**Pace Psychology Conference 2016**

***Abstracts Handout***

***BRIEF PAPER PRESENTATIONS***

Room 612

Theme: Clinical Applications in Research

1:15-1:30

Teaching 5 – 8 year old Autistic Children

Shandra Grantham-Powell

Psi Beta Chapter TCI College-Technical Career Institute

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

1:35-1:50

Interprofessional Collaboration Between School Mental Health and Pediatric Primary Care Professionals: Current Status and Future Directions

Allison M. Hill, M.Ed., Krystin Biscardi, B.A., Elizabeth H. Connors, Ph.D., Prerna G. Arora, Ph.D.

Pace University

Despite the well-documented need for interprofessional collaboration (IPC) between school mental health (SMH) professionals and pediatric primary care providers (PCPs) (Power & Bradley-Klug, 2013), research on collaborative practices of these professionals is limited (Pidano, Kimmelblatt, & Neace, 2011). This study used survey methodology to investigate SMH professionals’ current practices in IPC, degree of comfort and preparedness in IPC, training needs, and attitudes toward IPC with pediatric PCPs. Findings indicate that SMH professionals (n = 64) had overall limited engagement, varying degrees of comfort, and limited training in IPC. SMH professionals, however, indicated strong training interests in IPC. Additionally, SMH professionals’ perceived importance of and attitudes toward IPC predicted frequency of engagement in IPC (F(6, 57) =11.13, p < .001, adjusted R2 = .491). Study results have implications for improving collaborative practice between SMH professionals and pediatric PCPs. Limitations and future directions will be discussed.

1:55-2:!0

Identifying Specific Risk Factors for Delinquency in Incarcerated Adolescents: The role of Identity Distress and Self- Esteem

Emely Moreta, Catalina Mourgues, Mike Ferrara, James McCarthy, Baptiste Barbot

Long Island University Brooklyn, Pace University, Columbia University, Adelphi University, Yale University

Risk factors for delinquency are personality traits, characteristics of the environment, or conditions in the family, school, or community that are linked to youths’ likelihood of engaging in delinquency and other problem behaviors (Murray and Farrington 2010). The present study evaluates multiple facets of identity-related problems that have been theorized to play a contributing role in the development of juvenile offending. Measures of identity distress (ID), self-esteem (SE), self- and peer-delinquency, and problem behaviors, were administered to a sample of 112 juvenile offenders ranging from ages 12-18 (mean age = 15.3) in a detention center setting. A latent variable mediation model showed that ID and SE predicted 50% of the variance in delinquency, 37% of which was underlined solely by ID’s direct and indirect influences (through a decrease in SE). In sum, juvenile’s ID reduces SE and, in turn, increases risks for delinquency. More research is required to develop intervention programs that focus on improving self-esteem and reducing identity distress among high-risk adolescents.

2:15-2:30

Acknowledging the Rorschach Test in NYC

Shirley Sayers

TCI College

The Rorschach Test is a projective test that examines a person's thoughts by using ambiguous images. It is made to uncover if a person might have a mental disorder. In pop culture, this test is used to find out if a person is "crazy". However, is it truly known for being an accurate source of assessment? I wanted to find out if this test is profoundly well known with the people of NYC. I asked the common citizens of NYC to complete a questionnaire form on the knowledge of the Rorschach Test. I found that out of 97 people; only 27 knew about the Rorschach Test and only 16 were correct on the purpose of the test. My goal is to do more research to see how many practitioners use this test (within NYC) and if they believe it is accurate for diagnosing a mental disorder.

Room 616

Theme: Parental, Companionate, & Romantic Relationships

1:15-1:30

Text Messaging: Relationship Satisfaction, Frequency, and Style

Brandon E. Brown and Jonathan O'Hadi

Pace University

The current study addresses the gaps in the literature on the relationship between text messaging and relationship satisfaction. The study’s aim is to develop a more in-depth understanding of the importance of text message content (and perceived similarity of content) and frequency to relationship satisfaction scores, while accounting for attachment anxiety and avoidance as moderating variables. Through an online survey, we aimed to test the following hypotheses: 1. Greater text message frequency between partners will be correlated with higher relationship satisfaction scores and 2. Greater similarity between partners in text messaging content and frequency will be correlated with higher relationship satisfaction scores. We are recruiting individuals currently involved in romantic relationships, aged 18-29, through online forums and list serves. Our findings may be worthwhile to clinicians and couples in romantic relationships by drawing attention to the potential consequences of text messaging habits.

1:35-1:50

Through the Looking Glass: The effect of images on self esteem and body dissatisfaction

Danielle Pendarvis, Kayla Adens, Dr. Weihua Niu

Pace University

Western cultures have become more induced to the pressures of social media and have thus challenged the way in which we conduct our daily lives. The goal of this study is to further examine the way in which social media images affect body image and self-esteem among college students. A total of 60 college students (30 females) were randomly assigned into three different conditions, viewing different sets of pictures: thin shape, average shape, and overweight. They will then fill out a battery of questionnaires on body dissatisfaction, self-esteem as well as ideal image of self and partners. The results showed the condition affect the choice of ideal partner image. Implications are discussed.

1:55-2:10

Parenting Behavior Importance, Grit levels, and Perceptions of Parent’s Grit Level

Brian Andres Delgado

Parent Child Institute

A correlational study that looks to examine the relationship between and among three variables: young adult’s perceptions on the importance of parenting, young adult’s perception of their parent’s grit level, and young adult’s grit level. The second question of the research study is are there relationships among the three variables, previously mentioned, and demographic characteristics (e.g. young adult’s gender, ethnicity, GPA, parent’s gender/role, parent’s education level, and number of siblings). Lastly, the final question that the research will focus on is whether young adult’s grit levels as well as their perceptions of their parent’s grit levels, are associated with the sub-scales of the Parenting Behavior Importance Questionnaire Revised (PBIQ-R) (Mowder, 2007) (e.g. education, discipline, bonding, general welfare & protection, responsivity, sensitivity, and negativity)? The study will use four questionnaires, the PBIQ-R, Short Grit Scale (Grit-S) (Duckworth, & Quinn, 2009), the Modified Parent Grit-S Scale, and the Parenting and Grit Demographic Information questionnaire.

Room 617

Theme: Achievement, Creativity, & Aesthetics

1:15-1:30

New perspectives in the investigation of visual aesthetic sensitivity

Katherine Gonzalez, Ira Lowinger, Nils Myszkowski

Department of Psychology, Pace University

What makes individuals judge aesthetic value differently is actively researched in a variety of ways (e.g., Koide, Kubo, Nishida, Shibata, & Ikeda, 2015; Leder, Gerger, Dressler, & Schabmann, 2012; Silvia, 2007). But can it be conceived that some individuals make “better” judgments than others? In the visual domain, the classical and controversial 'T' (for Taste) paradigm – used in tests like the Visual Aesthetic Sensitivity Test (Götz, 1985) – consists in comparing one’s evaluative judgments of beauty with an external "standard" judgment – provided by consensual and/or expert agreement (Myszkowski, Storme & Zenasni, in press). We will present past and current investigations of visual “Taste” measures. While past investigations have focused on how ’T’ relates to intelligence and personality traits (Myszkowski, Storme, Zenasni & Lubart, 2014), the on-going research that we will present is focused how investigating ’T’ may help predict and develop imagination and creativity.

1:35-1:50

Measuring Imagination: Developing a multidimensional measure of cognitive and conative resources involved in imagination

Brianna Heuser, Catalina Mourgues, Baptiste Barbot

Pace University

Imagination is a multifaceted construct, involving multiple cognitive and conative processes that are at play when we use our imagination spontaneously or in response to stimuli in the environment. Specifically, environmental stimuli elicit various combinations of reactive or proactive imagined responses through reproductive or generative processes. Similar to creativity, imagination relies on both cognitive and conative components, including divergent and convergent thinking processes and personality traits. An “Imagination Profiler” (IP) assessment battery, which consists of both performance-based and self-report measures, was developed and piloted. Based on scores obtained, the IP aims to synthesize and describe an individual’s area of strengths and weaknesses in imagination, in order to provide tailored training. This presentation introduces the IP and illustrates its promise with preliminary pilot data. We then discuss implications of the use of the IP for future virtual reality training programs that are being developed to enhance essential aspects of imagination.

1:55-2:10

Developmental Patterns in Adolescent Creativity: Why the Task Matters

Michael Ferrara, Catalina Mourgues Ph.D, Emely Moreta, Baptiste Barbot Ph.D

Columbia University, Pace University, LIU Brooklyn, Yale University

Despite an established “4th grade slump” in divergent thinking, observations of discontinuous creativity development in later ages, especially around 9th grade, have not been consistent. This study examines age-group differences in three types of creative thinking tasks in order to explore variations in developmental patterns that may be attributed to the unique features of each task. Using a counter-balanced design, 630 participants (M= 13.1 years old) in 7th grade, 8th grade and High School were assigned to three groups and completed parallel versions of three tasks: a graphic and a verbal divergent thinking task, and a graphic convergent-integrative thinking task. Group analyses revealed inconsistent performance patterns in both age-group, creative process, and task-type. This suggests that developmental trends may result from task-specificity, more than a feature of creativity development. Implications for the study of creativity development in adolescence are discussed, including the need for new creative-potential measures and longitudinal designs.

2:15-2:30

Academic Achievement, Self-efficacy, and Illicit Stimulant Use

Nicole Lashiker, Dr.Kimberly Robinson

Hunter College

The current study aims to explore the relationship between academic achievement, and illicit stimulant use. Specifically, the study explored how self-efficacy paired with academic achievement influenced stimulant use. The researchers administered an online survey, which asked participants various questions about their demographics, stimulant use, academic variables, other responsibilities, economic prospects, test anxiety, academic stress, and self-efficacy in school. The study examined two hypotheses: 1) high academic achievement is associated with a higher likelihood of illicit stimulant use and 2) low self-efficacy is associated with a higher likelihood of illicit stimulant use. Statistical analyses supported both of these hypotheses. Past research has shown that high standards with regards to academic achievement and low self-efficacy promote the use of illicit stimulants. Identifying these patterns will help future studies examining how to reduce the use of these illicit stimulants, as well as to identify the larger percentage of users and promote awareness and knowledge on the use of these drugs.

Room 618

Theme: Cultural & International Issues

1:35-1:50

The Impact of Help Seeking Comfort on Perceived Stress and Social Support among International Students

Suchun Dong, B.A., Sonia Suchday, Ph.D

Pace University

Despite experiencing many challenges, international students are not comfortable with seeking help (Hunt & Eisenberg, 2010; Sherry, Thomas & Chui, 2010). Data from western samples indicate that help seeking comfort is correlated with lower perceived stress and stronger social support (Hobfoll, Shoham, & Ritter, 1991; Kaniasty& Norris, 2000). However, data on international college students are nonexistent. In current study, help seeking comfort, perceived stress, and social support were examined in a sample of international students (N=40, Age: M=24.94, SD=2.98; Asian=92.3%, Latino or Hispanic=2.6%, Other=5.1%, Christian=12.8%, Catholic=5.1%, Buddhist=5.1%, Hindu=5.1%, Other=71.8%). Data collection is ongoing. However, to date, data show that after adjusting for age, gender, ethnicity, religion, and English proficiency, help seeking comfort significantly predicted social support (β=.65, p<.01) and perceived stress (β=-.45, p<.01). Results indicate that help seeking comfort can strengthen social support and can also be considered a protective factor of perceived stress for international college students.

1:55-2:10

Global Trauma & Resilience: Lessons from Africa, Haiti & the Middle East

Mariam Ayvazian, Dr. Ani Kalayjian Teachers College, Columbia University

Meaningfulworld has responded to over two-and-a-half decades of global and local disasters and mass trauma helping transform tragedy and trauma into healing and meaning-making through posttraumatic growth, emotional intelligence, forgiveness, and mind-body-eco-spirit health. This symposium addresses local and global epidemics and offers insight into the development of remedies focused on individual and collective interventions that promote health, resilience, and peace through mind, body, and eco-spirit integration. We will present the purpose of our study, our findings and research we've conducted in Haiti, Africa and the Middle East. / / The Association for Trauma Outreach and Prevention (ATOP) Meaningfulworld’s global presence, which aims to raise consciousness and nurture resilience and sustainability among local and global communities, highlights perspectives from vulnerable and marginalized groups including children, women, and refugees. The results of this work address the ultimate question in resolving emotional and psychological scars and promoting, meaning, healing, hope, reconciliation and trust as per Dr. Kalayjian: “The only healthy and permanent means of resolution for past traumas is through healing past traumas, through spiritual connections, through love, forgiveness and acceptance and release.” This symposium addresses current local and global epidemics and offers insight into the development of remedies focused on collective and individual needs that promote health, unity, and peace through mind, body, and eco-spirit integration. We will place emphasis on transforming generational trauma, learning from the wisdom of our ancestors for resilience, and working on preventing suffering through promoting meaning-making and forgiveness.

2:15-2:30

A Bird without Wings: Linguistic and Cultural Maintenance in the New York Tibetan Community

Rebecca Smith

Pace University Dyson College of Arts and Sciences

My study examined the cultural and linguistic preservation of the Tibetan diaspora community in New York; whether culture and language was being successfully transmitted to youth and what steps were being taken to ensure this cultural transmission.

Room 619

Theme: Psychology of Politics

1:15-1:30

 Making sense of Trump’s religious intolerance. Is it his narcissism?

Kelvin Tyler, Karen Longmore, Ian Hansen, PhD

York College

Donald Trump has advocated a ban on Muslims entering the United States. This policy proposal is a concrete manifestation of religious intolerance, and yet Trump’s advocacy of this policy is curious as he does not comport himself like a deeply religious individual, or even like a traditional conservative. Psychologists often treat Trump as a classic narcissist. Could narcissism motivate religious intolerance? We examined a survey of religious, psychological and political attitudes. We investigated how a measure of narcissistic personality was correlated with religious intolerance as well as with other indices of religious devotion or conservative “coalitional” rigidity. We found that narcissistic personality was correlated positively with support for religious intolerance (including intolerance against Muslims specifically) and narcissism had a positive independent relationship with intolerance even when controlling for religiosity and coalitional rigidity. Dogmatism appeared to best mediate the relationship between narcissism and religious intolerance.

1:35-1:50

Is Trump a conservative, or just low on moral beauty engagement? Evidence for a dimension of political conflict independent of liberalism vs. conservatism

Mariame Soukoule, Abraham Dickey, Gabriela Cedillo, Marlinda King, Ian Hansen, PhD

York College

Donald Trump has become a problem for the Republican Party both because as front runner he is not a traditional conservative and also because he is so widely disliked that he is likely to lose a general election. If Trump is not a conservative, though, what political quadrant is he coming from? Analyzing data taken from a well-known political psychology survey website, we examined the relationship of (a) subclinical psychopathy, and (b) Moral Beauty Engagement (MBE) (Deissner et al, 2008) to indices of religion, ideology, moral foundations (Graham et al, 2009), and the subscales of the Schwartz Value Scale (Schwartz, 1992), as well as selected “liberal” vs. “conservative” policy positions. Psychopathy and MBE both intersected idiosyncratically, and in completely opposing ways, with these measures. Subclinical psychopaths and high MBEs shared some values in common with both liberals and conservatives. Psychopaths shared the values least central, and high MBEs shared the values most central, to the commonly-expressed moral worldviews of both liberals and conservatives. These findings suggest psychopathy vs. moral beauty engagement may be an independent dimension of political conflict, and one potentially relevant to understanding Trump’s candidacy.

1:55-2:10

Standard political discourse obscures religious support for equality

Denae Stallings, Abraham Dickey, Bennett Callaghan, Ian Hansen, PhD

York College

Does liberal vs. conservative framing of political conflict affect the egalitarian potential of religiosity? In five studies (n = 891), we randomly assigned participants to imagine either (1) a “moral vs. amoral” (MvA) divide: a society divided between those embracing or rejecting the five moral foundations identified by Haidt (2012)—Care, Fairness, Ingroup, Authority, Purity or (2) a “liberal vs. conservative” (LvC) divide: a society divided between those embracing Care and Fairness but not Ingroup, Authority and Purity, or vice versa. In all studies, intrinsic religiosity had a negative independent relationship to Social Dominance Orientation (SDO) when controlling for Right Wing Authoritarianism (RWA), but only in the MvA condition. This negative independent relationship was never evident (all |t|s < 1) in the LvC condition. We conclude there may be egalitarian potential in religiosity, but it becomes obscured under conditions of liberal vs. conservative framing of political conflict.

2:15-2:30

Who Needs Politics? : Social Policies and Human Needs as a Function of Political Orientation

Christopher Dunkak, Rob Foels

Stockton University

Research has supported the idea that liberals and conservatives have different values (Graham et al., 2009). This finding suggests that liberals and conservatives may view the hierarchy of human needs in different ways. We examined the importance that people place on needs as outlined in Abraham Maslow's (1943) theory, and Power Basis Theory (Pratto et al., 2010). Regression models showed that liberals and conservatives did not differ in the importance placed on needs (b < .08). However, there was a significant difference regarding policies to address needs. Liberals supported social policies such as free school lunches (b = .33), whereas conservatives did not (b = .06). These results have important implications for political discourse. The issue is not that liberals and conservatives see needs differently, the issue is that despite agreement on what needs are most important, conservatives reject social policies that would ensure that all have their needs met.

***POSTER SESSION PRESENTATIONS***

**9:20-10:20am**

***POSTER SESSION I*** Schimmel Lobby

Poster #1

The effect of maternal mental health on child-directed speech in parents of children with and without developmental delays

Elayne Nguyen, Josefina Flores

University of California, Los Angeles

Maternal stress and depression have been found to predict reductions in maternal speech and responsiveness, variables associated with child outcomes (Paulson et al., 2008, Raviv et al., 2004). However, researchers have not examined whether specific types of stress confer depression risk and, consequently, sub-optimal parent language. This study addresses the gap by including two sources of stress, parenting and life-events, to identify specific determinants of maternal depression and language. These relationships were examined in families of children with and without developmental delays (DD) to explore differences in vulnerability. Mothers completed questionnaires to assess parenting stress (e.g., the negative impact of parenting the child), life-event stress, and depressive risk. Parent language characteristics were derived from ongoing transcription of dyadic interactions at child age 3. Preliminary results (n=237) show a significant relationships between maternal depression and parenting stress, r=.36, p<.001, as well as life-event stress, r=.52, p<.001. Final analyses will connect stress to maternal language through the mediator of depressive symptoms.

Poster #2

Preschool Teachers Attitudes About Bullying Among Preschoolers

Elizabeth Domall, Elda Perez, Martha Mendez-Baldwin

Manhattan College

Bullying among preschool children has not received much research attention. Bullying behavior is typically associated with older kids; it is often overlooked during the younger years, when it's hard to tell the difference between normal social experimentation and emergent bullying behavior. Preschool teachers play an essential role in the identification of bullying in this age group. Preschool teachers must be able to differentiate between bullying behavior and normal social experimentation so that they can address the behavior and reduce the changes of continued bullying behavior. The purpose of this study was to assess preschool teachers' attitudes about bullying in preschool children. Participants completed a survey measuring attitudes toward bullying among preschoolers. Results show 64.3 % of the participants have not attended bully prevention training yet 89.3% believe that bully prevention should start at the preschool level. 53.6% have observed bullying behavior and 71.4 % have observed social aggression among preschoolers.

Poster 3

Cupid’s Target- Does the Color Red Influence Our Perceptions of Attractiveness?

Claribel Lizardo

St. Francis College

 This study examined how the color red influences people’s perceptions of the attractiveness of potential mates. Ninety-five female participants were presented with 12 photos of potential mates, repeating on red, orange, and blue logos. Participants were asked to rate the pictures on a scale of 1 to 7, 1 = extremely unattractive 7= extremely attractive. Results showed no difference in ratings of the pictures based on the color of the bullseye background F(2,270) = 0.056, p = .946. However, the researchers pose suggestions for future investigators.

Poster 4

The Effects of Music on Academic Performance: Instrumental vs. Lyrical

Laudia Joseph, Nyesha Graham, Diep Vu, Isabella Perez-Santalla, Raphael Gomes, and Frank Todaro

St. Francis College

This study investigated the effect of lyrical music versus instrumental music on academic performance. Other studies investigating this subject have found conflicting evidence. Some studies have found that music is beneficial to academic performance while others show that it can negatively influence academic performance or have no beneficial or negative influences. In this study, participants (N=93) completed a reading comprehension exam while listening to either lyrical or instrumental music. Performance on the reading comprehension was compared between the two groups and used to determine the impact of lyrical versus instrumental music on academic performance. The researcher’s hypothesized that the participants exposed to lyrical music will perform poorly on the reading comprehension in comparison to the participants in the instrumental condition. The results were not significant, t(91) = -1.478, p = .276, failing to support researcher’s hypothesis. Overall, there was no statistically significant differences or correlations.

Poster 5

Co-Rumination and Cardiovascular Reactivity

Nicole Casio

Pace University

Co-rumination is defined as “extensively discussing and revisiting problems, speculating about problems, and focusing on negative feelings” (Rose, 2002). This externalizing of negative feelings between individuals is correlated with increased stress hormone levels, increased depressive symptoms and increased self-report of higher quality relationships (Craven, Geary, Rose, & Ponzi, 2007; Byrd-Craven, Granger, & Auer, 2010; Rose, Carlson, & Waller, 2007). However, other studies have pointed to co-rumination being more effective than self-disclosure in mediating both the depression and anxiety contagion effect, which points to the biopsychosocial benefits co-rumination may hold (Schwartz-Mette & Rose, 2012). The social support built from co-ruminating has also been reported to buffer depressive symptoms altogether (Guassi Moreira, Miernicki, & Telzer, 2016). The literature on co-rumination and its related consequences tend to contradict one another as the positive and negative consequences of co-rumination are explored. In particular, the data on cardiovascular reactivity with co-rumination is absent from the available literature, which begs the question: how co-ruminating affects blood pressure if the consequences are so highly argued. It is hypothesized individuals who co-ruminate will initially have reactivity to stressors that correlate similarly with ruminating individuals, though co-ruminating individuals will have a faster return to resting heart-rate than their ruminating counterparts. Research and data collecting is still ongoing.

Poster 6

Does the Color Pink Have an Effect on Attraction?

Toni Ann Cappello, Kernie Falaise, Barbara Louijean, Deirdre Maher, Amanda Raiola.

St. Francis College

The present study tested if the color pink affected attraction. Researchers used different colored paper with a picture of a moderately attractive male and female. A questionnaire was given out to examine and compare if pink had an effect on the attraction of the individuals. The study consisted of 132 St. Francis College students. Researchers found that the participants were between the ages of 19 and 35 and had a variation of majors. Researchers hypothesized that pink would be significant in increasing attraction. The results showed there was no significance between pink and attraction therefore rejecting the alternative hypothesis. The limitations of this study included the restricted variation of participants, the type of picture was only a headshot, and researchers did not take personal preferences into account.

Poster 7

Perceived Characteristics of Male and Female Victims and Perpetrators of Sexual Assault

Kayla J. Grieco, Caitlin Cooper, Gwendolyn L. Gerber

John Jay College of Criminal Justice, CUNY

Sexual assault is widely studied in psychology. Much of the research to date has focused on blame attribution and rape myths (e.g. “she asked for it”). However, not many studies thus far have examined the perception of personal attributes for both the victim and perpetrator of a sexual assault scenario. The present study looked at the personal characteristics of the victim and the perpetrator and how they are perceived. The personal characteristics included: intelligence, sexual attractiveness, psychological adjustment, school performance, and social life. Since being the perpetrator of a sexual assault is publicly viewed an undesirable attribute, it was hypothesized that the victim would be rated more positively than the perpetrator on all scales. Results indicated that the perpetrator was in fact rated less positively than the victim. There were several significant interactions between the gender of the perpetrator/victim and their scale ratings.

Poster 8

The Effect of Conformity on Academic Dishonesty

Alexa Caporuscio, Armani Harper, Olivia Levey, Milica Mladjenovic, Donnaree Wynter, Lisa Donnelle

St. Francis College

What effect does group conformity have on an individual’s willingness to participate in academically dishonest behaviors? The following study was conducted to gather information regarding these variables. Participants partaking in the experiment were undergraduate students from St. Francis College. Students were randomly given a test that did or did not contain predetermined answers. Students were tested to see whether or not they would conform to the predetermined answers given in an academic environment. Researchers predicted that the students involved in the experiment would select the answers provided, demonstrating conformity. Participants who took the test with predetermined answers, on average, conformed to the answers provided.

Poster 9

Surrealist Animation and the Developing Mind: A Pilot Study

Jeff Epes

Pace University

In various chat rooms, social media, and internet forums that discus cartoons, curious or errant eyes may encounter much discussion about a new "golden era" of cartoons emerging in the past half-decade. However, looking past these opinions, heated debates, and the occasional interjection of less-than-civil discourse about these modern cartoons, evaluation of the new era's characteristically psychotropic animation is almost nonexistent. While it is far outside the scope of psychology to evaluate the quality of a cartoon's artwork or compare it to works of era’s bygone, the matter may be of interest to professionals seeking to illustrate trends in child development.

Poster 10

The Lives and Relationships of Individuals Who Identify as Asexual: An Exploratory Study of Asexuality

Marie Basile, Chelsea Buranich, Cady Wullenweber

Pace University

Asexual individuals make up only 1% of the world’s population – because of this, there has been little psychological research conducted with this population. The aim of our research is to describe multiple aspects of asexuality. We will test the hypotheses that there are positive correlations of age and education levels with online dating attitudes, negative correlations of social support with symptoms of depression and anxiety, and negative correlations of levels of sexual identity outness with symptoms of depression and anxiety. We have been recruiting asexual individuals aged 18 and over through social media, list serves, and online asexuality forums to participate in an online survey. Ideally, this research will bring greater visibility and inclusion to asexual individuals around the world.

Poster 11

A Pilot Study on an Observational Child Temperament Scale: Current Status and Future Implications

Yael Moskowitz, Jany Hernandez, Rochelle Friedman, Kevin Rustam, Steve Salbod, M.A., Mark Sossin, Ph.D.

Pace University

Previous research in infant temperament suggests a multifaceted interaction of verbal and nonverbal modes of communication. While some research focuses on the extremes of infant reactivity, scales such as Mary Rothbart’s infant behavior questionnaire-revised break down infant temperament into up to 16 differing aspects. However, existing infant temperament measurements are largely based on parent self-report. This current study focuses on the development of an observational temperament scale utilizing Mary Rothbart's categories of infant temperament. Future research in the field, including the ongoing study of parent-infant interactions accounting for temperamental factors, will benefit from the developed observational infant temperament scale.

Poster 12

The Acceptability and Effectiveness of a Psycho-educational Training on Parent-Adolescent Communication for Immigrant Parents.

Anindita Rao, Suchun Dong

Pace University

Ethnic minority, immigrant youth experience higher rates of mental health concerns compared to their non-Hispanic, White counterparts (Brice, et al., 2014; Potochnick & Perreira, 2010; Artani & Liu, 2015). Positive family-adolescent interactions are considered protective factors in the development of internalizing disorders such as anxiety and depression (Kim, Chen, Li, Huang & Moon, 2009; Huang, Cheng, Calzada & Brotman, 2012). However, the effectiveness and acceptability of preventative programs for ethnic minority, immigrant populations has not been researched. The current study evaluated the acceptability and effectiveness of a psycho-educational training that focused on improving parent-adolescent communication among parents of ethnic minority, immigrant youth. The training was culturally adapted to meet their needs. Data collection is ongoing. To date, data collected post-training, indicate that parents (n=15) found the training to be highly acceptable (M=4.40, SD=.67) and effective (M=4.40, SD=.50) at increasing their knowledge of how to positively communicate with their adolescents.

Poster 13

Supporting the LGB Community

Jonelle Banaszak, Darrah Ferguson, Anita Osinski

Pace University

Lesbian, gay and bisexual (LGB) individuals are more likely to suffer psychological distress. LGB individuals in supportive communities are less likely to commit suicide, and having a gay-straight alliance (GSA) creates a healthier school climate. Our study aims to test whether having a solid family support system, being in an open-minded community, and having a GSA at one’s school is beneficial to the well-being of LGB individuals. We hypothesize that having an in-school GSA and living in a liberal state are associated with greater sexual identity outness. Additionally, we hypothesize that less parental support after coming out is associated with greater disordered eating habits. We recruited 210 participants over the age of 18 and identifying as LGB through online postings for an online survey. Results of this study can potentially be used to bring about change in parental acceptance, community attitudes, and the availability of GSA’s to students.

Poster 14

Influence of Perceived Racial-Ethnic Diversity and Gender Bias on Academic Self-Efficacy

Ashleigh Deosaran, Danielle Alfieri

Pace University

While progress has been made to increase the presence of racial-ethnic and gender minorities in academia, a lack of diversity and persisting biased views still pervade the educational system. This correlational study aims to determine whether students differ in perceived racial-ethnic diversity and experiences of gender bias, and how these differences impact academic self-efficacy. We recruited 102 college students to complete an online survey measuring perceived racial-ethnic diversity and gender bias experiences, as well as academic self-efficacy. We are analyzing data using bivariate correlations and regression analyses. We hypothesize that there are differences in perceived racial-ethnic diversity and experiences of gender bias based on students’ racial-ethnic and gender identities respectively, and that level of academic self-efficacy correlates with perceived racial-ethnic diversity and awareness of gender bias. This study will raise awareness about how these factors impact students and promote policies that help address issues of diversity and bias in education.

Poster 15

Cultivating Mindfulness for Psychological Well-being: Mindfulness Meditation as a Stress and Anxiety Reducer among College Students

Heeyewon Jeong, Kimberly Robinson

Hunter College of the City University of New York

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

Poster 16

Examining the Cardiovascular Recovery Effects of Coloring Following Negative Affect Provocation

Hanna Verhoeven

Pace University

Ruminating on experiences that provoke negative affective states has been associated with detrimental mental and physical health outcomes, such as depression, anxiety and cardiovascular problems (Key et al., 2008; Morrison & O’Connor, 2005; Roelofs et al., 2009). Distraction techniques have been associated with decreased rumination, resulting in healthier outcomes such as faster cardiovascular recovery following provocation (Blagden & Craske, 1996; Key et al., 2008; Roelofs et al., 2009). Coloring pre-drawn figures, notably mandala shapes, has been shown to be an effective distraction technique for reducing self-reported negative affect, however there is a lack of empirical research regarding the effect of coloring on cardiovascular recovery following provocation (Curry & Kasser, 2005; Muthard & Gilbertson, 2016). The aim of the proposed study is to examine the cardiovascular recovery effects of coloring pre-drawn mandalas after provocation of negative affect in the laboratory.

Poster 17

The survival value of emotions

Nana Hawa Bagigah

Borough of Manhattan Community College

Animal and human reflexes and emotions have survival value. All basic emotions target one common objective -- survival of the organism. Dr. Izard differentiate six basic emotions" after this introduction continue. 1.Anger: Anger is most often aroused by frustrating or insulting acts that seem willful and unjustified. Expressing anger may be temporarily calming, but can actually arouse more anger. 2.Sadness: Is an emotional pain associated with, or characterized by feelings of disadvantage, loss, despair, grief, helplessness. 3.Disgust: A strong feeling of disapproval and dislike that has a very unpleasant smell, taste, appearance etc. 4.Fear: An unpleasant emotion caused by the belief that someone or something is dangerous, likely to cause pain, or a threat. 5.Interest: A feeling of having ​your ​attention ​held by something, or of ​wanting to be ​involved with and ​learn more about something: 6.Joy: The feeling of great happiness

Poster 18

Exploring the multidimensionality of parental self-efficacy and its relation to children's school readiness

Lillian Maltz

New York University

Parental self-efficacy (PSE) – the confidence parents have in their parenting skills – is an influential construct that shapes children’s development. In particular, the preschool years are a time when children are incredibly sensitive to the influence of their homes and families as parents are playing a critical role in helping their children gain the tools they need to succeed in school. Previous research has established significant relations between PSE and children’s academic outcomes, but few have measured PSE multi-dimensionally, looking at the different domains and tasks of parenting. The current study explored the multidimensionality of PSE in 94 caregivers and the school readiness of their preschool children who attend a preschool center in the Bronx. Differences in PSE occurred between parents born in the United States and those who had immigrated. Using linear regression analyses, findings indicated that certain parenting domains predict children’s school readiness skills while others do not.

Poster 19

Impact of Acculturative Stress and Perceived Social Network Support on Asian Immigrants’ Mental Health: A Moderated-Mediation Analysis

Christie A. Kim, Anthea Chan, Clare L. Clingain

New York University

Research has shown the interactive impact of acculturative stress and social support on mental health among immigrant populations. Asian immigrants, in particular, report higher levels of acculturative stress in comparison to other racial-ethnic groups, and may experience a meaningful shift in the perception of social network support when acculturating from a collectivist society to one marked by individualism. The present study examines the relations between acculturative stress, social support, and mental health symptoms among a sample of 197 first- and second-generation Asian immigrant young adults. Results showed perceived social network support to be a significant mediator of the negative impact of acculturative stress on mental health symptoms. Furthermore, a moderated mediation analysis revealed the model to be significant for first-generation, but not second-generation, Asian immigrants.

Poster 20

Intimacy and Relationships in Children of Divorce

Nicole Casio, Cassidy Macca

Pace University

The purpose of this study was to determine if there is a relationship between divorce (and the reasons for divorce) and the romantic relationships of the adult children of divorce. We examined the following reasons for parental divorce: infidelity, abuse, money/finances, and long-term differences. We were interested to see if parents who divorced because of infidelity influenced their children's views on intimacy and love more than those that divorced due to the other stated reasons. Participants were Pace University undergraduate and graduate between the ages of 18-25.

Poster 21

Mental Health Stigma in Psychology Majors

Anna Crawford

Pace University

A survey was created and conducted to see whether or not psychology majors differed from non-psychology majors in levels of stigma against the mentally ill. Past research on medical and psychology professionals and their stigma against the mentally ill has been mixed. Some studies suggest they hold no more stigma than the average person, while other suggest they may hold more. By studying stigma levels in college students we wanted to test if 1) There was a difference in levels of stigma? and 2) If there was a difference, what type of difference it was? The information could help to understand how stigma develops in different learning circles and could be used to further anti-mental health stigma measures in educational settings. Should psyche majors show a higher level of stigma, the research could also be used to try to understand and decrease mental health stigma in mental health professionals.

Poster 22

The Effect of Anti-Piracy Interventions on Desire to Pirate Digital Content

Gregory MacVicar, Cassandra Chirieac

Pace University

Our study aims to answer two questions: “Why do people digitally pirate?” and “What ways can one prevent digital piracy?” In trying to answer the first question, we looked at the literature to see what drives people to pirate. In most studies on digital piracy, we found some common themes that narrowed it down to four reasons. These reasons for digital piracy are Moral Intent (Is digital piracy morally permissible?), Economic Intent (Do people digitally pirate out of necessity?), Perceived Harm (Are people harming the livelihood of others?), and Perceived Risk (Are people at risk of punishment if they commit digital piracy?). These four topics are what the average person considers when they are about to commit piracy. When answering the second question, content creators tend to use three methods of anti-piracy intervention: show someone statistics on piracy, show them an anti-piracy advertisement, and show them celebrity testimonials on digital piracy. We wanted to determine which anti-piracy interventions are the most effective and what kind of anti-piracy interventions influence which reasons for digital piracy.

Poster 23

Facial Attractiveness: Exploring the Averageness Theory

Gina Piro

St. Francis College

Facial attractiveness plays an essential role in the lives of human beings, from establishing romantic bonds to being accepted for job positions. Previous research has led to the formation of an “averageness hypothesis,” the idea that human beings universally prefer faces which are close to average rather than visibly distinct. This study investigated the averageness theory in two main ways: firstly, by pinning individual images against composite images, and secondly, by pinning average composites representing an entire sample against composites of those previously rated as attractive. Six photographic sequences, each including an Average Individual, Attractive Individual, Unattractive Individual, Average Composite, and Attractive Composite, were presented to 50 college students, who identified the most attractive image in each sequence. The results revealed a significant preference for Attractive Composites over all other categories (χ²(4, n = 50) = 440.77, p < .05). This finding lends some support toward the averageness theory, but also suggests that additional factors may influence perceptions of facial attractiveness.

Poster 24

Is CRT A Measure of: IQ, Numeracy Ability, or Susceptibility to Cognitive Biases

Zoya Hamayun & Alison Botti

Pace University

The cognitive reflect test (CRT; Frederick, 1993), is a brief (3 question) test that requires the ability to override an automatic intuitive response in order to reason out the proper response to test items. It has been researched extensively, but there is debate about what the CRT is a measure of: intelligence, personality style, numeracy ability, or susceptibility to cognitive biases. The purpose of this study is to investigate what best predicts performance on the CRT. Participants were presented with a series of cognitive/personality tests (e.g., a processing speed test, a numeracy test, etc). The order of each test was randomized. It is predicted that CRT is more a measure of numerical ability, and is a test that is limited to numerical biases.

Poster 25

Examining the Relationship between Coping Style Awareness and Trait Anxiety

Laurie Resnick

Pace University

Research has indicated that stress has a negative effect on the body and mind. Chronic stress may have a causal relationship with the development of coronary artery disease (Strike & Steptoe, 2004) and mental health disorders (APA 2012). Individuals have different levels of awareness of the stress they are experiencing. Early research indicated that individuals’ self-reports of anxiety or stress may not be consistent with behavioral or physiological indices (Weinberger, Schwartz, & Davidson, 1979). Insight into levels of anxiety/stress may enhance effective coping. The proposed study will design an experimental paradigm to evaluate awareness of physiological arousal associated with stress/anxiety.

Poster 26

Effect of experience with racial prejudice on trust in the media

Melody Estevez

Pace University

The media is a focal point in this society, but the perception of this institution varies for every single individual based on their own history. The relationship between the audience and the media must be addressed and dissected. In recent years, tension has risen in the United States with an increase in violent altercations between police and minorities. This study sought to understand the way’s one’s experience with racial prejudice effects their perceptions and attitudes towards the media’s reporting on race and crime. The purpose of this study was to obtain rates of trust in a given news clip and find the correlation between past experiences with racial prejudice. ​

Poster 27

Does Instagram Have an Effect on Women in Today’s Society?

Monica Cristo

Pace University

For this experiment, the negative effects of social media in young female college students, ages 18-25, are being studied. Specifically, whether Instagram, a picture sharing website, influences females feelings and thoughts about their physical appearance. Three different groups of 30 participants were investigated. The first group of participants will take a survey after viewing their own Instagram account. The next group of participants will take a survey after viewing a fake Instagram account. The provided Instagram account will have photos of popular celebrities, makeup gurus and fitness models. By allowing these participants to view this Instagram account before answering the survey questions, it will show whether or not it has influenced their thoughts and feelings about self-image. Lastly, the final group taking the survey will be those who do not use Instagram, but may or may not have another form of social media such as Facebook or Twitter.

Poster 28

Entering the World of Autism: A Pilot Training for Addressing the Needs of Children and Adolescents with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)

Krystin A. Biscardi, Kenji Takeda

Pace University

Due to the increased prevalence of ASD (CDC, 2013), and consequently, the rise in the number of students with ASD entering the mainstream educational system (e.g., Soto, Pooley, Cohen, & Taylor, 2012), school-based providers face significant challenges in meeting the needs of these youth within an inclusive setting. In order to address this need, a pilot training was developed for school-based providers. This training sought to provide empirically validated findings related to the characteristics, unique neuropsychological functioning, and mental health issues associated with the ASD population as well as an introduction to evidence-based treatments for youth with ASD. A consultative component was included for counselors and teachers. Surveys, designed for the purposes of this study, were provided to assess the perceived usefulness and applicability of the training. Data collection is ongoing. However, preliminary data will be presented, lessons learned, and future directions will be discussed.

Poster 29

Underlying Mechanisms of Mindfulness on Psychological Well-Being and Health Outcomes

Danielle Stein

Pace University

Research has shown that diverse mindfulness interventions have a positive impact on psychological well-being and health among diverse populations and settings (Goldstein, Josephson, Xie, & Hughes, 2012; Bluth & Blanton, 2013). Among college students mindfulness interventions affect psychological (e.g., decrease perceived stress, rumination), and physical health (blood pressure) (Brown & Ryan, 2003; Zeidan, Johnson, Gordon, & Goolkasian, 2010). Increased awareness may contribute to enhanced mindfulness and have a direct impact on blood pressure. The current experimental study assesses the impact of a novel intervention – mindful focus on feelings on increasing mindfulness (Five Facet Mindfulness Questionnaire; Mindful Attention Awareness Scale) and decreasing blood pressure following an 8-minute provocation.

**2:35 – 3:35pm *POSTER SESSION II*** Schimmel Lobby

Poster 30

Mary Cover Jones: “Mother of Behavior Therapy”

Sarah J. Davis, Taylor Gentile, Florence Denmark, PhD

Pace University

This poster presents a brief biography of Mary Cover Jones. Her research on conditioning with little Peter was the last student research, behaviorist, John B. Watson supervised. A brief outline of the Little Peter experiment is presented. In addition, Jones’ later contributions to Psychology are mentioned.

Poster 31

Power of perception: Will positive experiences change negative perceptions of “pit bulls”?

Jennifer Smith, Martina Holmes

Pace University

The purpose of this study is to see if people’s perception of the breed known as "pit bulls" will remain the same or change based upon different modalities of receiving information about the breed. The different ways of receiving information about the breed are through written information or audio-visual information. This is an important area of study because breed-specific legislation tends to be stricter with this breed in comparison to others. Therefore co-investigators Jennifer Smith and Martina Holmes seek to understand which method of receiving information alters people’s perception of this breed dramatically, which can help aid in less severe breed-specific legislation if presented on a larger scale.

Poster 32

Evidence for "Felt Disadvantage" as Measurement of Poverty

Lucy Connor

University of Massachusetts Boston

Studies suggest the importance of measuring poverty through multiple indicators. In addition, studies have shown significant inequality related health disparities, highlighting the importance of felt poverty/disadvantage. In the current study, we examined the extent to which self-reported income, material, and social resource deprivation predict two psychological indicators of poverty: feeling looked down upon and feeling isolated. Data was collected using a self-report demographic questionnaire from a sample of 94 adults. Hierarchical linear regression analyses showed that perceived support (beta = -.209, p = .036) and parent material resource deprivation (beta = .501, p <. 001) were significantly associated with feeling isolated. For feeling looked down upon, income (beta = -.330, p = .004) and child material resource deprivation (beta = .261, p = .047) were significant predictors. The results demonstrate that feeling isolated and feeling looked down upon have unique relations with more concrete indicators of poverty and social exclusion.

Poster 33

Objective Measures of Sleep Quality Predict Subjective Mood States

Rachel Parroco, Caroline Kelly, Gina Marie Mathew

Baruch College-CUNY

Research demonstrates that sleep restriction increases subjective negative affect (Babson et al., 1997). Our study examined the relationship between objective sleep quality measures and mood among rested participants (n = 19). Sleep time and sleep awakenings were measured through actigraphy in students sleeping at home. The following morning, participants completed the Profile of Mood States-Short Form (Shacham, 1983). Greater mean sleep awakening length significantly predicted less vigor (p = .046) and more confusion (p = .008) and less sleep time significantly predicted greater depression (p = .024); and in findings trending toward significance, predicted less vigor (p = .095) and more fatigue (p = .080). These findings show the effects of normally occurring sub-clinical poor quality sleep on the elevation of negatively-valenced mood states. Negative mood states caused by poor quality sleep may have detrimental effects on interpersonal relations, engagement in activities, and quality of life.

Poster 34

Parenting in Chinese parents who were raised in only child households

Suchun Dong

Pace University

Since the one-child policy was initiated in China in 1979, Chinese families have undergone great changes from their traditional system of child rearing and family dynamics, which affects family interaction, particularly parent-child relationships. Today, many of those only children, conceived during the one child policy, have become parents themselves. The question is how are those individuals now conceptualizing and behaving as parents. In other words, how does the way they were parented influence their current parenting beliefs and, if parents themselves, their parenting behaviors. This research aims to explore parenting in young Chinese parents who were raised in only child households. Specifically, the focus of this research is to measure these individuals’ retrospective accounts of their experiences of being parented (perceived parenting behaviors) and their current parenting importance beliefs in anticipating or having their own child. Additionally, the relationship between parenting importance beliefs and perceived parenting behaviors will be examined.

Poster 35

Access to meditation learning for the deaf community with digital-age teaching /

Qalvy Grainzvolt, Maren Westphal

Pace University

This poster examines the use of technology to modify instruction in mindfulness to aid individuals with hearing disabilities who are interested in learning mindfulness-based practices. A review of extant literature on the topic of meditation in the deaf and hard of hearing (DHH) community reveals minimal previous research.  We provide a case example illustrating how digital technology can help teach mindfulness to individuals with acquired deafness. The first author created a meditation narrative that was visually broadcast for the client to view during the meditation learning session.  After six months, the client reported self-esteem improvement and increased ability to cultivate an intentional response to emotional distress rather than defaulting to a reactive stance to bypass negative affect. This case example highlights the need for research into alternative methods of teaching meditation practices to underserved populations such as individuals with disabilities.

Poster 36

The effects of Classical and Electronic Dance Music on short term memory recall

Sara Samuels, Apoorva Muthukumar

Pace University

Music surrounds people in everyday life and is used for many reasons. The purpose of this study is to examine the effect of music genres on memory recall in college students and adults. A total of 45 participants (F=30, M=15; ages between 18-45) were randomly assigned to either listen to classical music, Electronic dance music or no music, while conducting a memory recall test. The study will use the Memory Support Rating scale to measure the participants’ memory. Participants are asked to recall lists of monosyllabic and polysyllabic words and then recall them electronically in a specified time fram. The data concluded that there is a difference between the three groups; more specifically the Electronic Dance Music group exhibited higher retention levels than others. The findings will be further discussed in the results section.

Poster 37

Social and Emotional Predictors of Environmental Sustainability

Rose Deng

Baruch College

This study assessed predictors of sustainable attitudes and behaviors (SAB). 163 female and 148 male Baruch undergraduates responded to a survey measuring SAB and fear of future environmental disasters (FFED). Preliminary results found a positive relationship between FFED and sustainable attitudes. As FFED increases, students increasingly report they can take actions to reduce/stop the effects of climate change. No significant relationship between FFED and one’s belief that they alone can make a difference. FFED may activate people to take action, especially when they perceive others to be taking action. This finding is valuable since fear has been considered to be immobilizing. When sustainable action is perceived as collective, participants increasingly report that they are able to combat these issues. Future analyses will examine the effects of fear and communal action on measurable behaviors that facilitate environmental protection.

Poster 38

The Role of Parenting and Early Puberty on Disruptive Behavior Problems in African American Girls

Hope White

New York University

Adolescent girls’ DBP are associated with higher risk for juvenile justice system involvement and other mental health problems (Zahn et al., 2010). Early puberty increases risk for girls’ development of DBP (e.g., Haynie, 2003). Parenting practices are implicated in both early puberty and DBP. Further, it is crucial to examine the influence of parenting on DBP in African American girls, as they tend to develop earlier than their peers of other races (Wu, Mendola, & Buck, 2002) and are disproportionately exposed to risky contexts associated with early puberty and DBP (e.g., Lang et al., 2010). This longitudinal study examines whether parental monitoring and disapproval predict DBP and whether this combination of parenting practices is riskier for early developers. Data are drawn from a sample of 256 African American girls and their caregivers. Results will be discussed in relation to the development of interventions for the treatment and prevention of DBP.

Poster 39

The Relationship Between Grade Point Average, Academic Self-Efficacy, and Stimulant Use

Yvonne Tapia, Nicole Lashiker

CUNY Hunter College

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

Poster 40

Jealousy, Self Esteem, & Social Media

Hamza Hami, Dailin Mendez, Jamie Miller,

St. Francis

This study was conducted to determine whether Instagram or Facebook elicit more jealousy. This study was also set up to measure how self-esteem is affected by viewing Instagram and Facebook profiles. Participants were exposed to one out of four conditions by being shown one Facebook or one Instagram profile. Our results showed that our hypothesis was somewhat proven true. Participants who viewed the upward comparison profile on both Instagram and Facebook answered with higher levels of jealousy on some of the jealousy questions. The Instagram profile provoked higher feelings of inferiority compared to Facebook, which proved our hypothesis correct.

Poster 41

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

Simran Tak, Dr. Kimberly Robinson

Hunter College of the City University of New York

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

Poster 42

Immigrants at risk can be identified by their attachment style

Marta Balogh

Hunter College

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

Poster 43

Alcohol Consumption and Coping

Kerleen Jean

Pace University

Stress induces thoughts about alcohol and increases alcohol’s rewarding value in drinkers who use alcohol to cope with negative affect. The aim of this study is to further investigate whether or not people use alcohol as a way to cope stress. Coping was measured against five different measures including avoidance, seeking help, withdrawal, self-blame, and hostile reaction. Using an Alcohol Consumption Questionnaire and a Coping Mechanism Scale to a sample of 50 participants over the age of 21, the study found out alcohol assumption was associated differently with different types of coping strategies, and such relationship was also moderated by gender and ethnicity. Implications are discussed.

Poster 44

Cross-Cultural Examination of Depressive Rumination in College Students: Brooding vs Reflection

Simin Ghahghahi

Pace University

Rumination in college students has been an important topic of discussion and has been studied by researchers for many years. This presentation will be focusing on depressive rumination and its two subtypes: brooding and rumination. There have been studies done on how gender, mental disorders, etc. play a role in rumination, but there is little research on how race, ethnicity, and culture play a role in rumination; depressive rumination to be specific. The purpose of this literature review is to provide a comprehensive review of how culture plays a role in type of rumination a person uses. This paper will provide a review of how culture plays a role in type of rumination a person uses and will compare results of studies done from people in the United States versus people in other countries such as Japan, Russia, and the United Kingdom.

Poster 45

Student Loans: Are They Worth It?

Samantha Congiusta, Josefa Forcina, and Christopher Godfrey, PhD

Pace University

Research suggests that the amount of student loan debt can have a profound impact on a graduate’s life, negatively impacting physical and mental health. An increasingly number of college students are borrowing substantial amounts to finance their education. One hundred current college students completed surveys measuring their institutional happiness, future degree satisfaction, and anxiety. Significant differences appeared for future degree satisfaction and student anxiety levels. There were no significant differences on institutional happiness among these three groups. These results suggest that the amount of student’s loans may contribute to the decrease in future degree satisfaction and the increase in student anxiety.

Poster 46

Reality Television: A Stereotype Trap?

Ciara Farrow, Amber Fernandez

Pace University

Internalized sexism among women remains persistent across women of all ages. Furthermore, the portrayal of women in media is a possible catalyst for competition and negative attitudes among women. We examined 45 female university students to determine if reality television (RT) could increase relational aggression among its viewers, and cause an increase in negative implicit attitudes about race and ethnicity. Utilizing a test-retest method, participants were randomly assigned to either the neutral or experimental condition, given an Implicit Association test (IAT) and an aggression measure. There were meaningful differences in implicit association between the two conditions. These findings suggest that RT may be a social trap, fueling negative stereotyping and aggression among women.

Poster 47

Social media usage and interpersonal communication skills

Jared Ahmed, Loreen Baksh, Weihua Niu, Ph.D.

Pace University

A total of 59 participants (43 females) completed a series of surveys examining the effects of social media (consumption, styles, engagement, and feeling of belonging) on interpersonal communication skills in real life. The results found no correlation between use of social media and interpersonal communication skills. However, we did find that there is a positive association between social media engagement and feelings of belonging to social media. Implications are discussed.

Poster 48

Perceived Parenting Styles and Anxiety Among Children

Brittany Marti, David Callender

Pace University

A total of 75 college students aged between above the age of 18 (55 female) participated in a study investigating the relationship between perceived parenting styles (authoritative, passive, and authoritarian) and anxiety. We hypothesized that (1) authoritarian parenting would have a positive correlation with anxiety and (2) authoritative parenting would have a negative correlation with anxiety. The results supported only the second hypothesis. In addition, we also found gender differences in anxiety, with females being higher than males. The relationship between authoritative parenting and anxiety was also moderated by gender. Specifically, the relationship was stronger for males than for females. Hierarchical multiple regression was also performed to examine the relative contribution of demographics (gender and income) and parenting styles, and the results showed that parenting can explain 22.4% of variance even when the demographics are controlled. Implications are discussed.

Poster 49

Why Study? Engagement, Disaffection and Academic Performance Among Undergraduate College Students

Travis Jordan, Christie Soule, Dr. Godfrey

Pace University

In 2012 nearly twenty percent of undergraduate college students who had been accepted into their programs had either failed to get their degree in four years or had dropped out of school. Undergraduate students who drop out of college display signs of disengagement, which has a direct relationship with their grade point average. Behavioral engagement refers to overt behavior, such as active class participation, effort and attention during classroom activities; whereas emotional engagement more strongly refers to psychological experience, such as interest, enthusiasm, and (lack of) boredom. While disaffection is more than the opposite of engagement. Disaffection refers to occurrence of behaviors and emotions that reflect maladaptive motivational states. We administered a survey of disaffection, engagement, and grade point average to Undergraduate Pace University students. We propose that the results will suggest that there is a direct relationship between a student’s grade point average and their, displayed, level of disaffection or engagement.

Poster 50

Correlation Study: Self Diagnosis between Grade Status in Undergraduate and Graduate Psychology Students

Anna Makhnovsksaya, Jacqueline Yashayev

Pace University

College students training to be health professionals are inclined to develop flawed beliefs that they have the disorders they are studying. This is known as hypochondriasis. We surveyed 100 psychology majors, undergraduates and graduates, on their knowledge of psychology and their recent experience with self-diagnosis of mental health conditions. There was no relationship between class status and the belief about understanding general psychology. Students’ tendency to self-diagnose did not differ across college level, even though perceived knowledge of psychology decreased from freshmen to graduate students. Freshmen tend to be overconfident with their knowledge of psychology, whereas juniors, seniors and graduate students show to have more appropriate confidence levels. These results suggest that there maybe other factors behind, student’s tendency to self-diagnose.

Poster 51

Comparison of Diagnosis and Treatment of Major Depressive Disorders between Pakistan and the United States

Hina J. Siddiqui

Pace University

There has been immense research on the diagnosis and treatment of major mood disorders like major depressive disorder in the United States and I would like to draw a clear and concise association and comparison between the methods used in the United States with the methods used in Pakistan. Beginning with describing and defining depression, being the mood disorders that I will be focusing and I will also like to focus on some of the symptoms that manifest with these disorders. Focus on the diagnostic methods that are used in Pakistan versus the diagnostic methods that are used in the United States will then be compared. Then I will focus on the treatment methods used in Pakistan and compare them to the treatment methods used in the United States. Lastly, I would conclude with a brief overview of diagnosis, treatment, and views of mood disorders in Pakistan and in the United States.

Poster 52

Belong With Me: Measuring the Relationship of Belongingness and Self-Esteem in Young Adults

Holly Brennan

Pace University

Thwarted feelings of belongingness and low self-esteem have severe mental health consequences for young adults. This study explored the relationship between perceived belongingness, and self-esteem in the context of the belongingness hypothesis, an adjunct of attachment theory that posits the need to belong is a fundamental human motivation. We surveyed university students on their personal relationships, belongingness, and self-esteem. Results suggest that there is a relationship between self-esteem and belongingness.

Poster 53

Implicit Association and Decision Making

Michael Basil, Theodore Boynton IV

Pace University

Here we investigated the effects of implicit association regarding ethnicity on decision-making among young adults. A sample of 35 college students completed three sequential associative decision-making tasks. Participants were asked to associate names with (1) short narratives, (2) traits, and (3) facial photos. We hypothesized that stereotypic names would be associated with stereotypic ethnicities in both the scenario and photo tasks. Participants presented with negative narratives assigned stereotypic names less frequently than hypothesized. In the IAT task, traits were paired with the name participants’ selected from the short narrative task. Here, participants assigned the greatest number of negative traits to the most negative scenarios, regardless of name. Finally, when presented with a set of diverse facial photos participants assigned the racially stereotypic names, regardless of their own ethnicity.

Poster 54

The Effects Of Social Media Use on Young Adults’ Self-Esteem, Jealousy and Satisfaction In Romantic Relationships.

Harley Goldenberg, Helga Hysa

Pace University

Social media use can affect young adults’ self-esteem and relationship satisfaction. We hypothesize that greater social media use is associated with increased jealousy, decreased self-esteem, and decreased relationship satisfaction. One hundred young adults’ social media users who have been in a relationship within the past three years completed measures of self-esteem, jealousy, relationship satisfaction, and the amount of social media use. The results suggest that social media has greater negative effects on the self esteem among young adults who are in a serious relationship compared to those who are just casually dating. Increased social media use may shorten current relationships and hinder individuals from pursuing further relationships. /

Poster 55

Gender and Ethnicity Determinants of Perception of Emotion Expression

Jessica Remache, Chrystal Marte

Pace University

Social Role Theory suggests that emotional and behavioral differences between males and females are the result of gender stereotypes, which may influence the perception of facial expressions of emotion. The present study investigates young adults’ perception of masculinized (dominant) and feminized (affiliative) faces. One hundred and twenty-three diverse college students saw 16 morphed facial images, and rated each on a 6-point scale of happiness and anger. We hypothesize that masculine faces will be perceived as angry, while feminized faces will be perceived as happy. Furthermore, we expect ratings of happiness and anger to be less construed within ethnicities and more construed between ethnicities. The results reveal that male participants perceive Asian feminized faces as less angry than female participants and Asian participants perceive Asian feminized faces as happier, whereas White participants viewed Asian feminized faces as angrier.

Poster 56

Is 12 Minutes of Mindfulness Enough to Lower Math Anxiety in College Students?

Gabriella Minelli and Lindsay Hartman

Pace University

In recent years, the number of college students seeking professional help for mental illness has surpassed the budgets of many college counseling centers. Mindfulness meditation can serve as a potential solution. The present study sought to determine if 12 minutes of mindfulness practiced before a math exam would decrease students’ anxiety. Participants were randomly assigned to three intervention groups: (1) mindfulness, (2) Mozart/comparison, (3) news/control (N=30). There were no significant differences on math anxiety, math self-efficacy, math self-concept or the participant’s grade accuracy. These results suggest that 12 minutes of mindfulness is not enough to alleviate the anxiety in college students before an examination. In the post-test condition regardless of intervention, males and females differed in post-test math anxiety and math self-efficacy. In order to combat math anxiety in college students, educators should strive to implement longer mindfulness based stress reduction programs into the curriculum.

Poster 57

Next Generation Innovators: Correlates of Beliefs About Adoption of Novel Treatments for PTSD Among Advanced Psychology Students

Nicholas Mediate, Giuliana DePalmer / Dr. Christopher Godfrey

Pace University

Methylene-dioxy-methamphetamine (MDMA) is a psychotropic substance that has been used in recreational and in clinical settings. MDMA assisted therapy has shown promise in treatment of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). This study uses diffusion of innovation theory to examine attitudes of undergraduate and graduate psychology students toward novel MDMA-assisted therapy for treatment of PTSD. Participants completed measures to quantify their level of impulsive and risk-taking behavior, as well as their attitudes towards MDMA and their perceptions on the adoption of MDMA assisted therapy as a treatment for PTSD. The aim of the study was to see whether upcoming professionals in the field of psychology would consider using MDMA assisted therapy in their practice in the future, and to see if an impulsive personality was associated with higher rates of adoption of MDMA assisted therapy. Overall, participants reported low levels of impulsivity and sensation seeking and most undergraduate and graduate students would not adopt MDMA-assisted therapy in the future.

Poster 58

The Effects of Using Visual and Auditory Stimuli to Test Learning Skills

Johnny Lopez, Ashley Dominguez, Christopher Godfrey PHD

Pace University

Learning styles are a way in which an individual approaches a range of cognitive tasks, used mostly for educational purposes. In the present study, 34 college students were categorized as auditory or visual learners and placed into one of four levels (Standard vs. Altered). The aim of the study was to determine if there was a relationship between assigned learning type and reading comprehension skills. We hypothesize that participants assigned to levels corresponding to their learning type will do better than participants placed in contrasting levels. We found that a majority of the participants were visual learners, and did slightly better in the Visual-Altered level. In addition, participants who were labeled as both visual and auditory learners did not do well in the Auditory-Standard level. This may imply that being both a visual and auditory learner does not outperform dichotomous learning styles. Furthermore, adding a distractor to either level does not prevent reading comprehension.

Poster 59

Additive Stressors Negatively Affect a College Student's Academic Performance

Jillian Amoroso, Christina Argyros

Pace University

This study investigated if additive stressors negatively affect college students’ academic performance. Here we explore whether the number of classes taken, work stress and a poor personal relationships affect college students’ grade point average (GPA). One hundred university undergraduates completed questionnaires regarding effects of stressors in their personal and academic lives during the past six months. Students’ GPA was not affected by work stress, relationships, and number of classes taken. The majority of the sample group had above average GPAs (Mean-3.5) suggesting that they are able to balance academic, personal and work stressors.

Poster 60

Change Blindness

Danielle Engstler, Melissa Grossman

Pace University

People often over-estimate their ability to notice significant and ostensibly apparent change in their environment. Here we explore change blindness and the possible influence of gender using a modified version of Simon’s paradigm. Thirty university students, fifteen males and fifteen females, were presented with a classroom setting where one confederate replaced another and the participant was asked if they noticed the change. For the fifteen male and female participants, seven of the males and seven of the females experienced a confederate switch of the opposite sex and eight of the males and the eight of the females experienced a confederate switch of the same sex. Among males, 62% noticed an opposite sex switch while 38% noticed a same-sex switch. Among females, 75% noticed an opposite sex switch while 25% noticed a same-sex switch. These findings suggest that females are more likely to notice a change than males.

Poster 61

The Relationship Between Working Memory and Frequency of Alcohol Consumption with Gender as a Moderator

Faiyaz Rahman

CUNY Hunter College

Mnemonic devices are a form of artificial memory systems that require the brain to retain information as memory using associations between letters and words instead of coherent and observable relationships between the two factors. The present study aims to further understand the effect of mnemonic devices on memory. Specifically, it is hypothesized that if a person drinks more frequently, then their ability to recognize mnemonic devices in memory word tests is poorer than someone who drinks less frequently. It is also hypothesized that men who drink more frequently will perform better than women who drink more frequently in recognizing mnemonic devices during memory word tests. Researchers used an original questionnaire for the study. An independent samples t-test was conducted to compare the mean scores for correctly identified memory test words using mnemonic devices to not using mnemonic devices. /

Poster 62

Screening the Korean Nation: Cinematic Nationalism in the Koreas

Deina Ristic

Pace University

My topic focuses on East Asian Cinema and the strategic use of film in nation-building. In my presentation, I will be focusing my attentions on the Korean peninsula, both the North and the South. I will bring up historical events and films from the Golden Age of the early 1920’s, to the current Hallyu Era (1996-present), which contribute to the idea of nation-building in Korea. I will take the audience through each of Korea’s cinematic periods to show how the different nations used film to enhance their national identity, or sway the public to abide to any particular political regime the government may have had at the time (e.g. Japanese Empire, Supreme Leader Kim Il Sung). Films that will be most likely be mentioned, are Arirang (1926), My Home Village (1949), A Single Spark (1995), JSA (2000), Shiri (1999) and more.