

# Psychology Day



**FALL 2016 PROGRAM**

**DECEMBER 9, 2016**

# NOTES

## **SCHEDULE OVERVIEW**

### **POSTER SESSION**

2:00—3:00 p.m.  
Seegers Union Event Space

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### **WELCOMING REMARKS**

3:05 p.m.  
Seegers Union Event Space

### **KEYNOTE SPEAKER**

3:05—3:30 p.m.  
Seegers Union Event Space

3:30 p.m.—3:45 p.m. BREAK

## **CONCURRENT PRESENTATION SESSIONS**

3:45 p.m.—5:00 p.m. Paper Session A—SU 111  
3:45 a.m.—4:40 p.m. Paper Session B—SU 109-110

## POSTER SESSION

### Seegers Union Event Space

#### MEDIA PORTRAYALS OF PROFESSIONAL ATHLETES

*Nora Fisher, Carli Weimer, Delany Gilson*

The main goal of our study is to evaluate how the way the media portrays professional athletes, whether it be appearance or achievement based, affects the body images of division three collegiate athletes. Body image is defined as the self-perceptions and attitudes about one's body and includes cognitive, affective and behavioral dimensions (Petrie & Greenleaf, 2012). Past research has focused on thinness depicting and promoting media and has examined the objectification of female athletes. Many collegiate athletes look at professional athletes as role models, so the way the media represents these professional athletes can impact their own health. A potential benefit to our study is that collegiate athletes will realize that the media can have an influence on our self perceptions.

#### VOLUNTARY vs. CUED PICTURE NAMING ACROSS MULTIPLE LANGUAGES

*Lauren Butler*

This study tested language switching. Participants named pictures by responding to color cues that indicated for them to use their first language, to use their second language, or to choose which language to use. I placed these cues at different time intervals before or simultaneously with the pictures. Previous research has shown that bilinguals take longer when switching from their second language back into their first language than vice versa. This study was a way of testing the effect of cue time and voluntary vs cued switching on the time it takes to switch languages. Data analysis is ongoing.

#### INTERPRETATIONS OF TEXT MESSAGES

*Jenna Blum, Heather Hoffman, Jordan Bock, Benjamin Kronisch*

We investigated whether the use of emojis and punctuation in text messages would have an impact on how an individual perceived the messages received. In our study, there were four conditions; emoji usage, regular punctuation, excessive punctuation, and no punctuation. In a survey, participants were randomly assigned to one condition and were shown one screenshot of a text message conversation containing the specified type of punctuation. Participants were then asked to interpret the level of positivity of each of the statements in the text message, and we also calculated total positivity ratings. Overall, we found that the emoji condition was interpreted more positively, as was the excessive punctuation condition. Regular punctuation also showed more positivity compared to no punctuation.

### UNDERSTANDING COLLEGE ADJUSTMENT

*Hana DeHovitz, Alexandra Silvestre, Suzanne Brier*

We studied the effects of personality and parenting on college adjustment. We predicted that personality would have a significant effect on the relationship between parenting and college adjustment. Personality was defined by the Big Five Factor Model (openness, conscientiousness, extraversion, agreeableness, neuroticism) and parenting was defined by adult attachment and parenting styles. Our dependent variable was defined by academic performance and roommate relationships. We collected data through a survey asking questions about personality, parenting and college adjustment. Overall, we found some support for the idea that the relationship between attachment and college adjustment depends on the personality characteristics of students.

### THE EFFECTIVENESS OF EXERCISE ON COGNITION

*Pedro Colon, Jacqueline D'Amico, Robert William Lamb III, Olivier Payen, Anthony Ware II*

This study examined the effects of exercise on short-term memory and decision-making skills for both athletes and non-athletes. Participants memorized a list of words and were placed in an exercising or stretching condition for 10 minutes. Participants were then asked to distinguish between actual and lure words in MouseTracker program. We found that athletes had a quicker initial response time at the start of each trial compared to non-athletes. Additionally, we found an interaction of Athletic participation and Exercise condition with Stretching resulting in faster reaction time for Athletes, but Biking resulting in faster reaction for non-athletes. Finally, we found that all participants in both conditions responded marginally faster to the words on the list than the lure words.

### EMOJI USE INCREASES POSITIVE PERCEPTIONS IN TEXT MESSAGES

*Haleigh Jacob, Madeline Satin, Kaylis Moskowitz, Thomas Herr*

Text messages lack the physical and tonal aspects of face-to-face communication, so texters have fostered new ways of expressing emotion through punctuation and Emojis. To study whether punctuation and Emojis can give insight into the personality of the message sender and the emotionality of the conversation, participants texted with a confederate and received messages that contained either just periods, Emojis, or neither periods nor Emojis. We found that the texting condition significantly influenced perceptions of extraversion and agreeableness. Participants in the Emoji condition perceived interactions most positively. This supports the idea that the use of Emojis or end punctuation can affect perceptions of conversations and conversation partners.

### PEER PERCEPTION

*Alli Moses, Jenna Roth, Sarah Prince, Langston Gering*

Our study was aimed at examining the effects of priming and the gender of the perceiver on peer perception in social media. Participants were randomly assigned to one of two conditions, priming or no priming, were shown pictures of six individuals followed by a series of personality characteristics and asked to rank the individuals regarding how much the characteristic can be used to describe them. We hypothesized that if an individual is primed with positive characteristics regarding another individual, it will shape their judgment on subsequent personality characteristics and overall perception of that individual. We further hypothesized that men will be more likely to rank the individuals consistent with gender normative characteristics as compared to their female counterparts.

#### PERCEPTIONS OF IDEAL RELATIONSHIPS

*Alexis Zollo, Eve Atkins, Oshane Kirlew*

This study is looking to examine the relationship between parent's marital status and level of conflict in the home with which characteristics of relationships one prioritizes over others. We hypothesized that perceptions of an ideal relationship would differ based on the level of conflict in the home. To analyze and measure this phenomenon, we asked participants (Females=60, Males=7) to complete a 19 question survey online in order to gather information about their parent's marital status and level of conflict in their relationships, as well as what they believe to be the most important characteristics in a romantic relationship. We anticipate that children of divorced families will rank trust higher than ones of intact families.

#### PERCEPTIONS OF HIREABILITY BASED ON RACE AND MENTAL HEALTH

*Raigne Adler, Zoe Homonoff, Rachel Liberty, Rachel Truitt*

Issues in hireability/workplace discrimination have given rise to research into such decisions to spread awareness of various biases and the ensuring of equal opportunities. In examining commonly stigmatized groups, race and mental illnesses were the two characteristics we investigated in influencing perceptions of warmth, competence, and hiring decisions. For our purposes, we investigated the hireability of different racial identities (White, Latina, and Asian) who have or have not disclosed having a mental illness (General Anxiety Disorder). Because different and often conflicting assumptions are made based on both race and mental illness in regards to ability and personality, we hypothesized that mental health disclosure could benefit, or disadvantage these racial groups differently.

#### INTERNSHIPS IN PSYCHOLOGY

*Siedah Cazaubon, Nicole Hirschenboim, Rachel Plotke, Emily Strickberger, Carli Weimer, Alexis Zollo*

Students who are currently interning at local community organizations will provide summaries of their semester long work. Internship students will describe their learning process, including influential and challenging experiences. This poster can provide students with ideas about future internship opportunities.

# NOTES

## **WELCOMING REMARKS**

3:05 p.m.

Seegers Union Event Space

## **KEYNOTE SPEAKER**

Jonathan Mathias Lassiter, Ph.D.

Psychology Department

## **Intersectionality as Praxis for Research and Life**

Intersectionality provides a framework for examining the influence of multiple interlocking generative (e.g. spirituality, racial socialization) and oppressive (e.g., heterosexism, white supremacy, capitalism) forces on the health of marginalized people. Specifically, intersectionality theory has three main core components: "(1) social identities are...multiple and intersecting, (2) people from multiple historically oppressed and marginalized groups are the focal or starting point, and (3) multiple social identities at the micro level... intersect with macrolevel structural factors...to illustrate or produce disparate health outcomes" (Bowleg, 2012, p. 1268). This talk will give a brief overview of intersectionality and how to move it from theory to research, clinical practice, and everyday embodiment. Questions about research measurement and methodological concerns as well as clinical and personal implementation of intersectionality will be addressed.



## Paper Session A

### SU 113

3:45—4:00

BETTER SAFE THAN SORRY: THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN ZIKA, CONDOM USE, AND SEXUAL HISTORY

*Shoshana Fishbein, Madeline Tremont, Anna Poirier*

Despite a wealth of knowledge about STIs, people are often reluctant to use condoms. Survey methodology assessed participants' thoughts about sexual contact in one of four conditions: contact with a relationship partner with severe Zika, contact with a relationship partner with mild Zika, contact with a casual partner with severe Zika, or contact with a casual partner with mild Zika. Risk measured through fear of Zika contraction, likelihood of contracting and severity of Zika. In all conditions, measurements of risk were lower when participants hypothetically used condoms as compared to when not used. Prior sexual history and STI contracted were strong predictors of risk. The results suggest that condoms have psychological benefits in decreasing risk perceptions of Zika.

4:05—4:20

JUDGING ADDICTION: HOW DRUG, GENDER, AND PRECONCEIVED MODEL OF ADDICTION RELATE TO SUGGESTED CONSEQUENCES FOR DRUG USE

*Alli Glass, Alana Kantor, Kieran Lorenz, and Sara Rosenman*

Past research has examined different factors that influence perceptions of drug addiction. Various models of addiction are used to measure attitudes on the issue, most recently including the Moral, Disease, Nature, Sociological, and Psychological models. Type of drug used and gender of drug user were manipulated. Preconceived model of addiction was measured to assess perceptions of how drug users should be treated. Possible outcomes include prison, rehabilitation, or continued drug use. Results found a significant difference between the responses of participants in the heroin and marijuana conditions, but no difference between gender in the drug use scenarios. A relationship between model of addiction held and participant response was present.

4:25—4:40

MAGIC, CREATIVITY, AND THE UNEXPECTED

*Allison Boda, Leah Foster, Zoe Gurrieri, Danielle Psillos*

This study examined the effect of magic on creativity and if that effect is mediated by need for closure. In past research, magic and need for closure have correlated with both divergent and convergent thinking. We primed participants with a magic show to facilitate creativity, then measured participants' need for closure and divergent and convergent thinking. We expected that the ambiguity created by the magic performance might interfere with creativity in those with high need for closure. However, we found the opposite; those with high need for closure scored higher in both creativity tasks. Our results are discussed in terms of possible causes for the unexpected outcome.

4:45–5:00

PHARMACOLOGICAL EnDANCEment: PERFORMANCE ENHANCING DRUGS AND DANCE

*Liv Amundsen, Ryan Delaney, Marisa Garrity, Becca Hahn, Payton Russo*

Performance enhancing drugs are often perceived as unethical. Past research focuses on cognitive and sports enhancement; the current study examined artistic performance, specifically aesthetic appreciation and perceptions of authenticity. Three kinds of enhancement were investigated; stress-reducer, training intensifier, short-term energizer and a control group. After a dance video, participants answered questions about perceptions of the dance/dancers and the ethics of enhancement. Results indicated that if a participant was given no explanation for the use of a drug, they found the use to be more unfair, unethical, and inauthentic than if they were provided an explanation for the use. As the enjoyment of the piece increased, the participant also found enhancer use to be more ethical.

## Paper Session B

### SU 108-109

3:45—4:00

#### SOCIAL DOMINANCE ORIENTATION THEORY'S INFLUENCE ON POLITICAL IDEALOGY AND ATTITUDES

*Rachel Davis, Siedah Cazaubon, Jenna Gainsboro, Sarah Merlo, Lauren Bisogno*

The goal of our study is to further understand the effect of cognitive dissonance on conformity in a political context. By measuring social dominance orientation (SDO), a personality trait that is found to be predictive of ideologies and attitudes toward group-relevant issues, we will examine how the trait predicts attitude changes between conservatives and liberals (Pratto et al., 2014). Research has identified the key differences between conservatives and liberals and how their ideologies are a critical aspect of their identities (Morrison & Ybarra, 2009). We hypothesize that participants with a high SDO score who identify as conservative will be the most likely to change their attitude toward a specific political belief when exposed to a politically biased news source.

4:05—4:20

#### EXERCISE MOTIVATIONS AND WEIGHT CONTROLLABILITY BELIEF'S EFFECT ON ATTITUDES TOWARDS OBESITY

*Stephanie Gallucci, Brook Liebenson, Melissa Amico, Amanda Hawthorne*

There is commonly held perception that weight is controllable which predicts more negative attitudes towards and attributions for obese people (Chou, Prestin & Kunath, 2014; Blaine, 2013). Different motivations for exercise include; to change or maintain appearance, for health benefits, or as a social activity. Research has also found that exposure to weight stigmatizing media messages increases motivation to exercise in order to obtain thinness, which may be connected to obese people being more negatively evaluated than thin people (Pearl, Dovidio, Puhl, & Brownell, 2015; Blaine, DiBlasi, & Connor, 2002). We hypothesize that exercise motivation will predict controllability beliefs, which will in turn predict attitudes and attributions for people of different weight statuses.

4:25—4:40

#### FROM TAKING PERSPECTIVES TO TAKING ACTION: THE ROLE OF EMPATHY

*Amanda Fogelman, Liz Katriel, Hannah Weinstein, Kate Weisenseel*

Many interventions designed to improve intergroup relations have focused primarily on reducing negative attitudes towards certain groups. However, research has shown that cultivating positive attitudes towards members of a marginalized group through the use of perspective-taking strategies may be a more efficient strategy (Gonzalez, Riggle, & Rostosky, 2015). During our online study, we sought to examine whether participation in a perspective-taking exercise would encourage participants to adopt positive attitudes toward a black male target, and demonstrate their willingness to engage in ally behaviors in support of this individual. We anticipated that empathy mediates this relationship.



## WANT TO PRESENT YOUR RESEARCH OR INTERNSHIP EXPERIENCE?

Spring 2017 Psychology Day is scheduled for May 5, 2017. If you would like to present your research or internship, speak with a professor and/or visit the Psychology Department website for more information!

### ABOUT PSYCHOLOGY DAY

Psychology Day is an opportunity for students from all class years to present and discuss findings from the research or internship projects they have conducted that semester or year. New majors can look ahead to the types of research conducted in Research Methods, Advanced Lab, Research Apprenticeships and Independent Studies. More senior majors can look back, note their own intellectual development, and mentor younger students. The student presenters are practicing valuable communication skills. Most of all, students (from any major) and faculty join together as colleagues to celebrate student research.

### CONDUCTING RESEARCH

Learning how to conduct empirical research is central to the education of the psychology major. Through research experiences, psychology students strengthen their critical

thinking skills and develop systematic, rigorous ways of thinking about people.

#### ***Research in Courses***

Students are introduced to research in Introductory Psychology. This foundation continues through the rest of the major, including Research Methods and Advanced Lab. In these courses students develop a unique hypothesis and design a research study to test it. They then follow through by running, analyzing and presenting the study.

#### ***Research Apprenticeships***

Many students (freshmen through seniors) work with faculty members as research assistants and collaborators. After an apprenticeship, students also often develop their own research ideas and go on to Independent Research or Senior Theses.

#### ***Independent Research***

We encourage juniors and seniors in particular to consider Independent Research. Students work

closely one-on-one with a faculty mentor in developing and implementing their ideas. Seniors looking for a year-long, intensive experience are encouraged to pursue a senior thesis. Any type of research, but especially independent theses such as these are very positive additions to a graduate school application.

### INTERNSHIPS

An internship is a work experience characterized by intentional learning. During this experience, the student assumes a responsible role in an organization and actively reflects on what he or she is observing and learning. Psychology students have held internships in many different settings.

### MORE INFORMATION

Visit the Psychology Department website and follow the link for "Students."