypothesized that being materialistic decreases the likelihood that individuals will be romantic and satisfied in a relationship. If individuals are materialistic, it would increase the chances of conflicts arising in their relationships. Furthermore, I hypothesized that people will be more romantic and satisfied in a relationship if they spend money on experiential possessions rather than material purchases. As a correlational study, the results are slowly approaching significance of materialistic individuals preferring to purchase material items over experiential possessions. However, materialism did not significantly affect conflicts, relationship satisfaction, or romance. There was significance on individual items on the romantic beliefs scale that showed there is a positive correlation between materialism and romance. Results suggest that materialism does not negatively affect relationship qualities: conflicts, satisfaction, and romance.

Supervising Professor: Dr. Lewandowski

Melina Morel

Clearing a Guilty Conscience: Linking Guilt, Helping Behavior and Forgiveness

This study examines whether the type of victim wronged in a relationship influences the guilt and helping behavior expressed by the offender. This study also seeks to determine if there is a potential link between guilt, helping behavior and forgiveness seeking. Sixty-three participants (22 male, 41 female) were randomly assigned to one of three conditions: the family group, friend group, or peer group and asked to read a relationship (guilt-inducing) scenario. This was followed by a question that assessed the level of guilt experienced by the offender after reading the scenario. Participants were also asked to fill out a helping behavior scale to measure their likeliness to help the victim after wronging that person. It was hypothesized that participants in the family group would report higher levels of guilt than participants in the friend and peer groups. It was also hypothesized that the family group would express the most helping behavior and would seek more forgiveness from the victim. A one-way ANOVA showed that there was a significant difference in helping behavior expressed between the groups $F(2, 54) = 3.19, p = .05$. The friend group showed the highest mean ($M = 6.1$ $SD = .60$) followed by the family group ($M = 5.4$ $SD = 1.4$) and the peer group ($M = 5.4$ $SD = 1.02$). These results showed that those in the friend group were the most likely to help their best friend after having wronged them. However, those in the family and peer group were not as likely to help their family members or peers after having wronged them.

Supervising Professor: Dr. Van Volkom

Genna Moscato

Procrastination Among College Students

The current study examines the procrastination habits of college students in nonacademic settings. It is hypothesized that women would procrastinate less than males. In addition, it was also hypothesized that the older participants are the less likely they would be to procrastinate. A sample of 100 undergraduate participants (72 females, 28 males) completed a survey of their procrastination habits. Women were not found to procrastinate less than males $t(98) = -.795, p = .43$ (two-tailed), effect size = -0.17 . Similarly, no correlation was found between age and procrastination habits ($r = -.046$). The findings suggest there is no relation between procrastination habits and age.

Supervising Professor: Dr. Van Volkom

Justina Reyes

Reporting For Duty

This study determines whether women find men in the military and in uniform more physically attractive and desirable than men not in the military and in civilian clothes. A sample of heterosexual female college students were given a picture of a man with a description attached. They were randomly assigned to one of four conditions: a man described as being in the military and in a uniform, a man described as not in the military wearing a uniform, a man described as in being in the military in civilian clothing, or a man described as not being in the military in civilian clothing. Women were then asked to complete an online five-question survey on physical attractiveness and relationship desirability. I hypothesized that the men in the military would be rated as more desirable than non-military men, and the men in uniform would be rated as more physically attractive than the men in civilian clothing. Finally, I expected that the men in the military in uniform would be rated highest overall. Using a univariate analysis, the results indicated there was no significant difference between men in or out of the military nor for being in or out of uniform for long-term desirability, $F(1, 97) = 2.7, p = .104$, nor for physical attraction, $F(1, 97) = 1.85, p = .176$. The idea that women love men in uniform may need to be reconsidered.

Supervising Professor: Dr. Dinella

Taylor M. Giblin

Time on Social Networks and External Eating Behavior: Is there a Relation?

Social networking has become a part of our daily lives (Pempek, Yermolayeva & Calvert, 2009). However, there has been little research on the connection between time spent on social networking sites (SNS) and external eating habits. This is surprising given that external eating is eating even when not hungry, and has been linked with the use of other media forms such as TV (van Strien et al., 2012). A total of 81 college students completed a survey on the relation between time spent on social networking sites and external eating behaviors. There is a total of four hypotheses, (1) the more time spent on SNS would relate to more external eating behaviors and (2) females would spend more time on SNS compared to males, (3) women would externally eat more than men, and ultimately, (4) the relation between time females spent on SNS and external eating would be stronger than the same relation for men. Results show that the more time spent on SNS, the more participants showed external eating behaviors. Women did spend more time on SNS, but there was no difference between men and women's external eating behaviors. Contrary to the fourth hypothesis, males were slightly more correlated than females but not significantly. These findings conclude that there is a connection between gender and time spent on social networking sites, and that regardless of gender time spent on SNS relates to external eating. Further research is recommended to determine potential causes underlying this relation.

Supervising Professor: Dr. Lisa Dinella

Amanda Ambrosino

Same Sex and Opposite Sex Intimidation

This study examined whether men and women would be intimidated if they were told that another person could do various activities better than the participant. Participants (40 male, 40 female) were randomly assigned to one of four gender-role stereotyped conditions. They read two scenarios involving another person doing an activity better than they could, one activity at home and the other at work. The sex of the "other person" was varied so that it was either the same sex or the opposite sex who performed these activities. Some activities were stereotypically masculine roles while others were stereotypically feminine roles. Participants also completed surveys about their sex-role orientation (Bem, 1976) and their personality. It was hypothesized that individuals with gender-stereotyped personalities would feel more intimidated than people with atypical gender-role personalities if the person in the scenario could perform stereotypical gender-related activities better than them. Females were predicted to be more intimidated by being outdone in a home setting by someone of the opposite sex, while males were expected to be more intimidated by being outdone in the work setting by someone of the opposite sex. The findings and implications will be discussed.

Supervising Professor: Dr Demarest

Angela Scalici

Influence of Different Types of Advertisements

Previous research has examined the use of fearful advertising on the reduction of distracted driving intentions (Nelson & Shapiro, 2009). However, the effect of different types of advertisements on persuading audiences to not text and drive has not been thoroughly examined. The purpose of this study was to examine whether text-only advertisements rather than image advertisements were more effective in persuading the audience to not text and drive. Participants (27 males, 47 females) viewed either a text-only or image advertisement about the negative consequences of texting while driving. The image was a picture of a policeman at the window of a car, while the text contained statistics and negative consequences of texting while driving. The rated effectiveness of the ad represented the DV. Participants were also asked about their own texting frequency while driving and being a passenger in a car while the driver texted, and assigned to low versus high texting while driving groups based on their responses. It was hypothesized that text advertisements would be more effective in persuading participants to not text and drive. Females were also expected to find the advertisements more effective than males. Results did not reveal either a sex difference or an overall difference in assessment of effectiveness of the two types of advertisements. However, an interaction of Type of Advertisement X Sex revealed that females were more affected than males by the image advertisement but females were no more affected by the text-only advertisement than males. Also, individuals who had a greater incidence of prior driving and texting, whether it was their own driving or as a passenger, indicated that the advertising was more effective than participants who did not have many of these experiences.

Supervising Professor: Dr. Van Volkom

Rebecca Nicola

Your Health According to You

Research on self-assessment of health in emerging adults (i.e., 18-26 years old) is lacking when compared to studies of children and senior citizens. This study investigated whether self-assessment of physical and mental health increased across class levels among college students (i.e., from first year to Senior year). A 20 item survey was administered to 60 students at Monmouth University asking them to assess their mental and physical well-being. It was hypothesized that juniors, seniors, and students with more than four years, would report higher ratings of self-assessed health when compared to first-year and sophomore students. It was also predicted that those who identify a connection between physical and mental well-being will have higher ratings of self-assessed health when compared to those who do not identify a connection. Almost everyone indicated that they thought there was a connection between physical and mental health so prediction #2 could not be assessed. There was no significant relationship between year in college and self-assessment of physical well-being. And while there was a significant difference in self-assessed mental well-being across college class levels, the greatest mental well-being was in the sophomore year with no differences between students in their first, third and fourth year in college.

Supervising Professor: Dr. Demarest

Jonathan Almeida

How Sex, Gender Roles, and Personality Influence the Choices Made in Creating Video Game Avatars

This study evaluated the influence of gender roles and personality type on video game avatar creation. Participants from around the world were recruited online through social media outlets and video game forums. The study was available online using Qualtrics software. Materials included an Avatar Creation (AC) Task, an Avatar Personality Profile (APP) Task, the Eysenck Personality Inventory (EPI), and the Bem Sex-Role Inventory (BSRI). The AC task simulates the character creation screen of a video game, allowing participants to choose characteristics for their avatar (e.g., sex, warrior vs magician, overtly aggressive or covert and avoidant). The APP task had participants rank attributes for their avatar in order of importance. The EPI assessed two of the participant's personality traits (i.e., Extroversion and Neuroticism), and the BSRI assessed the participant's gender-role orientation. It was predicted that extroverted, highly neurotic and "masculine" participants would choose more aggressive traits for their avatar, while introverted and "feminine" participants would choose more avoidant/defensive traits. The findings of the study and implications brought on by those findings will be discussed.

Supervising Professor: Dr. Demarest

Samantha Paplin**The Impact of Facebook Photos on Attitudes**

Social media has many benefits but viewing images that others post about their lives can also create negative self-reflections for the viewer when the comparison with their own life is lacking. This study examined the influence of Facebook photos on envy and life satisfaction in participants (30 males, 50 females) exposed to one of three types of photos; i.e., either an exciting vacation photo, average birthday photo, or dull college studysession photo. A series of questions were asked about how much the participants envied the people in the photo they viewed. They were also asked several questions about their own life satisfaction. It was hypothesized that those viewing the exciting vacation photo would report greater envy than those viewing the average birthday photo or the dull study session photo. It was also predicted that participants who viewed the exciting vacation photo would exhibit lower life satisfaction than those who viewed the other photos. Findings did not reveal an impact of viewing these Facebook photos on life satisfaction, but there were significant differences in overall self-reported envy in the predicted direction. The participants who viewed the vacation photo were far more envious than those who viewed either the birthday or study session photo. Notably, there were no sex differences and the birthday photo group reported no more envy or life satisfaction than the study session photo group.

Supervising Professor: Dr. Van Volkom

Ashley C. Episcopo

Internship: Old Bridge High School, School Psychology Department, Matawan, NJ

Supervising Professor: Dr. Hatchard

Elisa A. Lukasik

Internship: Law Offices of Christopher Campbell, Freehold, NJ

Supervising Professor: Dr. Hatchard

Lauren M. Muffley

Internship: Family Resource Associates, NJ

Supervising Professor: Dr. Hatchard

Ashley C. Severino

Internship: Arc of Monmouth County, Tinton Falls, NJ

Supervising Professor: Dr. Hatchard

Julia A. Zgrzywa

Internship: Jersey Shore Dream Center, Asbury Park, NJ

Supervising Professor: Dr. Hatchard

Natalie A. Azzari

Internship: Water and Sims Employment Services, Red Bank, NJ

Supervising Professor: Dr. Hatchard

Angel S. Kerr

Internship: Celtic Charms Therapeutic Horse Farm, Howell, NJ

Supervising Professor: Dr. Hatchard

Jason R. LaRaia

Internship: Ocean Township Police Department, Ocean, NJ

Supervising Professor: Dr. Hatchard

Julia A. Rymar

Internship: The Center for Advanced Behavioral Health, Lakewood, NJ

Supervising Professor: Dr. Hatchard

Jessica C. Silva

Internship: ParentTrain, Pequannock, NJ

Supervising Professor: Dr. Hatchard

Jeffrey Singh

Internship: Ronald McDonald House, Long Branch, NJ

Supervising Professor: Dr. Hatchard

Kristen A. Carpenter

Internship: Mary's Place by the Sea, Ocean Grove, NJ

Supervising Professor: Dr. Hatchard

Paper Presentations: Session III

1:45 – 3:00 PM, Wilson Auditorium

Alex Lustig

Put Your Best Picture Forward: Dogs and Children in Male Online Dating Pictures

This study examined the placement of a dog and child in a male online dating picture. Sixty participants, all female, were randomly assigned to one of three conditions. Each condition had three pictures in a dating site template: one with a man alone, one with a man and a dog, and one with a man and a child who was clearly labeled as his cousin. The only difference between the conditions were the men shown representing each category. For each picture, participants were asked to complete questions which determined how attractive the participant found the man in the picture. It was hypothesized that a man with a child would be viewed as the most attractive, and a man with a dog would be viewed as less attractive than the man with a child, but more attractive than the man alone (who would be viewed as the least attractive). A repeated measures analysis of variance with a within subjects component showed that there were no significant differences between the average attraction ratings for each type of picture. Though there were no significant findings, further research should be conducted in this area, as little research has been conducted regarding online dating pictures.

Supervising Professor: Dr. Dinella

Ashley C. Episcopo

My Mind on My Money and My Money on My Mind: The Effect of Money Priming on Relationships

This study examined how thoughts about money influence choices regarding romantic relationships. A sample of fifty-two (12 male, 40 female) single college students were randomly assigned to one of the two counting conditions: money or paper (control). Participants then completed surveys assessing their relationship preferences including importance of characteristics in a potential partner. It was hypothesized that those who thought of money would rate the importance of kindness and sensitivity in a potential partner lower than those in the control condition. Furthermore, it was hypothesized that those who thought of money would rate the importance of earning potential and ambition higher than those in the control group. Analyses determined that those who thought about money rated the importance of kindness and sensitivity in a potential partner significantly less than those who did not think about money. However, there was no significant difference between the conditions for importance of earning potential and ambition. Results suggest that those who avoid thinking about money will end up choosing partners who are kinder and more sensitive.

Supervising Professor: Dr. Lewandowski

Martika Hubbard

Winners Never Quit: The Effects of Grit & Self-Efficacy on Relationship Satisfaction

This study observed the influence of two personality traits, grit and self-efficacy, on relationship satisfaction while also looking at athletes compared to non-athletes. 155 participants (85 Student-Athletes, 70 Non-Athletes) completed an online survey consisting of four questionnaires that measured grit, self-efficacy, relationship quality and the big five personality traits. I hypothesized that those who were high in grit and high in self-efficacy would have the highest levels of relationship satisfaction. Furthermore, I hypothesized that athletes would be higher in grit and self-efficacy, which would in turn make them better relationship partners than non-athletes. Using a series of correlations, t-tests and mediations, the results show that those high in grit and self-efficacy had significantly higher relationship satisfaction than those who were not. However, despite athletes scoring significantly higher in grit, they did not score significantly higher in self-efficacy or relationship satisfaction compared to non-athletes. Results suggest that those who are high in both grit and self-efficacy will have higher relationship satisfaction than those who are not, and that athletes do not necessarily make the best relationship partners.

Supervising Professor: Dr. Lewandowski

Samantha Gross

Do You Wear The Pants?

The study investigates whether people's perceptions of a female job applicant is impacted by her attire. It is hypothesized that women in a pantsuit will be perceived as having greater professionalism, greater competence, a more desirable personality, and greater physical attractiveness than a woman in a skirt suit. The study also investigated whether these perceptions varied by the gender of the reviewer. 90 undergraduate students were randomly assigned to view a woman in a pantsuit or a skirt suit, and then completed an online self-report survey. Results indicated that women wearing pants are perceived as more professional than women in skirts. Perceived competence, personality, and physical attractiveness were not influenced by attire. However, when given a picture of the same woman in a skirt and in pants, and then asked which they would hire, a trend was found that reviewers were more likely to hire the woman in the skirt ($M=1.44$) over the woman in the pants ($M=1.24$). No gender differences in reviewer's perceptions were found. In conclusion a double bind is still prevalent when it comes to the influence of attire on women's success in the corporate world.

Supervising Professor: Dr. Dinella

Nicole Maldonado

Welcome to my Timeline! Predictors and Perceptions of Surveillance Behavior of Ex-romantic Partners

Surveillance behavior is a wide range of different activities that include the monitoring of one's social media activity, with whom they talk to; their physical whereabouts, and other information surround that individual's life. The purpose of this study was to look at predictors of surveillance behavior of former romantic partners and college student's perceptions of this behavior. I hypothesized that those with neurotic personalities are more likely to engage in surveillance behavior of their ex-partners. Second, it was hypothesized that people who are sensitive to rejection are also more likely to engage in surveillance behavior. Thirdly, it was hypothesized that those who score high in relational interdependence self-construal are also more likely to engage in surveillance behavior. Lastly, it was hypothesized that college see surveillance as normal and acceptable behavior. Forty-six (8 males, 38 females) were recruited from a web-based SONA pool. Using surveys, the results show a variety of significance in each hypothesis. Those with neurotic personalities are more likely to engage in online surveillance behavior of their former partners rather than offline surveillance. People that were sensitive to rejection are more likely to engage in both online and offline surveillance of their ex-partners. The participants who scored high in relational interdependence are also more likely to engage in offline surveillance of their former partners rather than online surveillance. Even though college students show to engage in these behaviors, most college students feel this is not normal behavior and have very low perceptions of surveillance behavior.

Supervising Professor: Dr. Lewandowski

Alana Jacobs

#Selfies#FlirtyGirls: How Facial Expressions Influence Perceptions

This study examines whether a flirty or smiling (no teeth) facial expression of a selfie influences physical attractiveness, impressionism and mating strategy. A sample of sixty-one participants (10 male, 51 female) reviewed a total of twenty-three selfies and completed a four-question questionnaire about physical attractiveness, first impressions and the relationship status of the model pictured for each selfie. I hypothesized that the flirty facial expression would be rated higher in physical attractiveness and obtain a higher rating of being considered as short-term relationship material than the smiling facial expression. I also hypothesized that the flirty facial expression would obtain a higher rating of a negative first impression than the smiling facial expression. I also hypothesized that the smiling facial expression would have a higher rating for long-term relationship material and a more positive first impression. The findings suggest that a flirty facial expression is less physical attractive and emits a negative first impression than a smiling facial expression. Flirty facial expressions also are more likely to be considered as short-term relationship material than a smiling facial expression. The smiling facial expression resulted in being more physical attractive, a more positive first impression and more likely to be considered for a long-term relationship. Overall, results suggest that flirty facial expressions when taking selfies are not as desirable as smiling (no teeth) facial expressions.

Supervising Professor: Dr. Lewandowski

Morgan A. Saemann

Internship: Division of Child Protection and Permanency, Toms River, NJ

Supervising Professor: Dr. Hatchard

Jessica Silva

Would You Hire Me?

People of color have been discriminated against in many ways in many parts of Western society. Most of the research on this issue focuses on Black/White differences in North American and European society. Less attention has been focused on different ethnicities. This study evaluated the influence of ethnicity on hiring decisions. College students (22 male, 37 female) viewed a picture of one of three job applicants which was accompanied by the same set of qualifications. The applicant was an attractive young man, possibly in his early to mid-30s, who varied in ethnicity (Asian, East Indian, or Hispanic). Participants completed a set of evaluations of the applicant indicating whether they would hire the applicant, and what they thought about his qualifications. It was hypothesized that the Asian applicant was more likely to be hired than the East Indian applicant, who was expected to be evaluated more favorably than the Hispanic applicant. Preliminary results indicated that there were no differences in the evaluations or the likelihood of hiring the three job applicants. However, subsequent unplanned analysis of the evaluations by Caucasian and non-Caucasian participants revealed a marginal difference such that the Caucasian participants ($N=44$) were less likely to hire any of these job applicants compared to the non-Caucasian participants ($N=15$). Additional data from non-Caucasian participants will be included in the final analyses.

Supervising Professor: Dr. Van Volkom

Jillian Young

The Influence of Love on the Mind: I Think I'm In Love

The purpose of this study was to observe Passionate and Companionate love with the influence on concentration and memory tasks. The participants were asked to complete a word-search which was classified as a concentration task, complete Passionate and Companionate Love Scale (Hatfield & Sprecher, 1986), followed by a word recall task which was classified as a memory task. Participants were asked to obtain and have visible a photograph of their significant other throughout the duration of the study. It was hypothesized that those who found themselves to be more in love would find fewer words; those who scored higher on the passionate love scale would find fewer words in the concentration task and recall fewer words on the memory task. Furthermore, those who scored higher on the companionate love scale would find more words in the concentration task and recall more words on the memory task. The memory task allowed for participants to recall as many words as they could from the concentration task, whereas some also recalled words that were not displayed, but were connected with the idea of love. The biggest component to these findings was the factor of distraction caused by the requirement of keeping the photograph visible for the duration of the study. The findings from the study show that as previous research states, the length of the relationship has an influence on the type of love that you and your partner display to one another, where passionate love turns into companionate love over time (Hatfield, 1989).

Supervising Professor: Dr. Lewandowski

Cortney Jonker

How Far Have We Come?: A Content Analysis of the Objectification of Women in Rap and Country Music Lyrics

Music is an essential part of young adults' lives with the average young adult listening to music 3 hours a day, and up to a maximum of 53 hours per week (Roberts & Christenson, 2001). Cultivation theory suggests that individuals may adapt their actions and attitudes to match what they see in the media (Potter, 1992). Because young adulthood is an impressionable stage of life, the objectification of women in music lyrics could have potential effects on young adults' perceptions of women (Poet, 1993). This content analysis compares country and rap music lyrics for references about women's clothing, their physical appearance, sex, power, and relationship gender roles. It was predicted that rap music would have more sexist content than country music, and music by male artists would be more sexist than female artists. Findings suggest that rap music was more degrading in reference to physical appearance, sex, and men in power and male artists were more degrading in their references to sex and men in power than female artists. Contrary to the hypothesis, female artists were more degrading in their references to women's physical appearances. These results suggest that there is still some objectification of women in music. Limitations and future directions are discussed.

Supervising Professor: Dr. Dinella

Natan Davydov

Girl Look at that Body: Perception of Different Levels of a Model's Body Exposure

This study examined how heterosexual female's perceived the opposite sex and investigated the impact of different levels of male's body exposure on woman's opinions of them Also being interested in learning what social differences exist between a person's facial, body, and whole body image. I hypothesized that females will find males most attractive based on his facial features alone, compared to just his body, or both his body and face. In addition, male's body and face will be rated higher than a male's body alone. Eighty eight heterosexual female participants were placed in three different conditions. Each participant was randomly assigned to rate an image on either face, body, or face/body. There was no significant difference when rating any of the three conditions on social attraction. Intimate attraction did result in significance between the conditions such as those who saw the face and body where more intimately attracted to the model than just the face or body. Indicating females perceived males higher in intimate attraction than that of social attraction.

Supervising Professor: Dr. Van Volkom and Dr. Lewandowski

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