

2017

**UNDERGRADUATE
RESEARCH CONFERENCE**

April 26, 2017
4 - 6 p.m
Fletcher Lounge
Plant Hall



THE UNIVERSITY
OF **TAMPA**
COLLEGE OF SOCIAL SCIENCES,
MATHEMATICS AND EDUCATION





2017 UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH CONFERENCE

This conference would not be possible without the dedicated mentors and instructors who have assisted the students with their projects. The faculty who have guided students in their projects this year include:

Mary Anderson
Angela Angeleska
Stephen Blessing
Kathryn Branch
Ryan Cragun
Kimberly Cummings
Kevin Fridy
Cynthia Gangi
Joshua Halonen
Deletha Hardin
Carly Hilinski-Rosick
Erin Koterba
Denis Rey
Michael Stasio
Jason Sumerau
Erica Yuen



2017 UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH CONFERENCE

About the Conference

The University of Tampa Undergraduate Research Conference allows students to present original, empirical research within any area of the disciplines represented by the College of Social Science, Mathematics and Education. The first conference was in April 2006 and has been held annually since. At the third event held in April 2008, prizes for the best posters were awarded. The fifth event (April 2010) saw a wider representation of posters from across the college.

Example citation for the work presented here:

Einstein, A. & Blessing, S. B., (2017, April). *Investigations into the psychology of time perception*.
Poster presented at the Spring 2017 CSSME Undergraduate Research Conference, Tampa, FL.

For more information about this conference and previous ones (including all past abstracts), please search on "CSSME research" at www.ut.edu



Presenters

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Beahm	Rosemarie	SOC	2	9
Behne	Brett	PSY	3	9
Benton	Crista	PSY	23	16
Blackwell	Austin	PSY	4	10
Bocchini	Jaclyn	PSY	5	10
Bowen	Valeriya	MAT	6	10
Brettler	Kyra	PSY 200	7	11
Bross	Rebecca	PSY	61	29
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Burns	Jessica	PSY 200	10	12
Burrows	Kristyn	PSY	3	9
Capozzola	Lauren	PSY	11	12
Carcamo	Thalisa	PSY	12	12
Carlascio	Nicole	PSC	25	17
Carpentier	Chole	PSC	13	13
Castillo	Clarissa	PSY	36	20
Chambers	Elizabeth	PSC	14	13
Chieppe de Saldanha	Luiza	PSC	15	13
Connor	Michael	PSC	16	14
Conroy	Kristen	PSY	17	14
Cox	Hannah	PSY	18	14
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Dietrich	Jamie M.	PSC	26	17
Dingee	Julianne	PSY 200	27	17
Dookiesingh	Stephanie	CRM	28	18
DuBuc	Kalina	PSY	33	19
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Eaton	Kaitlin	SOC	2	9
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Falone	Samuel	SOC	24	16
Farrell	Taylor	PSY	73	33
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Friedrich	Sarah	PSC	32	19
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Gasztold	Anna	PSC	13	13
Gayle	Channelle	PSC	34	20
Glazer	Meredith	PSY	39	21
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Grabowski	Melissa	PSY	18	14
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Hart	Kiana	SOC	24	16
Hazel	Cara	PSY	33	19
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Higgins	Chelsea	PSY	40	22
Hodges	Jillayah	PSC	41	22
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Hurd	Kelly	PSY 200	42	22
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Jackson	Heather	PSC	43	23
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Jones	Brianna L.	PSC	44	23
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Kerda	Anne	PSC	13	13
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Lafko	Justin Z.	PSC	46	24
Lawson	Madison	PSC	47	24
Lewis	Jabria	PSY	48	24
Ligman	Kaitlyn	PSY	71	32
Lopes	Humberto	PSY	63	29
Maharajh	Kairine	PSC	49	25
Mainiero	Anna Marie	PSY	50	25
Marshall	Alia	PSC	51	25

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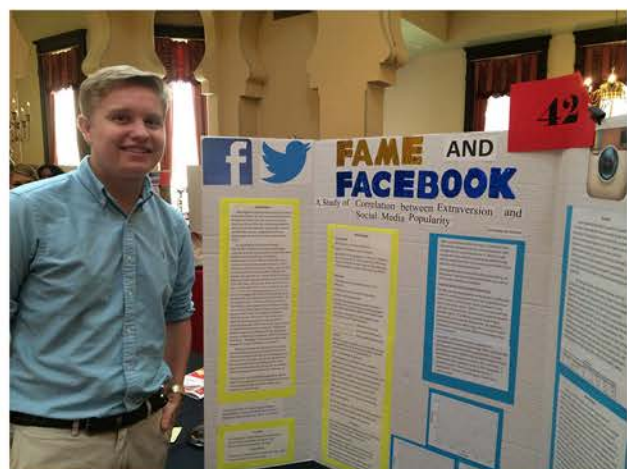
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McMaugh	Shannon	PSY 200	53	26
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Miller	Cole	PSC	56	27
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Porco	Monica	PSC	67	31
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Schankweiler	Tonie	PSY	74	33
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Starace	Sophia	PSC	77	34
Stasio, Ph.D.	Michael J.	PSY	39	21
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Visconti	Regina	PSY 200	82	36
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Wilkerson	Kellie	SOC	37	21
Wilkinson	Savanna	PSC	83	36
Yuen, Ph.D.	Erica K.	PSY	39	21





Abstracts

1. How Does Urbanization Influence the Socio-Economic Characteristics of a Country?

Kristen Au (PSC)

This study focuses on the phenomenon of urbanization and its relationship to the socio-economic characteristics of a country. The process of urbanization includes the growth of densely populated areas that serve as a central space where people, goods, services, and ideas can be easily exchanged. Previous studies have linked increasing urbanization to socio-economic benefits; highlighting higher levels of GDP per capita and human capital accumulation. More specifically, my study analyzes the nature of knowledge-based sectors of employment, inflows of foreign direct investment, and education in relation to urbanization across three countries; Indonesia, Japan, and the Philippines. From my research, I hope to find a positive correlation between increased levels of urbanization and socio-economic growth.

2. Evaluation of an Anti-Bullying Program

Rosemarie Beahm & Kaitlin Eaton (SOC)

Kids On The Block is a national program designed to prevent and raise awareness of child abuse and bullying. We evaluated the effectiveness of the anti-bullying program for the fall semester of 2015, the spring semester of 2016, the fall semester of 2016, and the spring semester of 2017. This is a life-sized educational puppet show performed for fourth graders. Students who saw the show wrote letters saying what they learned from the show. These letters were coded to determine whether the children learned about bullying issues from the show. This was determined by using the three main themes of the show as coding categories. The hypothesis was supported all four semesters. With our poster, we will present these results and the importance of educating children about bullying and evaluating such educational programs..

3. Consumers Perception of Food Based on Color

Brett Behne, Tanaz Johnson, Marissa Del Vecchio, Sophia Elliot & Kristyn Burrows (PSY)

The nature of this experiment was to investigate one's perception of the qualities and other characteristics of pasta based on color. The colors red and green were used to alter the consumer's visual perception of the pasta. Specifically, we predicted that the color red would be perceived as sweeter and spicier compared to the green colored pasta. In contrast, we predicted that the color green would be perceived as more sour and organic compared to the red colored pasta. Using an in person survey method, we evaluated fifty University of Tampa students' visual perception of these two different colored pastas in two separate conditions.





Abstracts

4. What's in a name?

Austin Blackwell, Julia Reese, Morgan Jury, Tanner Scott and Savanna Voci (PSY)

The current research examined whether brand name affects perceptions of a backpack. Two fictional backpack brand names were created (Turbopack and Bob's Backpacks) and participants were asked to indicate their perceptions about one of the two backpack brands based solely on name. We hypothesized that Turbopack would be perceived as more modern, expensive, luxurious, stylish, comfortable, durable, technology friendly and streamlined. Bob's Backpacks was predicted to be perceived as more bulky, affordable, old fashioned, uncomfortable and made of inexpensive material.

5. The Effects of Music Genre on Memory

Jaclyn Bocchini, Celia Stein (PSY)

The general concept of this study was to explore the overall effects music genre has on an individual's everyday memory (positively or negatively). With the intention of doing so, researchers conducted a Repeated-Measures Design, gathered their participants from The University of Tampa, and exposed them to three different variables [Classical Music, Electronic Dance Music (EDM) and our control, No Music]. The participants were randomly assigned a grocery list along with a genre of music. Participants were asked to memorize the list for one minute, while listening to the randomly selected music genre. Participants were then asked to fill out a maze (distractor task) for two minutes, and then asked to recall as many words possible from the grocery list; this was repeated three times. We predicted that Classical Music and No Music would benefit recalling a grocery list positively, and that EDM would negatively affect our memory. With statistical evidence we believe we will find an increase in memory recall while listening to Classical Music over EDM, along with an increase in memory recall with No Music over EDM.

6. Addition and Removal of Vertices in a Food Web

Valeriya Bowen & Angela Angeleska (MAT)

Food webs can be used as mathematical models to study the addition or removal of species from ecological niches. Through the use of graph theoretical concepts such as interval and competition graphs, vertex changes in food webs can be observed and modeled. The removal and addition of a vertex in a graph mimics the extinction or introduction of a species, which is a daily occurrence in nature. While most studied competition graphs are interval, the removal and addition of vertexes in said graphs has not been studied. Three main conjectures have been made through the intensive study of numerous food webs.



Abstracts

7. It's All in Your Head

Kyra Brettler & Hope Fozo (PSY 200)

This study examines the relationship between anxiety and the presentation of psychosomatic symptoms. Psychosomatic symptoms are a unique phenomenon where the anxious habits of the mind may be portrayed physically. It can be hypothesized that the more anxious an individual is, the more likely psychosomatic occurrences will happen. The participants in this study were all located on The University of Tampa's campus. Participants varied in age. Participants had majors of Business, Health Science, Social Science, Fine arts and Undecided. 6.3% of the participants had been previously diagnosed with an illness; a factor that could potentially affect the results of the study. Questionnaires measuring anxiety, a facet of the Neuroticism category of Personality and another measuring physical distresses faced throughout the week were completed by participants. Results from these questionnaires showed that the scores for anxiety were significantly correlated to psychosomatic symptoms.

8. How does Stability of Democracy Impact the Prevalence and Severity of Religious Persecution?

Katelyn Brown (PSC)

This paper addresses the prevalence and severity of religious persecution based in the stability of democracy. I analyze three case studies: United States, Great Britain, and Germany with the most similar research method. The variables I analyze are civil society, freedom of speech, the number of peaceful power transitions, and the number of religions practiced in a society. As these increase, I predict that the severity and prevalence of religious persecution decreases. While the severity of persecution is fairly low in all three case studies, the prevalence was maintained but more nuanced. My research suggests that while democracy decreases the severity of persecution, it does not mitigate the prevalence. Overall, persecution remained present in all cases.

9. An Evaluation of the Political Party Realignment Following the Tea Party Movement

Mackenzie Brown (PSC)

Following the initial Tea Party movement of 2002, the American political party has undergone specific changes as it pertains to party alignment and the redefinition of political parties. In this work, the events before and after the Tea Party movement are evaluated in an effort to better understand the true impact of the Tea Party and how its role is played today in the wake of the 2016 election.



Abstracts

10. There's No Place Like Home - Or Is There? A Study of the Relationship between Neuroticism and Cultural Differences

Jessica Burns & Christina Imbriglio (PSY 200)

The following study examines how one's level of neuroticism correlates with how culturally different their hometown is to Tampa. Neuroticism can be affected by a number of factors, such as food, climate, and language. We hypothesized that if subjects had higher scores of neuroticism, then they would have higher scores of cultural difference between their hometown and Tampa. Students at the University of Tampa participated by completing two questionnaires related to the variables. The results showed a negative correlation between neuroticism and cultural difference. This means that participants who were less neurotic often had hometowns that were the most culturally different to Tampa. From this, it is clear that our hypothesis was incorrect, which could have been due to a sample that was not representative of the student population at the University of Tampa. Future researchers could use these results or expand on them to improve the transition into college for students.

11. Welcome to America and Good Luck: The "The American Dream" and International University Students

Lauren Capozzola, Megan Koleff, Darlene Valenzuela (PSY)

This paper addresses the prevalence and severity of religious persecution based in the stability of democracy. I analyze three case studies: United States, Great Britain, and Germany with the most similar research method. The variables I analyze are civil society, freedom of speech, the number of peaceful power transitions, and the number of religions practiced in a society. As these increase, I predict that the severity and prevalence of religious persecution decreases. While the severity of persecution is fairly low in all three case studies, the prevalence was maintained but more nuanced. My research suggests that while democracy decreases the severity of persecution, it does not mitigate the prevalence. Overall, persecution remained present in all cases.

12. Word Congruency

Thalisa Carcamo (PSY)

This study primarily focused on further investigating the effect word congruency has in an individual while reading it. More specifically, we measured the participant's response time when reading nine lists of ten words under three different conditions. The lists were composed of synonyms of the words "big and small" and were arranged from least to greatest according to their number of syllables. First, we had participants read three lists under the incongruent condition. Then, participants read three lists belonging to the congruent condition and finally they read the three lists from the control. The results suggested that there was a significant difference between the incongruent and the congruent lists as well as in the incongruent and the control lists of words. Participants performed best while reading the lists from the control condition. However, no significant difference was found between the congruent and the control conditions.



Abstracts

13. Gender Biased Religiosity on Abortion

Chole Carpentier, Anna Gasztold, Anne Kerda (PSC)

By combining data of religious importance and percentage of attendance into an overarching theme of religiosity, we were able to analyze the effects religion has on abortion opinions. We further narrowed our point of interest by controlling for gender, to determine the outstanding relationship between one's religion and gender. The purpose of this research is to demonstrate the effects of religion on abortion opinion. Our research explores whether there is a significant difference between the genders and the extent to which religiosity influences a person's beliefs on abortion.

14. The Affordable Care Act and Mental Health Coverage

Elizabeth Chambers (PSC)

Insurance coverage for mental health care has been historically less funded and supported than medical care. The Affordable Care Act (ACA) has helped millions of Americans gain not only medical coverage, but mental health coverage as well. Research has shown the growth in coverage in different populations across America, including younger populations and those with low incomes. This study proposes that research needs to be done on who will be most affected by losing mental health care coverage if the ACA is repealed. By repealing the ACA, I hypothesize that millions will lose coverage to their mental health benefits. Additionally, I propose that the population that will be most affected by this change will be young adults ages 18 – 25.

15. How Has Political Corruption Impacted Countries Economy And Economic Growth?

Luiza Chieppe de Saldanha (PSC)

Corruption is the most intractable problem that most of the countries face even in the 21st century. Despite the best efforts by various state governments in the world, corruption continues, and cases of corruption are increasing by the day. The corruption problem affects both the developed and developing countries. Even though corruption is most rampant in the developing nations, the developed nations are not spared of this issue too. Thus, as corrupt deals are cut in Brazil, so they are also cut in the United States. These few examples of corruption incidences show that corruption permeates nearly every society. Every country is dealing with its own internal corruption, at different levels. However, the most striking thing is that the most corrupt countries also happen to be some of the poorest countries in the world.



Abstracts

16. Celebrity Influence on Public Political Opinion and Voter Selection

Michael Connor and Melissa Vasquez (PSC)

The Celebrity Endorsement Theory is a concept that theorizes among other components that celebrity endorsements or political activism directly influences voters' candidate selection. Most data suggests that the theory is more accurate than erroneous, but only when it is studied under a proper context. The objective of this exploration was to divulge deeper into the evidence for and against the Celebrity Endorsement Theory and develop a fresh outlook on the current understanding of the theory. While this exploration did not include new data, one of its main intents was to develop two hypothetical experiments that would result in the conduction of reliable original research.

RQ: To what extent do celebrity endorsements affect level of support for a political candidate?

H1: Celebrity endorsements will influence young adult voters' selection for a particular candidate.

H2: Celebrity political activism will increase public support for the particular candidate said activism is centered upon.

17. Links between Social Media, Self-Esteem, and Body Image

Kristen Conroy, Holly Stogsdill, Jessica Olson, Erika Steiger (PSY)

Previous research suggests that social media usage impacts users' body image, specifically the drive for thinness (Kim & Chock, 2015). Further, social media use has been tied to low self-esteem particularly for the social media platform Facebook (Vogel, Rose, Roberts, & Eckles, 2014). However, few studies have examined relationships between body image and self-esteem on other social media platforms such as Instagram, Snapchat, and Twitter. In the present study, 92 students from The University of Tampa (64 females, 28 males) were distributed a questionnaire to assess their social media usage on Facebook, Snapchat, Instagram, and Twitter, while also measuring their body image and self-esteem. Results suggest that the amount of time spent on social media platforms have an influence on users' body image and self-esteem. Gender differences were found in body image and self-esteem through the different social media platforms.

18. College Student's Perception of Adderall's Effects and Usage Rates

Hannah Cox, Melissa Grabowski, and Amanda Thurman (PSY)

Prior research (Girer, Sasu, and Ayoola, 2011) shows that students believe taking Adderall will increase their GPA rather than decrease it. Although 70% of students have used Adderall to improve academic performance, previous research shows that usage typically lowers GPA (Girer, Sasu, and Ayoola, 2011). The present study investigated motivations for why college students take Adderall and what aspects of their life they believe will benefit by taking Adderall. Fifty-one college students (39 female) at a southern university participated in the current research by completing a questionnaire. Results suggest that college students take Adderall or believe other students take it primarily to improve academic performance. Further, our findings suggest that students take Adderall both with and without a prescription. Of those students who take Adderall, the majority believed it indeed improved focus.



Abstracts

19. Let's do it later

Alvaro Velasquez Davalos (PSY 200)

This research focuses on two specific variables, anxiety and distraction. The aim of this research is to study the relationship between these two variables. Some studies have found that there is a positive relationship between these two variables. To conduct this study, I employed questionnaires that measured the level of each variable on each of the participants. The participants were students at The University of Tampa above the age of 18. All the participants were surveyed at different times of the day in different places of UT's campus. However, the results were not favorable to the hypothesis. The statistics did not demonstrate any relationship between the variables at all. It is possible that the process of data gathering was not successful at all because of students' low willingness to participate in this questionnaire.

20. Examination of Favorable Methods of Delivery for Information on Drunk Driving

Samantha Davila (CRM)

This research project reviews qualitative responses from college students on what they believe are effective approaches to discuss drunk driving. Currently, representatives of Mothers Against Drunk Driving in Hillsborough County have a difficult time implementing strategies to teach about risks on drunk driving to college students. The collected research will be used for them to have a better understanding of what college students want when discussing this critical information. This kind of research is very different to other research conducted over the past decades because it gives an understanding of college students in 2017. Past research looks at how implemented programs are functioning with college students and if they make a difference. This study evaluates strategies that work and do not work for the college population.

21. The Influence of Economic Development and Corruption on the Evolution of Organized Crime

Andres E. Delfin (PSC)

This research paper identifies the degree to which economic development and state-level corruption influence organized crime in different country contexts. This topic is important because organized crime is flourishing in all types of economies, developing and developed, and there is little published research examining the complex interrelationships between these factors. Without a richer understanding of the phenomenon, organized crime will continue to thrive. The hypothesis is that countries with higher levels of economic development will have lower levels of organized crime, and that higher levels of corruption will translate to higher levels of organized crime. The methodology includes literature review, comparison of corruption and organized crime indices, and review of three case studies, each with varying levels of economic development, to assess the hypotheses. Initial results suggest that the relationship between economic development and organized crime is highly complex, influenced by many factors--and corruption is the most unpredictable of all.



Abstracts

22. Effects of Sexual Dress on Attention

Daniela Delvescovo and Hannah Arbermann (PSY)

Recently, school dress codes policies have been publically debated. However, previous research on the effects of dress codes on attention have yielded inconsistent results. The present study aims to discover if sexual dress causes detriments to student attention. This will be accomplished using a male and female confederate dressed in either “sexual” dress or “professional” dress who will read a short story about the Plant Museum to a classroom of first year college students. The students will then answer a 5-question test derived from the story that was read aloud. It is predicted that when the confederate is in “sexual dress”, it will cause participants to score lower on the test than when the confederate is in “professional dress”. Further, it is predicted that participants that have the test given by the female confederate will have lower scores than participants who are given the test by the male confederate.

23. The Influence of Color Perception on Cleaning Products

Daniela Delvescovo, Crista Benton, Kasey Radke, Victoria Peña (PSY)

Research has previously demonstrated the influence that the color and smell combination has on consumers’ perceptions of cleaning products. In the present study, we extended this line of research in order to investigate whether the consumers’ perception of a cleaning agent would be influenced by only the color of content. Participants were exposed to one of two spray bottles containing different colored liquid (blue liquid or red liquid), to which they were asked to rate their opinions concerning the functionality, appearance, and likelihood of purchasing the product. Due to color perception effects, participants are expected to perceive the blue liquid as having more efficient cleaning attributes and a fresher appearance. We also anticipate that participants will have higher purchase intentions for the blue cleaning product.

24. What makes people leave religion?

Kyle Desmond, Samuel Falone, Kiana Hart, Micah Ramos, Alexandra Rodriguez, & Monica Szczombrowski (SOC)

As we see time go and a society change we also see more people leaving religion. Why the increase in apostasy? There are many things changing around us but which of these changing factors is resulting in the change of people practicing religion. What we predict is that emotion is a more substantial contributor to why people are leaving religion than are logical arguments. We test this using data from an online survey that included pre- and post-test measures of religiosity with video interventions in-between. Preliminary data indicate that the emotion conditions were more influential on religiosity than were the logic conditions.



Abstracts

25. The Situational Effect on Abortion Opinions: Mental/Physical Health vs. Other Factors

Kaeli DiCola, Nicole Carlascio (PSC)

This study tested the hypothesis that, the physical and mental well-being of the mother and/or child can affect someone's view on abortion. We tested the hypothesis by analyzing the responses and looking at the combined results of the questions related to the mental and physical health of the mother and child (pregnancy due to rape, chance of child having a severe birth defect, etc.) and comparing it to the rest of the situations (women not wanting more children, mother unable to afford having a child, etc.). Data is drawn from the General Social Survey 2012, we use SPSS to conduct our analysis.

26. Is The United States Weaker or Stronger in the World?: How Political Efficacy Effects an Individual's Opinion on The United States Position in the World

Jamie M. Dietrich and Marissa R. Milazzo (PSC)

Throughout our paper we will be presenting research on the relationship between an individual's political efficacy and how it influences their opinion on the United States position in the world. Through analyzing data from the National Election Study 2012 we examine how an individual's level of political efficacy effects their opinion on the United States position in the world. Furthermore, along with analyzing how political efficacy effects an individual's opinion on the United States position in the world, we control for socioeconomic income, education, and party identification - all of which help explain an individual's level of political efficacy. We use SPSS to conduct our analyses.

27. Exercise Your Ability to Manage Your Anger

Julianne Dingee (PSY 200)

This study focuses on the relationship between physical activity and the level of students' anger, a facet of neuroticism. Neuroticism is the component of The Big 5 that measures one's emotional instability. Anger specifically refers to the feeling of displeasure, irritation or hostility towards something or someone. The research hypothesis of this study was that participants who are very physically active will have lower levels of anger. The participants of this study were University of Tampa students ranging from freshmen to graduate students, both male and female. At various times and places on campus, participants completed two different questionnaires, one on anger and one on exercise. This hypothesis was tested by calculating a Pearson correlation coefficient, and there wasn't a statistically significant correlation between the variables. This means that the hypothesis was not supported by the data gathered.



Abstracts

28. Training for a Proactive Campus

Stephanie Dookiesingh (CRM)

The purpose of this project is to create better training and policies for campus safety officers to use when dealing with rape and sexual assault reports on campus. The project includes information and statistics on sexual assaults of college-aged women on campuses as well as the risk factors faced by college women. An overview of the reporting process of rape and sexual assault on campus also is included. Then, the paper discusses the current University of Tampa Campus Safety policy on dealing with alleged sexual assaults on college campuses. To create a better policy, interviews and surveys were conducted with campus safety officials and content analysis of other universities' protocols for these types of cases were reviewed. Ultimately, suggestions are offered for how campus safety can improve their process of responding to rape and sexual assault calls and interacting with victims.

29. Cheating and the Emerging Adult: Views on Academic Dishonesty

Sophia Elliott, Tegan Moto, Shayla Washington, and Morgan Weldon (PSY)

College students' opinions on the norms and perceived commonality of cheating in an academic setting influence the tendency to engage in cheating behaviors (Yang et al., 2013). Further, there is some evidence to suggest that students with poor time management are more inclined to engage in academic dishonesty (Beasley, 2014). The purpose of the present study was to assess college students' inclination to cheat based on their perceptions of cheating and their time management. One hundred two college students (61 females and 40 males) ranging from 18-25 years old from the University of Tampa completed a survey assessing attitudes and views about cheating and time management skills. Our findings revealed that the participant's stance on cheating influenced their cheating behaviors, such that those with permissive attitudes, morals, and perceptions were more likely to cheat. However, no such link for time management was found.

30. Attitudes Towards Sex in Terms of Gender, Religious Beliefs, and Social Reputation

Brittany Elvidge and Sara Kwiatkowski (PSY)

This is a study in progress investigating the interaction between gender, religiosity, and social reputation in relation to attitudes towards various sexual activities as well as the actual sexual activity frequencies. The participants will be undergraduate students enrolled in introductory social science classes (N = 50) who will complete a survey in a closed lab about their attitudes towards sexuality. We hypothesize that 1. Students with high religiosity will have more positive attitudes towards oral sex than other kinds of sexual behavior and thus will engage in it more often, 2. Males will consider all kinds of sexual behavior to be more positive than females, and thus will engage in them more often, and 3. Women who connect social reputation to their sexuality will have more negative feelings towards sexual behaviors and thus will engage in them less frequently.



Abstracts

31. Furry Companions: Does the Presence a Dog Effectively Reduce Stress and Enhance Human's abilities to Problem Solve

Armando Fraile, Danielle Russo, CathyAnnie Pierre Louis Seraphin (PSY)

The purpose of this study was to examine the beneficial health effects that dogs have on humans. Past research has shown medical benefits on individuals who own pets. These benefits include anxiety reductions, mediation in coping with lost ones, as well as reduction in doctoral visits. With this research, our goal was to examine significant effects on whether or not the presences of an animal companion would reduce stress levels in humans when faced with stress-provoking situations. Through random selection, the participants (n=16) were either presented with a full breed Boxer prior and during the stress inducing manipulations or not be presented with the dog. We hypothesized that the presence of the dog will reduce stress levels, thus aiding participants to problem solve more effectively. These results can help strengthen the literature for future studies on the beneficial effects of dogs on human health.

32. How has immigration impacted the receiving countries economy?

Sarah Friedrich (PSC)

Immigration has been a world phenomenon since globalization. Migration flows around the globe has increased in magnitude and complexity over the last decades. My thesis focuses on the economic impact migration has to the developed host country. This research paper offers a literature review from both sides of the debate as well as the reasoning behind migration. My three hypotheses went against most economists showing that immigrants do not take over native born jobs, do not affect the wages of natives, and they are not burden to welfare states. The case studies I choose try to back up my hypothesis, as well as giving examples of some of the biggest migration groups in the western world. My results showed that the opinions are divided, but overall immigrants positively impact the economy.

33. The Influence of Brand Names on Consumer Perceptions

Kali Gadomski, Cara Hazel, Kalina DuBuc, & Brittany Elvidge (PSY)

This study examines the effect of brand names on consumer perceptions. We aim to contribute to the existing literature regarding brand names, and we sought to extend this research to the college population at The University of Tampa. A survey was presented to 50 college-age students regarding a meal delivery service with either the brand name MilleniMeals or the brand name Meals for Deals, with the same subsequent questions measuring consumer perceptions. We hypothesized that Meals for Deals would be perceived as more cost effective and convenient than MilleniMeals. We also hypothesized that MilleniMeals would be perceived as healthier and more environmentally conscious (both in packaging and in transport) than Meals for Deals. Lastly, we hypothesized that people would be more likely to want to try MilleniMeals than Meals for Deals.



Abstracts

34. How does religiosity affect abortion and contraceptive availability?

Chanelle Gayle (PSC)

In this paper, I am trying to identify the correlation of religiosity and the affects it has on abortion and contraceptive use. This research examines three dissimilar cases that have a more orthodox view of religion and compare those views alongside the use and availability of contraceptives and abortion. I expect that there is a strong correlation between religiosity and the use of contraceptive along with the availability of abortion. Although a strong religious stance in societies may not affect contraception, I will find that in the cases I chose, it does in fact affect the people's access substantially. The influence of religion, specifically Catholicism, does not approve the termination of a pregnancy nor do they always condone the use of contraception or sexual education.

35. The Effects of Country of Origin on Product Perception

Casey Gregory, Forrest Harrison, Valerie Moorer, and Amanda Thurman (PSY)

The purpose of this study is to examine the effect of a product's country of origin on consumer perception toward the product and purchase intentions of the product. To study these effects, a survey was distributed to 50 college-level participants. Half of the participants were given a description of Mexican-made laptop, and the other half of the participants were given an identical description of an American-made laptop. It was hypothesized that participants will perceive the America-made laptop as top-of-the line, high-quality technology, easy to use, the most advanced, and as a good investment when compared to the Mexican-made laptop. It was also predicted that participants will be more likely to want to purchase the laptop that was made in America. The results of this study will determine the effect of the product's country of origin on consumers' perceptions towards product quality and purchase intentions, regardless of identical product descriptions.

36. Assessing Attitudes Towards Sex Workers in a College Setting

Cassandra Gonzalez and Clarissa Castillo (PSY)

This study sought to determine the attitudes and stereotypes held by University of Tampa students about sex workers. Participants were randomly assigned to different video conditions and completed the study in their classroom. They were shown a video of an unfamiliar male or female classmate who described their life as a sex worker and their reasons for becoming a sex worker. Students were then given survey materials to identify attitudes the students held about sex workers along with personal opinions on male v. female sex workers. The primary hypothesis was that college students would have more tolerant attitudes toward sex workers if the sex worker was a peer. The secondary hypothesis was that female escorts would be viewed as more acceptable than male escorts. These hypotheses were based on previous findings in the literature.



Abstracts

37. Which Is More Influential on Religiosity: Emotion or Logic?

Hanifah Griffith, Morgan Tamayo, Katerina Fleming, Kellie Wilkerson (SOC)

Apostasy is the act of disaffiliating from a religious group. In this paper we examine the results of a survey of survey of approximately 400 people over the age of 18 who were not in college. The survey asked participants to indicate how religious they were, then assigned them to watch one of three videos: a control video about cooking, a video using logical arguments against religion, and a video using emotional arguments against religion. Participants' religiosity was measured again after they watched the video. Our results indicate that watching the emotional video had more of an influence on religiosity than did the logical video.

38. The Impact of Ghana's 2011 Oil Production on the Western Region.

Layaal T. Hage (PSC)

Ghana first discovered oil in commercial quantities in 2007. Although existing studies explore the Dutch disease in Ghana as a whole, little attention has been given to the welfare of the host communities. This paper examines the impact of Ghana's oil production on the oil-bearing communities of the Western Region. The paper seeks to identify differences between the Western Region and other parts of Ghana particularly with regards to the effects mentioned by the literature, namely employment status, participation in political protests, and living costs. Utilizing data collected by Afrobarometer, this study conducts both binary logistic regressions and linear regressions. The Western Region is expected to be more negatively affected by unemployment than other Ghanaian regions, although increased living costs and anti-oil frustrations may prove to be as significant. Shedding light on the gaps between the regions provides valuable insight into ways to alleviate any consequences on the oil-bearing communities.

39. Relationship between Facebook Use, Rumination, and Mood

Forrest Harrison, Rachel Farrington, Travis White, Hannah Cox, Marissa Del Vecchio, Meredith Glazer, Nichelle Knott, Annelyn Martinez, Danielle Russo, Andrea Brunetti, Katie Sheridan, Talia Shuman, Erin A. Koterba, Michael J. Stasio, & Erica K. Yuen (PSY)

This study investigated the role of rumination in the relationship between Facebook and mood. Participants (n = 112) were randomly assigned to one of four groups who each browsed Facebook for 20 minutes. After 20 minutes passed, three of the groups were given a subsequent activity where they were instructed to reflect on their experience positively (group 1), negatively (group 2), or generally (group 3) for 8 minutes; the control group did not reflect on their experience. Lastly, participants completed a set of additional surveys. We hypothesized that participants who ruminated on their Facebook experience (group 2) would display: (1) lower mood levels, (2) greater levels of envy, and (3) greater levels of social comparison, compared to the control and other experimental groups. The results of this study will determine how reflecting or ruminating on Facebook experiences can affect cognition and emotion (e.g., mood level, feelings of envy, social comparison).



Abstracts

40. The Dark Triad Traits Impact on Peer Relationships Survey

Chelsea Higgins & Cara Hazel (PSY)

This study was conducted to look for peer relationship tendencies based upon low and high scores on the dark triad traits: narcissism, Machiavellianism, and psychopathy. Past research has indicated that the dark triad traits play a significant role in relationships. Narcissism, Machiavellianism, and psychopathy include the following characteristics: grandiose sense of self, lack of empathy, manipulation, deception, antisocial behavior and impulsivity. These tendencies attribute to short-term and poor peer relationships. The proctors of the study recruited 25 participants from the University of Tampa, resulting in 50 participants. Participants were given a hardcopy survey, that included 44 questions on demographics, dark triad traits, and relationships. Participants were asked to complete each question honestly by circling answers that best describe their actions. This study concluded that there was a significance in that those that scored high on narcissistic traits, resulted in poor peer relationships.

41. What factors affect the success of community based health insurance in developing countries?

Jillayah Hodges (PSC)

According to the World Health Organization, many developing countries spend less than 6% of their annual GDP in the health sector. This intern shows in the overall health and life expectancy of the country. Accessing adequate healthcare services, such as nutrition support, obstetric aftercare, vaccinations, etc., is an important step, not only in progressing the economy, but also in curing basic communicable and non-communicable diseases. For the poor, acquiring these services is financially and chronologically too costly, leaving them destitute and in an environment that breeds infestation. In this paper, I will look use three case studies to examine what happens when a community based health insurance scheme is implemented in a developing country. I suspect that GDP, culture, and economic stability will be leading factors that sustain, hinder, or influence the success of this type of social insurance.

42. Are Valedictorians Vulnerable?

Kelly Hurd (PSY 200)

This study measured the relationship between vulnerability and academic achievement. The hypothesis being tested in this study is that individuals with higher measurements of vulnerability will have lower measurements of academic achievement and vice versa. This hypothesis is based on previous studies that have shown a negative correlation between neuroticism and academic performance. Forty participants filled out two questionnaires—one measuring their vulnerability and the other measuring their academic achievement. Participants consisted of students from the University of Tampa. While a negative correlation was found, these results were calculated to be not statistically significant, thus not fully demonstrating the hypothesis to be correct.



Abstracts

43. How do Film and Television Representations Pose a Danger to Tourism Industries within Countries over Time?

Heather Jackson (PSC)

Popular media plays a large roll in how people see the world. The objective of this study is to look at how negative representations and images in popular television and film could be a danger to the tourism of the represented location. Currently, there is a good amount of research on film-induced tourism and how positive representations may impact destination choice. However, there is very little on negative images and their possible impact on tourism. While one film or television episode will most likely not deter potential tourists, one that reinforces negative images and stereotypes may. By viewing certain films and television episodes which depict Latin American countries with some kind of negative imagery, my study has found that negative images do not necessarily pose a danger to tourism levels, though they may reinforce common stereotypes and tropes which are seen throughout popular media.

44. Effects between Religiosity and Tolerance

Brianna L. Jones (PSC)

Within the 2012 General Social Survey data set there are several variables that focus on a person's tolerance towards different groups. This research compares these variables to a person's degree of religiosity. The hypothesis being that the more religious you are the less tolerant you will be. This builds off past research with the goal of gaining more information why this might be and to what degree the effect is. SPSS was used to compare the relationship between Religiosity and Tolerance and to see the significance of the relationship.

45. The Curious Case of the Venezuelan Democracy: Investigating the relationship between perceptions of poverty and popular support for democracy in Venezuela

Juhi Kore (PSC)

This paper develops and tests a theory focusing on the relationship between perceptions of poverty and popular support for democracy in Venezuela. Existing theory and cross-national research suggest that high levels of perceived corruption should erode support for democracy (Seligson, 2002), but preliminary research using Americas Barometer data indicated that perceptions of increased corruption have not been accompanied by decreases in popular support for democracy, the focus shifted from perceived corruption to perceived poverty levels. Poverty as conditioned by religion, gender, education, and educational levels showed a more interesting relationship with popular support for democracy. The findings suggest that as levels of poverty rise, support for democracy also increases which makes Venezuela a unique example in the relationship between perceived poverty and popular support for democracy. I plan to add a temporal element to this and use cross-national data to make a broader comparison between Venezuela and other Latin American countries.



Abstracts

46. Refugee Exodus And Applicable Border Policies

Justin Z. Lafko (PSC)

This essay provides a brief overview of the contemporary refugee crisis plaguing much of the western world, notably Europe. Civil war, as the cause in this case (independent variable) and the effect being refugees (dependent variable) seeking asylum and refuge from a collapsed, war-torn infrastructure. But to what extent does a mass influx of refugees from a war torn region influence legislation regarding border security and policies? This paper provides several hypotheses as to further explain this phenomenon. By examining and thus comparing the relationships between states with federal entities and between sovereign states themselves with respect to their border policies, further evidence leads to a better understanding of the latter. The results of the aforementioned hypotheses vary, although they remain consistent to the desire for security and national control of population and territory. Factors in the hypotheses, such as “post-imperial/colonial guilt” require more in-depth and extensive research.

47. Can a tourism industry generate long-term economic growth for developing countries?

Madison Lawson (PSC)

In various locations, the tourism industry serves as an economic boost due to the influx of foreign capital. Tourism can be defined as an exported service when catering to international visitors, which can be very useful for nations with scarce commodities. Developing nations with desirable environments, unique heritage sites, and traditional cultures tend to use these characteristics as a comparative advantage of tourism. Although tourism appears to grow a regional economy, it may not be providing sustainability. This paper focuses on measurements of tourism in developing nations that are dependent on the industry for GDP and their relationships to economic growth. Long-term economic growth will be measured through GDP per capita, income inequality and the tourism supply chain/domestic consumption. I expect to find nations with more regulations to have more sustainable long-term growth, but nations with higher tourism receipts will import more rather than use locally sourced goods.

48. What Constitutes Sex: How Political and Gendered Ideologies Impact Sexual Perceptions

Jabria Lewis and Jacob Silas Goff (PSY)

This experiment was purported to tease out potential relationships between perceptions of sex behavior and political or gendered frameworks among a sample of undergraduate students from the University of Tampa. Students (N = 50) recruited from high-traffic areas on campus were administered a brief demographic survey, the Adulthood Continuous Gender Identity Scale, the Political Attitudes Questionnaire, and were asked to define sex in an open-ended manner. The researchers hypothesized that students presenting a more conservative and masculine framework would view sex as belonging to a more restricted class of behaviors than students with liberal and feminine frameworks. Similarly, the researchers hypothesized that men, more than women and non-binary genders, would be more likely to view sex as belonging to a more restricted class of behaviors.



Abstracts

49. How Do Political Regimes Influence the Size of the Underground Economy?

Kairine Maharajh (PSC)

The purpose of this research is to understand how political regimes influence the size of the underground economy. Seeing the underground economy consists of both politics and economics, political regimes are expected to affect the size of the underground economy. The effect of political regimes on the size of a country's underground economy can be assessed by analyzing the main contributors of its activities; these include property rights government regulation and tax evasion. By placing political regimes on a spectrum from democratic to authoritarian, one can expect to find that political regimes both directly and indirectly affect the size of the underground economy through its main determinants.

50. Deliberate Deception and Changes in Vocal Frequencies

Anna Marie Mainiero & Joshua Halonen, Ph.D (PSY)

Lie detection is associated with polygraph measures. Linguistics has also been used to study deception using laryngeal microtremors through voice stress evaluators. A brief survey of yes and no responses was collected. During testing, physiological monitors to detect heart rate, respiration, body temperature, and galvanic skin response (GSR) were attached. Before each question the experimenter instructed the participant to deliberately provide an untruthful or truthful answer. After completing the series of questions the participant was detached from all monitors and debriefed. Significant differences in GSR between lies and truths, and in frequency fluctuations were found. These results show that even when instructed to lie, people cannot stop physiological changes from occurring that indicate deceit. Furthermore, there are more pitch changes in the spoken word when lying. These results suggest that monitoring changes in frequencies during speech could be a reliable passive method to detect lies.

51. How does English in non-English speaking Foreign countries affect their Economy?

Alia Marshall (PSC)

With my research, I am focusing on answering the question of how does English in non-English speaking Foreign countries affect their economic growth. I am conducting research through comparing and contrasting my case studies through the EF English Proficiency Index. This Index ranks countries by English proficiency and looking at their gross national income. Through my findings, I have found that it is important to understand that English is not the only defining factor in a country's economic growth but it does play an important role. This true because learning English and being proficient can be a big push for a country to become well enough to play on a global playing field.



Abstracts

52. How Mental State Affects Information Processing

Victoria Sunseri & Annelyn Martinez (PSY)

The current research investigated the effects of a cognitively exhaustive task on participants recall of information from vignettes of two mental illnesses which contained stereotypically consistent information and neutral information. The participants recall was measured by coding their responses as being either consistent with mental illness stereotypes, or neutral. Hypothetically, the results will demonstrate that the participants that underwent the cognitively exhaustive task recalled more stereotypically consistent information. These results suggest that cognitive load plays an important role in information processing and our reliance on schematic/heuristically-based thinking. Implications for these results and the field of cognitive psychology will be discussed as well as limitations and future directions of this work.

53. Neuroticism and Optimistic Attitude

Shannon McMaugh & Carly Plotkin (PSY 200)

This study was conducted to focus on the relationship between college students' neuroticism and optimism levels. The hypothesis stated that if individuals' neuroticism level was high, then they will score lower on the LOT-R optimism scale. The participants that were surveyed, randomly chosen on campus, were in varying stages of their collegiate career, ranging from freshmen to seniors who were currently taking a wide range of credit hours. The results were found by calculating a Pearson correlation coefficient, which showed that there was a statistically significant negative correlation between neuroticism and optimism. The hypothesis of this study was supported because the two scales showed a strong negative correlation between neurotic and optimistic levels in individuals. The results were validated by the reliability statistics test and the results found to be statistically significant (as mentioned previously). Therefore, this study can be expanded upon with further studies.

54. How does foreign monetary and military aid, from developed countries, affect the duration of civil wars in developing countries?

Daniela Dyer Melhado (PSC)

In underdeveloped countries' civil wars where compatriots engage in a vicious struggle, imperial powers have a pattern of influencing the outcomes. This original research examines the degree of influence that foreign military and monetary aid have, in the duration of an armed conflict, through three case studies: El Salvador, Nicaragua, and Guatemala. All three developing countries experience civil wars at a large scale, but they vary in terms of intervention and outcomes. El Salvador and Guatemala are mostly intervened by developed countries in favor of the government and its army, while Nicaragua is intervened in favor of guerillas. I hypothesize that civil wars extend due to biased military/monetary aid, and that this aid tends to corrupt the factions who receive it. My research suggests that the findings are validated, because all three civil wars extend mostly because of foreign intervention, and regardless of where and when the aid is allocated.



Abstracts

55. The Relationship between Efficiency and Conscientiousness

Julia Messina & Alexandra Glenn (PSY 200)

In order to determine if a correlation between Conscientiousness and Efficacy exists, a survey was conducted on a college campus. Forty students of different majors, grades, ages, and genders participated in the study. Data was collected in different locations on the campus, and at different times of day. Out of 40 surveys, 2 were excluded, and 38 were counted in the data. Results indicated that Conscientiousness and Efficiency were only slightly related with a .239 correlation and a weak positive relationship.

56. Tolerance of Homosexuality in the African American Population

Cole Miller (PSC)

In this study, I will examine data from the 2012 General Social Survey to determine if a predilection for homophobia exists in the African American population, as has been indicated in past studies. I will examine the extent to which race and gender influences tolerance towards homosexuals. Past studies show that higher levels of education correlates with lower levels of homosexual tolerance. Analysis of the differences of homosexual tolerance levels between gender will be examined to possibly provide evidence to the theory that there are stronger heteronormative values in the black population.

57. To See is to Believe: The Availability Heuristic and Suggestive Images

Valerie Moorer & Faith Ponti (PSY)

Media coverage pervades our culture, often skewing the masses' perception of reality. People over-estimate the likelihood of news-worthy events. The media influences people to believe that violent crimes occur more frequently than they actually do because of over-representation in the news and easy accessibility in our memories (Riddle, 2008). Beauty-standards depicted in TV commercials correlate with college-aged women reporting lower levels body satisfaction (Heinberg & Thompson, 1995). Our study assigned groups of college students to three visual conditions – images that are violent, sexual, or mainstream beauty-standards – and participants completed surveys after viewing the stimuli. We hypothesize that the group exposed to violent content will report lower feelings of safety and perceive greater prevalence of violence; participants exposed to beauty-standards will report less satisfaction with their bodies; participants exposed to sexual content will perceive that other college students have sex often, and that their own sexual activity is less frequent by comparison.



Abstracts

58. Evaluating a Children's Education Program

Emily Murphy and Lauren Rivadeneira (SOC)

The purpose of this study was to evaluate the effectiveness of a Child Abuse Prevention program. The program teaches students about topics that may impact children, such as abuse and bullying. After the show, the children are asked to write a letter about what they have learned. We read and coded 2,157 letters for the mention of any of the three themes. The three themes include: the mention of one type of abuse, the acknowledgment that abusive behavior is wrong, inappropriate or illegal and "No, Go and Tell." This study was conducted in 2016 and reproduced in 2017. There was an increase in the percentage of letters that mentioned at least one of the three themes from 86.0% in 2016 to 93.4% in 2017. According to the data, the program increased effectiveness over the year..

59. Human Trafficking: How Poverty is the Driving Force behind Modern Slavery

Kylee Nelson (PSC)

According to the International Labor Organization, there are 20.9 million human trafficking victims worldwide, placing human trafficking as the third largest international crime industry. Trafficking is characterized by the use of coercion against those in vulnerable circumstances in order to achieve commercial profit. This study explores how poverty in particular puts victims into these vulnerable positions, using comparative case study analysis to understand the issue in a broader context. I analyze the history of and relationship between poverty and human trafficking in three different countries, expecting to find that poverty is a main contributor of human trafficking due to its ability to drive both the victims and the perpetrators into exploitative situations.

60. The Correlation between Anxiety and Saturated Fat and Added Sugar Intake

Caitlin Nordheim (PSY 200)

The purpose of this study was to look for a relationship between anxiety and saturated fat and added sugar intake using students at The University of Tampa as participants. The hypothesis was that if individuals' diet in saturated fat and added sugar was high, their Big Five anxiety score would be high as well. Two questionnaires were used—one about anxiety and another about saturated fat and added sugar intake. A sampling of 40 students found on campus participated. There was not a statistically significant correlation between anxiety and saturated fat and processed sugar intake, $r = 0.171$, $p = 0.146$, so the hypothesis was not supported. A suggested improvement would be to test whether neuroticism in general correlated with saturated fat and added sugar intake.



Abstracts

61. Perceptions of Sexuality Among Undergraduates

Hannah Nyberg and Rebecca Bross (PSY)

This study aims to explore the effects of music genres on perceptions of sexuality. Previous research has shown that explicit and hyper-sexual lyrics can influence views on gender roles. Our current study aims to combine this research and our own. We will have participants listen to a sexual script being read with one of two different genres of music in the background – pop/rap and soulful/romantic – or no music at all (control group). They will additionally answer questions about their demographics and take a sexuality questionnaire. Our participants will be University of Tampa students (expected N = 50). We predict our findings will show that the combination of the sexual narrative and the pop/rap song will be viewed as a casual sexual encounter while the combination of the sexual narrative and the soulful/romantic song will be viewed as a committed, loving sexual setting.

62. How does the criminal justice system impact political corruption?

Laura Ocampo (PSC)

In this research paper, the focus will be on political corruption, specifically investigating political corruption that can be correlated with the monetary investment in the judicial system and the judicial system organization. Modern factors that contribute to the oppression in these developing countries, such as laws, lower public officials, due process (or lack thereof), and economics, will also be discussed. Focus will be on covering the consequences of corruption, and looking at how political corruption develops and is measured. The research method used is the most similar model where I compared three developing democracies to test my hypothesis. My findings help find solutions to political corruption, considering this is a global issue, eradicating such a problem should have priority in countries that want to advance.

63. Dishonest Media: How Framing Affects College Student's Perception of the Homeless

Nicoletta Pappas & Humberto Lopes (PSY)

According to Tversky & Kahneman (1981), the way information is framed can alter an individual's decision making. This is often the problem in today's media, with different media outlets framing information in either positive or negative lights. Our project examines how different framing can alter perception of the homeless. We had three equivalency-framed conditions: negative, neutral, and positive. We instructed participants to read the article, and recorded their support for a proposed policy that gave taxpayer money to the homeless. We asked participants to record their opinions of homelessness before and after reading the article. We hypothesized that those in the positive frame condition would be more likely to support the policy and encourage others to support the policy and those in the negative would be less likely to support the policy proposal and less likely to encourage others to support the policy.



Abstracts

64. Body Image Differences in Sexual Desire and Sexual Attitudes

Daniella Penaranda (PSY)

This study in progress examines the relationship among body image, sexual desires, and sexual attitudes. The independent variable is video narrative condition (positive body image, negative body image, neutral). The dependent variables are 1) sexual desire, and 2) sexual attitudes. Undergraduate students (expected N = 50) watched one of the video conditions and then completed the Sexual Desires Inventory-2 (SDI-2), and the Brief Sexual Attitudes Scale. The students also completed a video evaluation survey as a manipulation check. The hypotheses are that 1) participants given the video about positive body image will have higher levels of sexual desire and positive sexual attitudes, 2) participants given the video about negative body image will have lower levels of sexual desire and less positive sexual attitudes, and 3) participants given the neutral video will have higher levels of sexual desire than those who were presented with negative body image narrative.

65. Depending on Uncle Sam

Jacob Petty (PSC)

This study analyzes a dependency in the relationship between the government assistance program of food stamps and poverty. The literature on assistance programs recognizes a dependency cycle as well as ways to cheat the system. I intend to explore these concepts and evaluate the validity of corruption concerning the Food Stamp system. I want to examine the reason why the economic safety net provided by the government is misused by some, which creates difficulty for others that need the support. I will discuss some factors creating the need for some people to make this specific safety net apart of their normal budgetary plan.

66. Insta-Tutionalized: More Than Just an App—A Qualitative Exploration of College Aged Women’s Instagram Posting Behaviors and Self-Views

Faith Ponti (SOC)

In recent years, social media has become its own institution, particularly regarding the socialization of young women’s beauty ideals and body image. Research suggests that social media leads to a cycle of users posting self-objectifying photographs in order to receive gratification (Perloff, 2014). Specifically, the photo-posting application Instagram provides a platform for young women to post often edited photographs of themselves with the intent of gaining admiration and validation in the form of “likes” or comments (Chua & Chang, 2015). The present study explores how college-aged women’s self-views and opinions of other women are shaped by Instagram. Eighteen female college students were interviewed regarding personal and peer photo-posting behaviors and self-views. Responses indicate that Instagram plays an active role in many women’s lives, and its presence can affect the perception of themselves and their peers.



Abstracts

67. How does immigration policy influence cultural diversity?

Monica Porco (PSC)

The major aspects of this research deals with the variables of immigration policies and cultural diversity. Cultural diversity involves the different ethnicities, backgrounds, and races in a country. In this research, it also involves the first generation immigrants present. I will be evaluating to what extent immigration policy influences these aspects of cultural diversity. This paper will conduct research with the process of comparative case-study analysis. The cases I researched were the United Kingdom, Australia, and Japan. I dive into each of the cases, by looking at their policies by rating them on a policy-strictness scale from one to three. After evaluating the policy-strictness scale, I will compare the differences in the diversities of these cases. I expect to find that the more strict policies will have less cultural diversity.

68. A Comparative Analysis of American and British Political Influences

Madelynn Rey (PSC)

In this review, I will use research and data to begin the process of uncovering whether or not there is a cyclical pattern and correlation between the United States and Great Britain's political agendas. Here are questions I wish to have answered before the start of any testing: Does the United States and Great Britain follow a similar pattern in their political shifts? Does the United States government and the British Parliament follow a cyclical pattern? When one country has a significant election, does the other follow suit in political outcome?

69. Mood and Analytic Problem-Solving

Murphy Riley and Leah Redden (PSY)

The purpose of this research is to determine the effects that various mods have on one's analytic problem solving abilities. The goal is to determine which induced mood wills the most detrimental to participants overall correctness and the amount of time it took them to complete their assigned tasks. The experiment instructs participants to participate in a series of mildly difficult tasks as quickly and accurately as possible. They then are asked to read their assigned mood- inducing stories that are hoped to create sadness, fear and happiness. Participants were then asked again to solve a series of problems. We hope to find a significant difference in correctness and time sent on the task between the subject's initial time and their mood-induced time.



Abstracts

70. Do Tunes Make You Tense?

Kelsey Ritchey & Mary Knutson (PSY 200)

This study was about the connection between the number of hours participants spend listening to music per week and their level of neuroticism. The hypothesis for this study was if the participant listens to a greater number of hours of music, then they will score higher on the neuroticism questionnaire. This study was based on two previous studies measuring the relativity of music and neuroticism. The Big 5 Personality Test for neuroticism was used to collect and measure the responses of University of Tampa students. Participants were asked to complete two counterbalanced surveys anonymously. The hypothesis was tested by calculating the Pearson correlation coefficient, however the coefficient did not show a statistically significant positive correlation between neuroticism and music listening habits. To improve the study, questions would be less open-ended. To further research this topic, neuroticism versus most listened to genre of music would be interesting to observe relatability.

71. Analyzing the effects of selfies and spending habits on levels of narcissism in emerging adults

Carmen Roberts, Danielle Frustaci, Kaitlyn Ligman, and Tanner Scott (PSY)

Emerging adults, individuals aged 18-29 (Arnett, 2000) are frequent users of social media. Social media trends, like taking selfies, along with certain spending habits have been linked to narcissism, suggesting that the more attention and money one invests in oneself, the more likely one is to exhibit narcissistic tendencies (Halpern, 2016). This study aimed to further analyze these relationships and identify any gender differences. Sixty-nine participants from a medium-sized Masters University (35 males) completed a questionnaire assessing reasons for using social media, spending habits, and responses to items measuring narcissism adopted from the NPI-16 (Ames et. al., 2006). Findings demonstrated a positive relationship between the amount of money one spends and narcissistic tendencies. Results suggest that reasons for social media usage differ between genders, as females were found to use social media for surveillance and documentation more so than males.

72. Color Preference and Personality

Julia Rogers & Elizabeth Kwiatek (PSY 200)

This study attempts to demonstrate that color preference and personality are correlated. This study attempted to show a correlation between color preference and a person's tendency to be adventurous. The study consisted of a survey that included a color preference questionnaire and a personality questionnaire. These surveys were distributed to adults on The University of Tampa campus. The results of the survey did not meet our hypothesis. Although the personality questionnaire was found to be reliable, the color preference questionnaire was not. As a result of this, and other possible factors there was no correlation found between adventurousness and color preference.



Abstracts

73. Mood Changes in Response to Same-Sex Videos

Eileen Savastano and Taylor Farrell (PSY)

The purpose of this study is to explore the mood change on homosexual media clips. Our study is intended to continue to get a better understanding how media affects mood and anxiety toward both male and female homosexual relations. Previous research shows that there is a difference in attitudes towards the two different genders regarding homosexuality, but more research is needed on gender differences in mood and how media affects the way people see homosexuality. Subjects will complete the Mood and Anxiety Scale (MASQ-SF) and then be asked to watch two different media clips that involve homosexual males kissing and homosexual females kissing. Participants will then complete the MASQ-SF again after watching both clips. We hypothesis that participants will show score higher on anxiety and more negative mood changes after watching the male homo sexual clip compared to those who watch the female homosexual clip.

74. The Effects of the Media on the Stigmatization of Mental Illness

Tonie Schankweiler and Cynthia Gangi (PSY)

The current research examined the role of the media, specifically news reports of violent crime, in the stigmatization of mental illness. Participants (N = 64) read and responded to an article about a crime committed by an individual either with schizophrenia or whose mental status was not mentioned. The results demonstrated higher levels of stigma when a schizophrenic committed the crime compared to when there was no mention of mental illness. This finding was only true for articles that emphasized biogenetic, rather than psychosocial, factors as the primary causes of schizophrenia. Biogenetic explanations also led to greater perceived violence of the crime, increased belief in bad character as a contributing factor for mental illness, and increased quality ratings of the article itself. Thus, reports of violent crime committed by the mentally ill seem to worsen stigmatization when they emphasize genes and neurotransmitters as the primary causes of illness.

75. How Does economic instability, in the Global South, lead to genocide?

Sarah Schrum (PSC)

This research aims to determine how economic instability directly causes genocide. Although my research question focuses on economic instability, I will be explaining how not only the economy influences genocide, but the combination of economic instability, segmented society and lack of resources lead to the mass killings. These variables simultaneously declining and happening at once establishes the perfect formula for genocide. I am conducting this research through three case studies Rwanda, Cambodia and Chile. My research suggests that a genocide does not occur in a developing country, when one of the variables economic instability, segmented society or scarce resources is not present prior to the killings.



Abstracts

76. Relationship between Child Obedience and Spanking

Amber Showers and Aaron Horace (PSC)

Using data from the General Social Survey 2012, we analyzed the relationship between spanking and child obedience. Our main focus is to examine, to what extent does attitudes toward spanking influence how important respondents believe child obedience is. We also examine the relationship between PID (Party Identification) and attitudes towards child obedience, and the role of region (south vs. non south). We use SPSS to conduct our analyses.

77. Effects of Affirmative Action on Higher Education and in the Workplace

Sophia Starace (PSC)

Affirmative action Executive Order, signed by President Johnson in 1965, was meant to promote diversity by increasing the number of women and minorities in universities and occupations. Ultimately, this gave qualified minorities an equal opportunity, without racial bias, to further their education and career. While there is no doubt that this was created to help minorities, there are still misconceptions and a lack of trust in the effectiveness of this order. There are numerous tests to be done to demonstrate that affirmative action has helped the economic status of minorities, including; finding differences in the wage gap, enrollment in universities, and number of working minorities. Research shows that affirmative action has helped thousands of minorities go to college and be included in higher paying occupations, thus increasing the economic status of minorities. The goal is to expand data on the effects of affirmative action policies and show its importance in America.

78. Scientific Literacy in America

John Tacconi (PSC)

In today's political culture, scientific literacy influences how citizens vote and what policies are implemented by both the states and the Federal Government. Scientific knowledge depends on many contributing factors including, but not limited to, the access to education and the prevalence of religion. This paper focuses on the extent in which the location of the country in which people live influences how scientifically literate they are. I hypothesize that the southern United States possesses less scientific knowledge, on average, due to the high rates of poverty and strong religious traditions.



Abstracts

79. Do citizens radicalize when a developing country's autocratic regime is deposed through foreign intervention?

Lyndsie Taylor (PSC)

In recent years, the Western coalitions have engaged in forced autocratic regime change in the name of promoting democracy and counterinsurgency. There are many examples when foreign powers have forced regime change in an effort to apprehend a leader who uses force and repressions as a means to maintain control or have harbored terrorist organizations. Foreign powers who depose governments tend to cause huge social and political change within the country of occupation. Though military intervention can cause a certain amount of grievances against the occupier, one is left to wonder if that would still be the case in a nondemocratic, repressive environment. Through my research, I find that foreign military intervention and instability (aided by regime change) cause citizens to radicalize despite the objectives of the intervention. My two cases are the invasions of Iraq and Afghanistan in the early 2000s by the US and her allies.

80. The Weak State: A Strong Actor for Terror

Olivia Thompson (PSC)

As the prevalence of terror steadily increases in today's world, a multitude of scholarship has been devoted towards determining the causes of such in an effort to establish actions for peace. Arguments of causation have become highly polarized; one school of thought supporting a linear relationship between poverty, education, and terror. The other supports that while poverty and lack of education have no effect on the prevalence of terror, variables such as feelings of injustice and frustration towards the government do. This research paper bridges the gap in these two arguments by professing that state fragility is accountable for the prevalence for terrorism. My findings suggest that states with higher fragility have a stronger prevalence of terrorist activity.

81. Influence of Male and Female Voices and Narrative Description on Ratings of Ideal Partner Traits

Marissa Del Vecchio and Kyle Tambasco (PSY)

This is a study in progress that seeks to examine the role of one's self-description on the ratings of attractiveness based solely on nonphysical attributes. Undergraduates at the University of Tampa (an expected N = 100) will listen to various audio files that describe a persons' either positive or negative self description in a male or a female voice as well as a neutral control condition. There are six different conditions that are being examined throughout this study. The students will listen to the designated audio file and fill out a Likert styled survey. We hypothesize that participants listening to the positive self-narrative will rate attractiveness greater than the negative self-narrative and neutral self-narrative. Those listening to the negative audio clip will rate attractiveness less than the other conditions. Our third hypothesis is that male voices will receive an average attractiveness mean score that is greater than female voices.



Abstracts

82. Academic Procrastination and Cautiousness

Regina Visconti (PSY 200)

This study confirmed the correlation between cautiousness, a facet of conscientiousness of the Big 5 Personality test, and academic procrastination. Forty participants rated questionnaires on a scale of 1 to 5 (1 = strongly disagree, 5 = strongly agree). The cautiousness questionnaire, with an alpha of 0.870, used statements like “I do not rush into things” or “I do not often make last-minute plans”. The 5-item Academic Procrastination Scale-Shorthand questionnaire, with an alpha of 0.902, measured academic procrastination using statements like “I know I should work on school work but I just don’t do it” and “I frequently find myself putting important deadlines off” (Yockey, 2016). Their responses were analyzed and revealed a statistically significant negative correlation, $r = -0.324$, $p = 0.021$. Participants who rated high in cautiousness, rated low in academic procrastination.

83. Healthcare and Life Expectancy

Savanna Wilkinson (PSC)

Human life is vital to the populations of countries. In the past, most governments have allocated funds towards healthcare, and the life expectancy rate has changed over the years. The purpose of this paper is to explore possible determinants of the life expectancy rate of countries. Therefore, to what extent does a country’s healthcare spending influence the life expectancy rate of its citizens? It is hypothesized that a country who has a high expenditure for healthcare of their total GDP will be more likely to have a higher life expectancy rate than those who have a low expenditure for healthcare. To test the hypotheses, data was drawn from World.sav dataset, and SPSS was used to conduct the analyses.





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