The University of Tampa
College of Social Sciences, Mathematics and Education

2018

UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH CONFERENCE

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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
Kimberly Cummings
Kevin Fridy
Deletha Hardin
Erin Koterba
Cedric Michel
Denis Rey
Enilda Romero-Hall
Michael Stasio
Kathryn VanderMolen
Erica Yuen

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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., (2018, April). *Investigations into the psychology of time perception.* Poster presented at the Spring 2018 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

LAST	FIRST	POSTER #	DEPT	PAGE #
Anderson, Ph.D.	Mary	22	PSC	12
Andrade	Zuleyma	1	PSC	7
Angeleska, Ph.D.	Angela	82	MAT	27
Arango	Claudia	2	PSY	7
Archbold	Ian	3	PSC	7
Armellino	Rachel	4	PSC	7
		95	PSC	30
Azoalos	Emily	5	PSY 200	8
Babcock	Megan	66	PSY	23
Ballinger	Lauren	6	PSY 200	8
Barrett-Clarke	Adam	11	PSY	9
		54	PSY	20
Barrios	Alejandra	7	CRM	8
Bauer	Casey	8	PSC	8
		9	PSC	9
Bialas	Armenda	10	PSY	9
		11	PSY	9
Bing	Brittany	12	PSY	9
		13	PSY	10
Boehne	Brett	14	PSY	10
Bouchard	Nicole	15	PSY	10
Branch, Ph.D.	Kathryn	19	CRM	11
Brantley	Amalia	16	PSY	10
		64	PSY	22
Brunetti	Andrea	11	PSY	9
Burrows	Kristyn	17	PSY	11
Buzbee	Hannah	11	PSY	9
Cagnina	Nicole	18	PSY	11
		26	PSY	13
Carpentier	Chloe	22	PSC	12
Cavaco	Samantha	19	CRM	11
Cerini	Elayna	20	PSY	11
Chavis	Adon	21	PSY 200	12
Cook	Mariah	23	PSC	12
Cournoyer	Kevin	59	PSC	21
Cox	Hannah	2	PSY	7
		26	PSY	13
Cuatt	Craig	71	EDU	24
Cummings, Ph.D.	Kimberly	84	PSY	27
Cunningham	Skylah	24	PSC	12
Darmochwal	Amanda	86	PSY 200	28
Davis	Skyler	67	PSY	23
D'Cruz-Young	Jamie	25	PSC	13
Del Vecchio	Marissa	26	PSY	13
Denney	Shelby	27	PSC	13
Desai	Shivani	60	PSY 200	21
Duffy	Matt	28	PSC	13
Duni	Jennifer	37	PSY	16
Effenberg	Ann-Kathrin	67	PSY	23
Eke	Juliet	29	IST	14

LAST	FIRST	POSTER #	DEPT	PAGE #
Elkins	Mariah	30	PSC	14
Elliott	Noah	31	PSC	14
Espert	Gabrielle	26	PSY	13
		32	PSY	14
Espinoza	Devon	33	PSC	15
Fichtner-Morgan	Balladine	24	PSC	12
Filipe	Jessica	34	PSY	15
Floyd	Wyatt	35	PSC	15
Foran	Jean	68	PSY	23
Gadzinski	Erik	36	PSC	15
Gangi, Ph.D.	Cynthia	11	PSY	9
Gefroh	Michelle	37	PSY	16
Gelabert	Karina	20	PSY	11
Gerth	Gabriel	38	PSC	16
Gilison	Sydney	5	PSY 200	8
Gomez	Aaron	36	PSC	15
		39	PSC	16
Gomez	Jillian	40	PSY 200	16
Gonzalez	Cassandra	41	PSY	17
Gonzalez	Gabriella	42	PSC	17
Gostkowski	Andre	2	PSY	7
Graham	Eryn	13	PSY	10
Harrison	Forrest	11	PSY	9
		43	PSY	17
Hartzler	Sophie	83	PSY	27
Helenius	Juha	79	IST	26
Henn	Evelyn	10	PSY	9
Hernandez	Stephanie	44	PSY	17
Hill	Haley	45	PSC	18
Hill	Kayla	26	PSY	13
Hook	Madi	6	PSY 200	8
Housman	Sarah	91	PSY	29
Hughes	Kiana	75	PSC	25
Jackson	Julie	46	PSY	18
Jaramillo	Ana Lucia	41	PSY	17
Jefferson	Jacob	47	PSC	18
Johnson	Litteasha	54	PSY	20
Jury	Morgan	48	PSY	18
Kehoe	John	49	PSC	19
		50	PSC	19
King	McKevin	51	PSC	19
Klein	Megan	52	PSC	19
Knott	Nechelle	16	PSY	10
Kopceuch	Jennifer	53	PSY	20
Kosa	Michaela	54	PSY	20
Koterba	Erin	26	PSY	13
Kurppa	Sirpa	79	IST	26
Laroe	Lexi	45	PSC	18
Lavery	Katherine S.	55	PSC	20
Lecoeuvre	Shannon	41	PSY	17

LAST	FIRST	POSTER #	DEPT	PAGE #
Lee	Amanda	48	PSY	18
Lustgarten	Elizabeth	13	PSY	10
		56	PSY	20
Magallanes	Paola	57	PSC	21
Marley	William	58	PSY	21
Marschall	Alexandra	59	PSC	21
Martelle	Jenna	16	PSY	10
Matolak	Madeleine	60	PSY 200	21
Matthews	Samantha	61	PSC	22
Meisel	Veronica	37	PSY	16
Miller	Kenneth Cole	62	PSC	22
		63	PSC	22
Minkoff	Melissa	53	PSY	20
Minto	Alex	64	PSY	22
Morais	Marina	58	PSY	21
Morales-Pacheco	Ashley	65	PSC	23
Morgan	Ellis	58	PSY	21
Moscaritolo	Rose	66	PSY	23
Murray	Michaela	24	PSC	12
Neuhalfen	Taylor	67	PSY	23
		68	PSY	23
Ntagungira	Mariane Z.	69	PSC	24
		70	PSC	24
Osgood	Megan	71	EDU	24
Pascoe	Lauren	32	PSY	14
Payton	Allison	72	PSC	24
Paz	Luciana	73	PSC	25
Pecci	Taylor	10	PSY	9
		74	PSY	25
Peña	Victoria	11	PSY	9
		66	PSY	23
Pham	Mai-Anh	75	PSC	25
Pierre	Lexie	76	PSC	25
Platt	Andrew	92	PSC	29
Pollard	Anna	15	PSY	10
		66	PSY	23
Quintana	Alexus	77	PSY 200	26
Racinski	Steve	78	PSY 200	26
Ramsdell	Kassandra	18	PSY	11
Raymond	Sarah	78	PSY 200	26
Rey	Madelynn	40	PSY 200	16
Risku-Norja	Helmi	79	IST	26
Roberts	Taylor	58	PSY	21
Romero-Hall, Ph.D.	Enilda	71	EDU	24
Russo	Danielle	26	PSY	13
Russo	Katie	80	PSC	26
		95	PSC	30
Santana Urena	Nicole	58	PSY	21
Santander	Camila	46	PSY	18

LAST	FIRST	POSTER #	DEPT	PAGE #
Saxena	Shaifali	10	PSY	9
Scott	Giselle	81	IST	27
Scott	Tanner	14	PSY	10
Serna	Miranda	82	MAT	27
Sheridan	Ekaterini	16	PSY	10
		83	PSY	27
Shuman	Talia	11	PSY	9
		74	PSY	25
Silverlieb-Seltzer	Lauren	44	PSY	17
		84	PSY	27
Sivertsen	Julia	85	PSC	28
Smith	Brendan	86	PSY 200	28
Sowell	Destiny	44	PSY	17
Spiotta	Marisa	87	IST	28
Stasio, Ph.D.	Michael	17	PSY	11
		26	PSY	13
Stevens	Amanda	37	PSY	16
Stow	Allie	77	PSY 200	26
Strickland	Alexandra	88	PSC	28
Suasnavar	Daniela	89	IST	29
Sutela	Lindsey	90	PSY 200	29
Tinsley	Brianna (Princess)	12	PSY	9
		13	PSY	10
VanderMolen	Kathryn	42	PSC	17
Vegafria	Alexis	92	PSC	29
Voci	Savannah	91	PSY	29
Walker	Joshua	85	PSC	28
Waters	Andrea	92	PSC	29
Weis	Gina Marie	44	PSY	17
Wilenski	Lauren	1	PSC	7
Williams	Hayden	93	PSC	30
Williams	Simoni	41	PSY	17
Wilson	Courtney	45	PSC	18
Wright	Brian	94	PSC	30
Xarras	Jamie	95	PSC	30
Yuen, Ph.D.	Erica	11	PSY	9
		26	PSY	13
		43	PSY	17

Abstracts

1. Regime Type Influence on Literacy Rates
Zuleyma Andrade & Lauren Wilenski (PSC)

This study examines to what extent three political regimes (Dictatorship, Parliamentary Democracy, and Presidential Democracy) influence the literacy rates of their societies. This was determined by studying data from the World data set, including that of regime types, literacy rates, and government spending on education. Through this research, we found that regime type does have a significant influence on literacy rates. However, this influence becomes even more abundant when taking government spending on education into account. On their own, regime type and government spending on education influence literacy rates, yet when the three variables are observed together, there is a significant relationship. Our research concludes that it is a combination of government type and

2. Internet Usage and Personality
Claudia Arango, Andre Gostkowski, & Hannah Cox (PSY)

Using social media too frequently can play a role in internet addiction, a type of behavioral addiction, like pathological gambling. "Substance" dependency is shown in other behavioral addictions. This dependency leads to reductions in decision making abilities and impulse control. The current study investigated the relationship between internet addiction and the big five personality traits. Through the use of an online survey, participants answered questions, ranking how much each one applied to them. Their levels of addiction were compared to each personality trait. We expect to find people who have low neuroticism and low conscientiousness will be less prone to addictive

3. Party Identification and Affirmative Action
Ian Archbold (PSC)

In this paper, I will examine how party identification relates to support for affirmative action programs in the United States. Using the 2012 General Social Survey, I will study how party identification can create conflicting interests when it comes to policy making for affirmative action programs. The independent variable will act as party identification and the dependent variable will be support for affirmative action. Throughout the paper, I will be explaining how some ideologies line up with political parties and how those parties may vote on affirmative action. My research will also include the use of gender and race as control variables. Using variables from the GSS 2012

4. The Accountability of Large Corporations by Environmental Non-governmental Organizations in Oil Spill Disasters
Rachel Armellino (PSC)

Environmental non-governmental organizations focus on the field of environmentalism and help when there are natural disasters or human made disasters. These types of disasters level from oil spills, deforestation, coral deconstruction. This research will be focusing on the Oil Spills that have occurred in previous years. These organizations take on the responsibility of assisting communities and the environment after an ecological disaster. Since I will be examining the research three specific cases that I will be able to apply to my hypotheses. I expect to find that environmental non-governmental organizations hold corporations accountable with the help from the federal

5. *Do Students Involved in Greek Life Have a More Positive Attitude Towards Authority Than Those Who Are Not?*
Emily Azoalos & Sydney Gilison (PSY 200)
This study in progress aims to explore the attitudes towards authority of students either involved or not involved in Greek Life. Previous research on Greek Life and leadership has suggested that those who have strived to be involved in a social group, such as a fraternity or a sorority, an individual may outweigh the positives of being the group and ignore consequences. In the current study (expected N =80), participants complete a background questionnaire, and then each participant will complete the Adolescent Attitudes Toward Authority Measure (AATAM). The main hypotheses are that participants who are involved in Greek Life will have a more positive attitude towards authority than those not involved in Greek Life. We also predict that females will have a more positive towards authority than males or non-binary.

6. *The Effect of Personality Type and Activity Level on Boredom*
Lauren Ballinger & Madi Hook (PSY 200)
This study in progress (expected N = 30) will be testing how participants' personality and the level of activity presented to them in a short film clip influence how bored they feel. The independent variables are personality type classified as either introverted or extroverted using the "Big Five Inventory- 2" test, and the level of activity in a film clip presented to participants. The dependent variable is the level of boredom measured with the Multi-Dimensional State Boredom Scale taken after watching one of two movie clips. It is hypothesized that a) when watching a clip with high levels of activity, participants with an extroverted personality will show a higher level of boredom than those with introverted personalities, and 2) when watching a clip with low levels of activity, extroverts will also show higher levels of boredom than introverts.

7. *The Impact of Exposure to Victimization Effects on Students' Perceptions of Rape and White-Collar Crime.*
Alejandra Barrios (CRM)
Recent national surveys suggest a hardening of attitudes towards white-collar crime, even relative to street crime. However, one common limitation in this literature is the use of crude vignettes that focus more on the offense itself than on its long-term effects on the victims. This study proposes to (1) isolate the impact of information about victimization effects on attitudes towards crime, and (2) determine whether rape and white-collar crime scenarios that describe similar trauma are judged similarly or differently. Our findings suggest greater perceived seriousness of rape relative to white-collar crime, regardless of exposure to information about victimization effects. Further, while such exposure was associated with increased punitiveness towards crime in general, participants were more likely to punish white-collar crime with a stiffer monetary sanction.

8. *To What Extent Do NGOs Contribute to Regime Change in Non-Democratic States?*
Casey Bauer (PSC)
No one can argue that NGOs do not have an impact on a domestic level within nations, scholars are beginning to test whether the presence of NGOs can spur, encourage, or in some way contribute to regime change. If true, NGOs have the ability to change the international system, elevating the status of non-state actors and posing a serious challenge to realism IR theory. This paper will look at the role NGOs play in encouraging political participation, the interactions NGOs have with non-democratic governments and whether they take an active role in social movements against governments. Previous academic work has looked at cases from individual nations, but very few have examined multiple countries in order to control to if the regime change is a regional phenomenon or something bigger than NGOs have a part in replicating across the world.

9. Are Women Leaders Better for Economic Development?

Casey Bauer (PSC)

Remembered as the "forgotten decade" the 1980's were a time of economic and social gains regress and things looked bleak for much of Central and South America. In the thirty years since the "forgotten decade", Latin America has transformed, both through economic gain and political transition. As military juntas and authoritarian regimes gave way to democracies, which led to increased economic development, political scientists and economists have been quick to claim democracies are key to this economic development. This paper will show that the right leadership in a democracy is needed for strong economic development. That leadership comes in the form of more women in governing roles, from head of the executive branch down to local offices, the more women in office may be the magic formula to Latin America's development.

10. From Part-Time to Full-on "Adulting": Exploring the Relationship between Identity Statuses, Future Anxiety, and Career Readiness

Armenda Bialas, Evelyn Henn, Taylor Pecci, & Shaifali Saxena (PSY)

Current undergraduate students are rumored to have a more prominent fear of maturity than previous generations. Identity development is occurring during this time of increased fear and could be negatively affected (Smith et al, 2017). However, there has been no research examining links between identity status, future anxiety, and career readiness. In this study, 145 participants (97 female) completed a survey that measured identity status, future anxiety, and career readiness. Results suggest that there are links between specific aspects of career readiness and progress toward forming an identity, but no such link between identity and future anxiety emerged. Further, female participants had significantly greater future anxiety; while, male participants scored significantly higher on goal orientation.

11. The Effects of Searching Online for Mental Health Information

Armenda Bialas, Forrest Harrison, Hannah Buzbee, Victoria Pena, Talia Shuman, Adam Barrett-Clarke, Andrea Brunetti, Cynthia Gangi, & Erica Yuen (PSY)

Today, Internet research for mental health information is prevalent among young adults due to its convenience; however, the quality and reliability of the information is questioned. In the present study, 186 participants completed an online search task for mental health information for a friend or themselves, or a control Google Maps task. Afterward, questionnaires were completed to reveal the participants' perceptions about mental illnesses and preferred coping mechanisms. Findings conclude that online searches yield increased optimism toward psychotherapy, but not medication. Additionally, an online search did not influence participants' willingness to seek professional treatment or their stigma toward it. Results suggest that searching online about mental health information aids optimism about general treatability of mental health.

12. The Shopper's Guide: Why We Buy

Brittany Bing & Brianna Tinsley (PSY)

Consumers make decisions based off references like past purchases. Past research suggests that price perception can be manipulated when we use an anchor, or reference, before buying an item. This study looks at the relationship between the anchoring adjustment and estimating prices along with the origin of a product. We induced participants to use their student ID as a price anchor for a shoe. We told some participants the shoe came from an upscale mall in Tampa, and others that the shoe came from a lower scale mall. Results suggests that participants set the price of the shoe according to the anchor and would assume the price of the shoe is either lower or higher depending on the origin of the store. The study proposes that consumers make judgments about a product depending on the store it originated from and if an anchor is used as a reference.

13..Parental Influence on Education and Career Choice
Brittany Bing, Eryn Graham, Liz Lustgarten, & Princess Tinsley (PSY)
Most college students are faced with two significant choices during their education: deciding on both a major and future career aspirations. For many college students, parents act as valuable and reliable resources to depend upon during this chaotic time. Past research has demonstrated the numerous ways in which parents can influence their child's education and career choices. The present study addressed the possible relationships between parental influence and students' choice of major and career. Seventy-five students from the University of Tampa completed a questionnaire which centered around the participants' college education and career decisions. Results demonstrate that parents indeed influence their children's college education and career choices. Therefore, it appears that emerging adults actively receive guidance and support from their parents during college.

14. Zeigarnik Effect for Word Search Task
Brett Boehne & Tanner Scott (PSY)
We examined the Zeigarnik effect during a word search task. This effect states that memory of interrupted or incomplete tasks will be enhanced compared to completed or uninterrupted tasks. To test our participants, they combed for words in a word search task. With this, the words could be in the multiple directions. The participants searched for a total of 20 words and they were given 35 seconds to find each word. For words that were not found, the participant was shown its location. Then, at the conclusion of the task, the participants attempted to recall all of the words from the word search task. The percentage recall for the found words from the task will be compared to the percentage of recall for the unfound words. Based upon the results of previous work, we predict that there would be significant results that support the Zeigarnik effect.

15. Values in Non-Romantic Versus Romantic Relationships Regarding Components of Sternberg's Triangular Theory of Love
Nicole Bouchard & Anna Pollard (PSY)
Sternberg's Triangular Theory of Love identifies love as having three major components; Intimacy (Liking), Passion (Infatuation), and Commitment (Empty Love). Most research on desirable facets of love vary and focus on middle-aged adults. College-aged, emerging adults may propose alternate results, especially on what facets of love they value most in romantic and non-romantic relationships. In this study in progress students participate in an online survey containing the Triadic Love Scale-Revised (TLS-R) and view one of three videos: Non-Romantic Relationship, Romantic Relationship, and Control (Neutral). The dependent variables will be scores of intimacy, passion, and commitment forms of love. Hypotheses are that college students who watch the romantic relationship video will rate passion higher and intimacy lower than those who watched the non-romantic video and vice versa.

16. Links between Self Esteem, Sexual Risk Taking, Infidelity and Attitudes toward Consensual Non-Monogamy among Emerging Adults
Amalia Brantley, Nechelle Knott, Jenna Martelle, & Ekaterini Sheridan (PSY)
"Hookup culture" is part of the mainstream for emerging adults aged 18 to 29. Attitudes towards "hooking up" have been thoroughly studied, but little research analyzes the more recent emergence of consensual non-monogamy. This style of relationship involves having several consenting romantic/sexual partners rather than one monogamous partner. Sixty-three emerging adults completed a questionnaire assessing their experiences with infidelity, self-esteem, sexual-risk taking behaviors, and attitudes towards consensual non-monogamy. Results suggest that emerging adults with higher self esteem and sexually permissive attitudes had a more favorable view of consensual non-monogamy. Sexual risk taking behavior and infidelity were unrelated to attitudes towards consensual non-monogamy, and those who had committed emotional infidelity had lower self esteem than those who had not.

17. Does Country of Origin Have an Effect on an Individual's Health, Wellness, and Adaptability to New Surroundings?
Kristyn Burrows & Michael Stasio (PSY)

This research in progress (expected N = 50) investigates the impact that country of origin has on one's health, wellness, and adaptability to living in the U.S. Participants provide demographic data, then complete measures on sleep hygiene, acculturative stress, homesickness, and attitudes towards physical and mental health. International and U.S. students were grouped according to distance and travel time back home from college. We hypothesize that a) females would be more likely to admit worries about mental and physical health than males, b) International students who spend more than 10 hours travelling home or that cannot drive home will experience more feelings of homesickness and acculturative stress, and c) financial difficulty will prompt higher feelings of homesickness and acculturative stress for international students.

18. Changes in Perceived Likability in Response to Sexual Orientation
Nicole Cagnina & Kassandra Ramsdell (PSY)

This study in progress examines whether learning a peer's sexual orientation changes one's perception of that peer. Perception is measured through likability, defined as the extent to which a person is agreeable or easily liked. Participants (expected N = 60) will either read a script that provides basic information about a peer (major, hometown, etc.) or a script that includes all text from the first script, plus additional information about the peer's sexual orientation. After reading a script, participants will complete the Reysen Likability Scale in relation to the peer they read about. We hypothesize that students who read the script with background information alone will rate their peer as more likable than students that read the script containing information related to sexual orientation. We also hypothesize that female students will rate their peer as more likable than males.

19. An Exploratory Study of the Needs of Pregnant and Parenting College Students
Samantha Cavaco & Kathryn Branch (CRM)

Prior research demonstrates that college women who experience an unintended pregnancy are at increased risk of not completing their college degree compared to their counterparts (USDOE, 2013). College women who are pregnant experience a myriad of effects related to their physical, emotional, and psychological well-being. Thus, these students need support. Pregnant students are important in their own right, and their unique stories and experiences can provide insight into the complicated nature of pregnancy and parenting during college. The scope of this issue radiates far beyond the pregnant student. In order to fill the critical gap in the literature, a qualitative methodology will be used to explore the experiences of female college students who are pregnant or parenting to determine the needs of the population while completing their college degree.

20. Influence of Perceived Mate Value in Males
Elayna Cerini & Karina Gelabert (PSY)

Perceived mate value is defined as how someone rates themselves across attributes that are typical in a good partner. This study in progress (expected N = 60) explores perceived mate value in college males. Participants provide demographic data, listen to one of the three condition audio recordings of a woman describing herself: 1. With physical attributes, 2. With personable attributes, 3. a woman describing good tips to study for an exam (CONTROL). Participants will then fill out Kirsner's Mate Value Inventory-11 Scale. The main hypothesis is that men who read the narrative of the woman describing herself with personable characteristics (vs. men who listened to the physical attributes condition) will rate themselves lower on the Mate Value Inventory-11 Scale. We also hypothesized men will rate the woman talking about physical conditions as more likely to be attracted to them.

21. Is There a Direct Effect of Fitness on Happiness?
Adon Chavis (PSY 200)

This study in progress examines the correlation between fitness participation and mood and asks whether increased fitness leads to a higher sense of happiness. Participants (expected N = 40) read the informed consent, provide background and exercise information, complete the Subjective Happiness Scale, and the read a debriefing statement. The main hypotheses are that a) students who go the gym more often will tend to be happier than those who do not go at all, and that b) males who go to the gym will receive a higher sense happiness than their women counterparts who also go to the gym.

22. Political Behavior in Ghana
Chloe Carpentier & Mary Anderson (PSC)

The realm of political psychology has been widely explored in western countries. However, less researched is how individual's psychology influences their political behavior in less developed countries such as Ghana. This paper explores the ways that personality in an inclusive culture such as Ghana impacts political behavior vis a vis a more individual, or western culture.

23. How is Social Media an Effective Tool for Women's Advocacy Networks?
Mariah Cook (PSC)

Social media is being used more and more for activism purposes like crowdfunding, spreading awareness, and gaining support for issues. In this paper, I discuss the reasoning for advocacy networks using social media, as well as the elements of an effective social media campaign. Further, in evaluating the strengths, weaknesses, and limitations of this method of advocacy, I found that campaigns that utilized social media were more effective in gaining support for their movements, as well as creating a sense of community among supporters from around the world, which leads to increased participation as a result of fostering feelings of solidarity between those involved, although some died out due to difficulties in maintaining momentum and support as new campaigns and controversies gained footing in media and society.

24. Investigating the Relationship between Party Identity and Desire to Improve the Environment.
Skylah Cunningham, Michaela Murray, & Balladine Fichtner-Morgan (PSC)

Our research project includes a comprehensive look into the relationship between political party identification and desire to improve the environment. We will be utilizing SPSS, specifically examining the variables "partyid" and "natenvir". The variable "partyid" conveying the subject's political identification, and the variable "natenvir" depicting how strongly the subject believes improving and protecting the environment is being focused on. The measurement for both variables are nominal, as they both entail that the subject selects their answer from a given scale. This being said, we will be re-coding the variables for the purpose of analyzing and better conveying the findings of our research.

25. *Marijuana Opinion in Legalized States*
Jamie D'Cruz-Young (PSC)

As of January 5th, 2018 over sixty percent of Americans believe that the drug should be legalized. Democrats and Republicans, however, still sit on fairly opposite sides of the issue with over 55% of Republicans against legalization and over 70% of Democrats in favor of fully legalized cannabis. This reflects the actions of the current administration with Attorney General Jeff Sessions infamously denouncing the use and spread of the drug. This firm stance is not quite as well reflected among all members of the party though, many current Republican governors have been witness to legislation being passed on the medicinal and recreational legalization of the drug. This begs the question of whether or not the staunch party ideals of old, the 'War on Drugs', still exists in the states that have allowed for the legal selling of Marijuana.

26. *The Effects of Facebook Use and Rumination on Cognitions and Emotions*
Marissa Del Vecchio, Danielle Russo, Hannah Cox, Gabrielle Espert, Kayla Hill, Nicole Cagnina, Michael Stasio, Erin Koterba, & Erica Yuen (PSY)

Past research has suggested that Facebook usage has a negative impact on mood levels due to factors like rumination and feelings of envy. This study seeks to understand the relationship between these factors and mood after Facebook use. Participants (N = 232) were randomly assigned to one of five conditions in which they completed surveys then browsed either Facebook or the general web for 20 minutes. Three conditions were asked to reflect on their experience (positively, negatively or generally) while the other two control conditions were not assigned a reflection task. There were several common themes found in each reflection type that provide reasonable support for our findings. As a whole, our results have suggested that ruminating after Facebook use does a have a negative impact on mood levels.

27. *Are Partnerships between Northern NGOs and Southern NGOs Helpful in Achieving Development and Humanitarian Goals?*
Shelby Denney (PSC)

This study seeks to explore the different types of partnerships between international NGOs and local and domestic NGOs and to test whether or not partnerships increase effectiveness and capacity in target communities. Northern NGOs often developed and implemented programs and projects into communities themselves, but more recently there has been a focus on partnering with local and domestic Southern NGOs. It is important for NGOs to focus on increasing local capacity in humanitarian and development work. This study uses three case studies to display different degrees of partnership between Northern and Southern NGOs and to test the effectiveness of these partnerships. I anticipate the analysis will show that established partnerships between Northern and Southern NGOs that are focused on increasing local capacity will increase effectiveness of the work of these NGOs in target communities.

28. *NGO Funding*
Matt Duffy (PSC)

The purpose of this research is to produce a comparative case study analysis on the distribution of NGO funding. This paper discusses the varying differences in fundraising and spending approaches of these organizations. By comparing select NGOs using the most similar system design, I hope to evaluate the culture of these organizations as a whole. This paper aims to add to the gap in the existing research on the topic, as there lacks a comprehensive understanding of how differing organizations allocate their funding. By comprising analyses of different NGOs, I hope to add to existing studies on these organizations. Through this approach, my goal is to assess the various factors that go in to how an organization decides to distribute and spend its funding. My results showed these differing factors and how the affected spending.

29. *South Korea's Economic Blossoming*
Juliet Eke (IST)

College students' opinions on the norms and perceived commonality of cheating in an academic setting influence the In the 1960's, South Korea's GDP per capita was around one hundred fifty dollars. A mere twenty years later, in 1980, the country's GDP underwent an incredible miracle, growing eleven times as much, at $1,700. What led to South Korea's massive economic blossoming? Theorists and scholars have come up with many different explanations in light of this rapid success. South Korea's model of prosperity can also be seen as imitated by African countries whose economies have excelled as well, such as Botswana. Such an increase in a short amount of time begs the how question to be answered. By taking a closer look at these explanations for South Korea's economic boom and studying cases across Africa, we are able to grasp a better sense of what caused this dramatic change in a country's outcome.

30. *How Controversial Concepts Affect Partisanship*
Mariah Elkins (PSC)

This research was conducted in order to see if controversial topics such as abortion could affect what political party people identify with. Taking into consideration that it is commonly believed individuals choose their political party based of the ideals said party holds, this investigation looks into if that belief holds true, or if other factors determine one's partisanship. By using SPSS data sets, conclusions are able to be drawn by using variables provided for abortion and political party identification. Each paragraph presented in this paper presents descriptions of what can lead individuals to change parties and how the presence of controversial topics effect their outlooks on their selected party.

31. *Does Democratization Impact Economic Prosperity in Latin America?*
Noah Elliott (PSC)

The focus of this research is to determine how democratization within Latin America has effected economic growth. Democracy has long been praised as the superior system of governmental rule and advocated around the globe to bring forth widespread freedom and stability. Yet, there is a consistent division between nations who flourish in success after democratization and those who struggle to survive under their newly established government. This research investigates three countries in Latin America and targets factors such as poverty, path to democracy, economic prosperity, and public opinion. The ultimate objective in the research is to discern what perpetuates the inability of certain nations to economically cope with democracy. The results will expectantly provide guidance to future states who are in the early stages of democratization.

32. *Human Sexual Activity and Mood*
Gabrielle Espert & Lauren Pascoe (PSY)

coming" part of sex culture in the media. Previous research has shown there is a social stigma surrounding the expression of BDSM behavior, despite people reporting that they are aroused by such behavior. The current study in progress (expected N = 60) will act as a "societal update" on perceptions of BDSM behavior. Participants watch one of three music videos: a) BDSM or "kinky" behavior, b) "vanilla" or socially normal sex behavior, c) a neutral condition. Main hypotheses are: 1. Participants who feel discomforted by BDSM-type behavior will experience a change from positive affect to negative affect after watching kinky content. 2. Participants who do not feel discomforted by BDSM-type behavior will experience no change in affect after watching the kinky material.

33. *Faith and Non-Governmental Organizations*
Devon Espinoza (PSC)

In the past twenty years, the scope of influence of NGOs has increased dramatically. Non-governmental organizations have a multitude of agendas to include humanitarian assistance, developmental aid, advocating human rights and environmental lobbying. Among the estimated several million NGOs in existence today, an increasing number of them are characterizing themselves as faith-based organizations. FBOs have trouble using the term "religion" to describe themselves due to the negative connotations and it will be more difficult for them to apply for public funding. This is because of the notion of proselytizing efforts. Proselytism is the act of converting or attempting to convert individuals from one religion, belief, or opinion to another. I will attempt to draw a connection between proselytism and government policy in different regions of the world.

34. *Mainstream Gender Roles in the Media and the Effects on Sexual Communication and Satisfaction*
Jessica Filipe (PSY)

Previous research amongst dominant forms of media has found that there have been traditional and heteronormative gendered scripts all around since "the media" has existed. These gendered scripts enforce heteronormativity; a dominant and unemotional male, and a passive, submissive, and sexy female. The goal of the current research study was to asses the relationships between the media and people's sexual behavior. The current study (expected N = 70) investigates whether being exposed to a video of open sexual communication versus no sexual communication will have an effect on participant's self-reported sexual satisfaction and intercommunication. It is hypothesized that students who view the video with open sexual communication will score lower on their self-reported sexual satisfaction and partner communication than students who view the video with no expressed sexual communication.

35. *Does Food Aid Cause a Cycle of Dependency?*
Wyatt Floyd (PSC)

The purpose of this research is to produce a comparative case study analysis on the effects of food aid on dependency. This paper discusses the implications of humanitarian relief and the provision of food security technologies. The manipulation of food pricing and supply can have drastic results on local nutritional health. This paper aims at adding to existing literature on the topic, and to develop my own theories on the relationship between donor and recipient. I am specifically interesting in investigating what happens when NGOs remove themselves from the crisis areas. With this approach, I test three hypothesis that focus on the duration of food aid programs, the manipulation of food prices, and alternative aid solutions. I predict that my findings will align similarly with existing research and offer a broader macro analysis on food aid as a whole.

36. *The Big-5 Trait Model Applied to a Developing Democracy: Colombia*
Erik Gadzinski - Aaron Gomez (PSC)

Most research and theory produced in the field of political science has largely ignored the relationship between personality and mass political behavior. The relatively recent development of five-factor trait models of personality has provided the impetus for political scientists to study such relationships. Relationships between personality and political behavior have been observed for a number of political behaviors using five-factor trait models. That said, the research in this area has been reserved, almost exclusively, to advanced democracies. In this essay, we expand on this research regarding the relationship between personality and political behavior by studying the relationship in Colombia, using the five-factor trait model. Specifically, we hypothesize that personality, constructed from the Big 5 personality traits has an effect on voter turnout.

37. *Exploring Links Between Happiness, Sexual Attitudes and Behaviors, Age, and Gender in Emerging Adulthood*
Michelle Gefroh, Jennifer Duni, Amanda Stevens, & Veronica Meisel (PSY)

The current study examined overall happiness in conjunction with sexual attitudes and behaviors, and if gender influences that relationship. Previous research has found that self-esteem is tied to risky sexual behaviors (Maas & Lefkowitz, 2014), but there is a lack of research investigating happiness as a separate psychological phenomenon in association with sexual behaviors. In the present study, 147 students (117 women; MAge=20.07, SD=1.48) completed an online survey about sexual behaviors, sexual attitudes, and happiness. Findings suggest that men and women have similar attitudes toward sexuality, but differ in sexual behaviors depending on happiness and lifetime number of partners. In emerging adulthood, it is becoming more acceptable to engage in higher amounts of sexual behaviors, and it is important to understand how the development of sexual identity impacts overall happiness.

38. *How Do NGOs Ensure The Safety Of Their Operations In "Hotspot" Regions Of The World?*
Gabriel Gerth (PSC)

This paper seeks to find out how NGOs working in dangerous parts of the world make sure that their efforts are secure and successful. The research focuses on the different types of security that NGOs use when their operations are in hotspot regions; these security measures can include anything from state-sponsored security, foreign sponsored state security, to private security. The research also seeks to measure how effective each type of security choice actually is when compared, in terms of the overall success of the NGOs' s while operating in that particular hotspot region.

39. *What is the Role of NGOs in the Battle against Human Trafficking?*
Aaron Gomez (PSC)

Extant literature on human trafficking often mentions the role of NGOs in deterring or confronting human trafficking. Nonetheless, numerous scholars that address this issue fail to acknowledge in conjunction whether NGOs prove to be influential players in reducing human trafficking and whether cooperation and help from governments is vital for their success. This article theorizes that some anti-trafficking NGOs are better able to deter and reduce human trafficking when their host governments are willing to support them and cooperate towards a common goal. Therefore, this comparative case study examines NGO involvement in three countries situated in the Southeastern Asia region (Bangladesh, Cambodia, and Indonesia) and show that governmental and NGO cooperation, along with the support of foreign entities, is crucial for the success of anti-trafficking efforts.

40. *Music and Psychological Changes in Mood*
Jillian Gomez & Madelynn Rey (PSY 200)

This study (in progress) aims to determine if listening to positive, upbeat music will have an immediate effect on an individual's mood. Music has been used as a non-clinical treatment for psychological distress. Participants (expected N = 50) will be recruited in the lobby of the Vaughn Center at the University of Tampa. They will be asked to complete the Positive and Negative Affect Schedule (PANAS) to assess their mood before the experiment. They will watch one of three short music videos evoking different emotions then take the PANAS one more time to determine their mood after watching the music video. We hypothesize that after watching the positive emotion video, upon self-analysis, the participants' mood and psychological will improve, or will notate "positive" attributes.

41. *A Selfie is Worth a Thousand Words: The Relationship between Selfies, "Selfitis," Narcissism, and Social Media Addiction*
Cassandra Gonzalez, Ana Lucia Jaramillo, Shannon Lecoeuvre, & Simoni Williams (PSY)

With the explosion of social media, selfie-taking has risen dramatically. Given the limited empirical understanding of the consequences of selfie-taking, this study aimed to evaluate the relationship between selfies, narcissism, social media addiction, and "selfitis" (obsessive selfie-taking; Balakrishnan & Griffiths, 2017). Seventy-four participants (56 female) completed a questionnaire assessing their selfie behaviors, their levels of social media addiction, selfitis, and narcissism. Results indicated a strong relationship between selfie taking, posting frequency, and selfitis. Leadership/Authority, one dimension of narcissism, was tied to selfie-taking frequency but not selfie-posting frequency. Social media addiction and selfitis were also strongly related. Our findings suggest that higher selfie-taking frequency could be tied to maladaptive behaviors.

42. *Political Party Recruitment In Battleground States: A Florida Case Study*
Gabriella Gonzalez & Kathryn VanderMolen (PSC)

This study investigates political party recruitment, using Florida as a case study. As one of the most highly contested battleground states during general elections, this research is vital to understanding the dynamics of political party recruitment in competitive states. This research seeks to demonstrate that the state of Florida consistently experiences high levels of candidate recruitment at all levels of government relative to less competitive states. The data used to test this theory was gathered from the Southern Grassroots Activists Project, 2001 published by John A. Clark and Charles Prysby. In this project I utilize the survey and data from the Southern Grassroots Activists Project to help provide support for my hypothesis through intensive analysis and testing.

43. *The Perception of Memes in College Students*
Forrest Harrison & Erica Yuen (PSY)

Memes are messages that may convey the thoughts or feelings of one person/organization to another. These messages come in many shapes and forms such as images, videos, and phrases. Little research has been conducted to explore how depression-themed memes can influence cognitions and emotions. In the present study, college students completed a battery of surveys after being randomly assigned to view 10 memes themed with depression, view 10 memes containing topics unrelated to depression (neutral memes), or to not view memes (control group). Preliminary analyses showed that viewing depression-themed memes can lower mood levels, but did not seem to influence stigma toward mental illness. Students shown neutral memes were more willing to be around someone with mental health issues. The findings of this study expand our understanding of the impact memes can have on perceptions and emotions.

44. *Do it for the 'Gram: Gender Differences in Instagram Interaction*
Stephanie Hernandez, Lauren Silverlieb-Seltzer, Destiny Sowell, & Gina Marie Weis (PSY)

Emerging adults spend copious time using media, which is a platform for interaction and forming or maintaining relationships. There is a link between Facebook usage and relationship dissatisfaction, which is a result of jealousy and observing a partner's online behavior (Coyne et al., 2013). Instagram is rising in popularity among emerging adults, but little is known about the relationship between emerging adults' romantic relationships and social media. In the current study, 100 participants (53 females) completed a questionnaire about attitudes towards romantic relationships, relationship satisfaction, social media usage, and jealousy. Results indicate that Instagram is more intrusive to the lives of females compared to males. Results also revealed gender differences in Instagram use. Outcomes of this research will be discussed in the context of a relationship.

45. *The Affect of Personality on Voters in the Netherlands*
Haley Hill, Lexi Laroe, & Courtney Wilson (PSC)

Compared to other democratic countries, the Netherlands has a large population of people who actively vote in elections. The 2010-2014 World Values Survey demonstrates that the Netherlands has one of the highest amounts of citizens who choose to vote in both local and national elections. Why is it that Dutch citizens consistently choose to be politically active? The purpose of this paper is to argue that personality plays an extensive role in why the majority of the Dutch population choose to participate in elections through voting. Using the big 5 personality traits, openness to experience, conscientiousness, extraversion, agreeableness, and emotional stability, we intend to investigate the question, to what extent does personality influence the likelihood one is to vote? Could there be something about the Dutch personality that encourages them to vote?

46. *The Effect of Menstruation on Mood*
Julie Jackson & Camila Santander (PSY)

This study examines whether a social event, such as a date, that includes a negative incident involving a female's menstrual cycle will have an effect on mood levels. Previous findings show that women who have positive attitudes toward menstruation feel more comfortable with their sexuality. In this study (N = 145), participants completed the Positive and Negative Affect Scale, read one of three narratives: 1) the control condition, 2) the negative outcome condition, or 3) the menstruation outcome condition, and then completed the PANAS and the Attitudes toward Menstruation Questionnaire. The hypothesis is that participants in the menstruation outcome condition will have a larger decrease in mood level after reading that narrative than the participants in the negative outcome and control conditions.

47. *Corporate Social Responsibility's influence on Developmental NGOs: Efficacy and Implications*
Jacob Jefferson (PSC)

Since the formation of Neoliberal ideology in the 1970s, NGOs have been seen as appropriate conduits of foreign aid because of their ability to reach grassroots operations. There has been a significant rise in corporate support of NGOs, as Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) has come into fashion due to an increasingly socially conscious consumer base. But does CSR do more to help or hurt impoverished areas? Through case study analysis of Developmental NGOs in regions of Southern Asia and Africa, this paper plans to show that due to factors such as mission displacement, increased importance on quantifiable measurements, and sustainability paradoxes that corporate co-optation of NGOs has proven more detrimental than supportive to poverty alleviation efforts.

48. *The Effects of Verbal and Visual Interference on Short Term Memory Recall*
Morgan Jury & Amanda Lee (PSY)

We observed the impact of verbal and visual interference on short term memory recall. We also noted the impact of the primacy and recency effects. We composed three 12-word lists to show the participants. One group received visual interference, another verbal interference, and a third received no interference. We expect that those paricipants in the condition with no interference will have the highest recall. We also anticipate that the recency effect will be the most noticeable with recall being highest at the end set of words. Additionally, there will be a slight decrease from the initial set to the middle set of words.

49. Do U.S. Trade Policies Contribute to Cuban Poverty?
John Kehoe (PSC)

The effects of US-Cuban foreign policy has continuously been pondered and debated as one of the lead factors of Cuba's economic conditions. From tourism rates to embargo limitations, scholars have conducted research to understand what these government regulations deploy on individuals; however, with U.S. business practices centered around free-market ideology, investment in Cuba has little to no research in academia. This paper seeks to understand how changes in government regulations on international businesses can affect poverty. To do so, I will analyze an index of different trade restrictions on international business exchanges, on a range from low, medium and high restrictions. These results will be compared to a poverty index focused on economic conditions seen within Cuba.

50. How do Environmental NGOs Influence Environmental Policy?
John T. Kehoe (PSC)

In the last few decades, environmental degradation has drastically increased as a international concern for various public and private actors. From public health issues to resource scarcity and allocation, state actors are being urged to implement sustainable codes that preserve the environment at the domestic and interstate level. Environmental NGOs have grown as major bargaining powers that pursue environmental reform across the globe. Through a differentiated qualitative case study analysis on campaigns implemented by NGOs and corporations, specifically Greenpeace, Coca-Cola, and McDonalds and the Environmental Defense Fund, this paper aims to answer how international environmental NGOs influence environmental policy. Along with this, my findings also elaborate on the specific actions needed for sponsorships by corporations and NGOs shape governmental environmental regulations.

51. Sustainable Strategies Employed by NGOs to Maintain Peace after Armed Conflict
McKevin King (PSC)

The purpose of my research paper is to determine "What sustainable strategies do NGOs employ to maintain peace after armed conflict" NGOs and other researchers have documented countless ways to maintain peace and the success rates of them. I intend to measure success rates by level of violence before during and after the NGOs have entered the conflict. The case studies I have chosen focus mainly on Somalia and Ivory Coast but also mention countries in that where in conflict between the 1980s to 2000s. The NGOs in the paper range from Christian NGOs to humanitarian NGOs such as Doctors Without Borders. NGOs have accomplished a lot after conflicts and managed to sustain peace but have also made many mistakes and worsened the situation. Being able to identify the ineffective methods would save money, time, and ultimately lives.

52. NGOs and INGOs Combating Global Climate Change
Megan Klein (PSC)

Global climate change has become one of the most momentous threats facing or world today. Since the start of the industrial revolution, the global temperature has risen 1.5 degrees Fahrenheit and the concentration of harmful greenhouse gasses in our atmosphere have increased dramatically. In addition, the arctic icecaps are melting at alarmingly fast rates, and sea levels are rising 3.4mm a year. If this trend continues we will experience global famines and droughts, creating issues of conflict and national security problems. The number of environmental NGOs and INGOs has grown dramatically over the past few decades. However, despite this increase in ENGOs, the climate is still experiencing detrimental changes. In this study I will examine the effect these ENGOs actually have on the environment and studying if the assistance of an EINGO has a greater impact on the environment.

53. *How College Students Use Heuristics When Looking For A Potential Relationship Partner*
Jennifer Kopceuch & Melissa Minkoff (PSY)

We examined the effects of the availability and representativeness heuristics on the formation of relationships. We wanted to establish how college students utilize heuristics when seeking a relationship partner and if age or relationship status affected the way the participants viewed certain scenarios. The independent variables were real-life scenarios based on either the availability or representativeness heuristics. The dependent variables were the participants' ratings of probability to pursue the relationship on a 5-point rating scale. An online survey was provided that consisted of 6 scenarios and required responses to each. We predicted that the underclassmen participants would utilize the availability heuristic more than the upperclassman participants.

54. *Identity Status, Happiness, and Body Confidence in Emerging Adults*
Michaela Kosa, Adam Barrett-Clarke, & Litteasha Johnson (PSY)

Emerging adulthood, a new stage of development taking place between the ages of 18 and 29, is characterized by identity exploration. Marcia's (1966) identity status model classifies individuals into four identity statuses based on whether they have explored or committed to an identity: diffusion, moratorium, foreclosure, and achievement. There is an ample literature linking each identity status to positive and negative emotions, but happiness, identity status, body confidence have yet to be studied. In the present study, 109 participants (44 males) took a survey assessing identity status, level of happiness, and level of body confidence. Results suggest that moratorium (exploring without commitment) is linked with higher levels of happiness and body confidence. Further, happiness and body confidence were positively correlated, and happiness and body confidence were tied to identity.

55. *Relationship between Religious Denomination and Abortion Views*
Katherine S. Lavery (PSC)

Abortion opinions tend to be some of the most heated topics in politics. With recent debate as to if abortion should be legal, and if yes to what extent, has brought about many questions as to what abortion is and is not. There are the two basic views, agree or disagree but also underlying ranges of approval regarding a women's right to abortion. My study seeks to determine if certain denominations of Christianity hold stronger views against abortion than another. Doing this through examining Judaism, Protestantism and Catholicism basis of beliefs. Where differences in morals may lead one denomination to be more supportive of abortion in certain circumstances. Analyzing sample data to determine to what extent each believes abortion should be legal. I will also analyze independent variables like age to find its relationship in regards to the support of abortion as a whole.

56. *Differences in Attention to Background Information in Erotic and Non-Erotic Stimuli*
Elizabeth Lustgarten (PSY)

There has been limited research on attention levels for erotic versus non-erotic stimuli in men and women. This study in progress tested how erotic and non-erotic video stimuli affect attention to background information in men and women. The study is also expected to show differences in gender and sexuality related to the amount of questions answered correct for each video type. Participants (expected N=60) watched a video that was either erotic or non-erotic, then answered 5 questions on background information from the video they watched. The hypotheses are that the non-erotic video participants will perform better than the erotic video participants and that women will perform better overall than men. Preliminary analyses have found that there is a slight, non-significant, difference between men and women which is expected to increase when more participants complete the questionnaires.

57. Effects of education on xenophobia
Paola Magallanes (PSC)

Recently, increasing violence in many parts of the world has forced people of different cultural, religious and ethnic backgrounds to flee their home countries and become minorities in other countries. As a result, we find enhanced levels of national pride and dissatisfaction across the countries involved. On a social level, we encounter clashes between different cultures and religions, which in turn make it harder for the immigrants to integrate to the society. One important aspect that could help ease transitions between cultures, is education, which could potentially aid dialogue and the understanding of fundamental differences, as well as, the acceptance of others as part of a community and provide possible solutions to these conflicts.

58. Examination of Narcissism and Self-Control as Predictors of the Frequency of Social Media Use
William Marley, Marina Morais, Ellis Morgan, Taylor Roberts, & Nicole Santana Urena (PSY)

Emerging adults (18-29 year olds) tend to use social networking sites (SNS) more than any other age group (Holgrem & Coyne, 2017). Narcissism and self-control, which are closely linked personality traits, have been correlated with a dependency on SNS (Burnell & Kuther, 2016; Vazire and Funder, 2006). In the current study, the relationship between social media use, narcissism, and self-control was examined. A sample of 66 emerging adults (36 females) were surveyed on self-control, narcissism, and social media use. Results of the study showed significant correlations between low levels of self-control and greater posting frequency on Snapchat. Similarly, a decrease in self-control correlated with an increase of posts and interaction with other social media platforms. Our results indicate that self-control is a better predictor of the use of specific social media sites than narcissism.

59. Public Opinion on the Environmental Budget
Alexandra Marschall & Kevin Cournoyer (PSC)

The political agenda of policy makers in the United States and the issues they prioritize become most visible to the general public through various airwaves of modern media. However, the dynamics of public opinion are deeply rooted by internal individual narrative that is structured by values, attitudes, and opinions. The scope of environmental issues is of complex nature, but through our research we will be conducting hypotheses tests to determine if the variables of education and partisanship have a correlation to the overall public opinion on the environmental budget.

60. Can Our Culture and Those Around Us Influence Effects of Symptoms of Menstruation in Women?
Madeleine Matolak & Shivani Desai (PSY 200)

This study in progress explores how culture affects attitudes towards PMS/menstruation as viewed by people in different upbringings (domestic or international). Studies show that women from international cultures see and experience PMS as more of a problem than people from domestic cultures. Participants (expected N = 80) complete a questionnaire that asks questions regarding how PMS affects them or women around them (depending on their gender identity). There will be one survey for people who identify as women and do experience PMS/menstruation and there will be another survey for people who do not identify as women and do not experience PMS/menstruation. The main hypothesis is that international students both male and female will have a negative view and argue that it greatly affects their daily life while domestic students instead have positive attitudes towards menstruation.

61. How Did Populist Foreign Trade Policies Impact Latin American Economies?
Samantha Matthews (PSC)

This study explores the efficiencies of populist regimes in Latin America when it comes to maintaining foreign trade relations and how these policies impact a country. In doing so, there has been a thorough research done into this type of government, its relation to foreign trade, and other aspects of the question. Populism varies country by country and is impactful of specific social, political, and economic associations, as well as the strength of governmental institutions. This research expresses how, within populist regimes, leaders choose to strengthen, weaken, or provide no change in trade policies. These choices affect whether the countries economy will strive or fail.

62. Understanding of Politics Among Ghanaians
Cole Miller (PSC)

It has been well documented that Americans possess very little knowledge about politics and their own government. In addition, there is a difference between people who are informed, uninformed, and misinformed. Political scientists have begun to emphasize that people are, in fact, misinformed. Furthermore, the nature of humans to convince others of their capabilities leads to overconfidence about beliefs. There is strong evidence for all of this political behavior among Americans; however, this has not been analyzed in an international context. The aim of this study is to gain a deeper understanding of how well Ghanaian's understand politics, and whether they overestimate their knowledge. Survey questions from the American National Election Study of 2012 was used to collect data in Ghana.

63. How Does Regulating the Illicit Drug Trade in Latin American Countries Effect Crime and Corruption?
Kenneth Cole Miller (PSC)

The "war on drugs" has been nothing short of a failure. High demand of illicit drugs in the United States fuels Latin American drug production and trade. This, in turn, exploits the weaknesses of Latin American states which cause instability and violence. In recent years, some Latin American countries have started to back away from U.S. policy, and change their drug laws. There has also been increased advocacy for drug legalization. My study reviews all of the literature and uses data and other information on crime and corruption in comparative case study analysis of Latin American countries. My findings indicate that a change in drug policy alone does not reduce crime and corruption. This is in contradiction of the literature I reviewed.

64. Who is Whipping Who?
Alex Minto & Amalia Brantley (PSY)

The study in progress investigates women's views on BDSM. Participants (N = 85) provided demographic data, looked at photos associated with BDSM, and completed an adapted version of test originally used to assess therapist's attitudes towards BSDM. One group of women were shown a series of photos with the women in the Dom position and the other group was shown photos with the man in the Dom position. Three hypotheses were tested: 1. Women who see the photos with a woman in the Dom position will have more favorable feelings towards BDSM, 2. Those who see the photos with a man in the Dom position will have less favorable feelings towards BDSM, 3. Women who report some previous experience with BDSM will have more favorable attitudes towards BDSM regardless of which photos they are shown.

65. Brazilian Feminism Through the Lens of Personality
Ashley Morales-Pacheco (PSC)

This research examines the extent to which personality affects feminist attitudes in Brazil, specifically focusing on the Big Five Personality Traits (openness, conscientiousness, extraversion, agreeableness, and emotional stability). Through a multivariate regression analysis using the World Values Survey Wave 6, openness is found to be directly significant, and conscientiousness is found to be inversely significant with regards to scores on the Feminism Index. When accounting for the demographic factors of age, gender, and level of education in a second model, openness and agreeableness become directly significant in predicting an individual's Feminism score. This research demonstrates the complexity of studying feminism through the lens of personality and has implications for future research in this area of study.

66. Exploring Links in College-Related Stress and Use Patterns of ADHD Stimulant Medications
Rose Moscaritolo, Megan Babcock, Anna Pollard, & Victoria Peña (PSY)

Previous findings have given reason to believe that the use of stimulant medicine in college students has been shown to increase during high stress periods (Burgard et al., 2014). Questions remain regarding the motives of college students that are using these stimulants medications. In the present study, 83 undergraduates from a private university in southern Florida were asked to complete surveys to answer questions regarding college-related stress (e.g. financial, academic, and social) and stimulant medication use (e.g. patterns, behaviors, and attitudes). Results revealed that college-related stress between prescribed users and non-prescribed users was not statistically significant. However, it was found that students that have taken a stimulant to perform better on course assignments also experienced academic stress, but did not experience social and financial college-related stress.

67. Associations between Casual Relationships, Birth Control, and Marriage Preferences in Emerging Adulthood
Taylor Neuhalfen, Skyler Davis, & Ann-Kathrin Effenberg (PSY)

Views on marriage have undergone a major shift over the last few decades as individuals are more likely than ever to want to delay marriage (Willoughby & Dworkin, 2009). This desire to delay marriage may be linked to numerous factors such as birth control use, relationship typologies, and gender. Our research intends to examine how these factors may be related. In the current study, 67 participants (52 females) completed a survey that measured marital views, sexual and relationship experience, and birth control use. The analysis found that emerging adults who had more relationships in high school were more likely to want to be married at the time the survey was taken. Another finding is that the later a person wants to get married, the more forms of birth control they use. Findings will be examined further in the results section of the paper.

68. Sibling Number, Cooperation, and the Prisoner's Dilemma
Taylor Neuhalfen & Jean Foran (PSY)

The Prisoner's Dilemma is a situation often posed in game theory to illustrate how people respond when presented with a situation in which they could cooperate or be selfish. We used a modified version to assess cooperation between siblings and whether sibling number is correlated with cooperation rates. Undergraduate students at the University of Tampa were tested on a short survey containing the modified Prisoner's Dilemma. The Dilemma was changed to involve the breaking of an important family possession. The Dilemma was preceded by demographic questions and the cooperation scale of the Conflict Strategy Questionnaire (Kunzmann & Baltes, 2003). The proposed hypothesis is that having higher number of siblings will result in more cooperative tendencies.

69. How does educational attainment impacts political participation? Findings from Ghana

Mariane Ntagungira (PSC)

Many western countries have been subject to large and influential studies on the relationship between educational attainment and political participation and there has been a largely uncontested positive relationship between the two variables. African countries, on the other hand, have received much less of this attention. The purpose of this paper is to fill this gap and explore how education in less developed areas impacts political participation. With data from Ghana, I analyze how the educational attainment of respondents impacts their likeliness to participate politically. In developing countries, this relationship in sometimes reversed; in certain instances, the more educated individuals were, the more likely they were to disengage. In any case, as a very important facet of healthy democratic institutions, it's crucial for this analysis to extend to developing countries.

70. What Factors Determine the Success of NGOs in the Promotion of Democracy?

Mariane Z. Ntagungira (PSC)

There are a myriad of studies on how democracies bring about a civil society but the inverse relationship, how civil society consolidates democratic processes, is seldom explored. This paper aims to fill this gap and explore the relationship between the presence of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and democracy growth in developing countries. I hypothesize that there are three intervening variables that interject and determine the success rate of NGOs in their work with democracy building; in each country, the age of the democracy, the involvement of local civil society and the preexisting corruption will influence how much NGOs positively impact democracy. The results of this analysis will explain and enable NGOs to understand previously unsuccessful work and allow for future projects to be planned ahead and accordingly.

71. Formative Evaluation of a Web-based Simulation

Megan Osgood, Enilda Romero-Hall, & Craig Cuatt (EDU)

The focus of this investigation is the formative evaluation of a web-based simulation. First, a broad analysis of the literature was conducted to explore prior research on the use of simulations in education. This served to gather information on adequate assessment methods that helped determine effectiveness and usability of a simulation, which in turn aided the design of this formative evaluation. The simulation was sent to undergraduate students via email in order to receive feedback. After completing the simulation activities, the students were asked to complete an electronic survey indicating their feedback and opinions. In addition, students were offered incentives to participate in a think-a-loud protocol, in which the students navigated the simulation while answering questions and describing their thoughts out loud to the researchers.

72. Support for Democracy in Ghana: Using Demographic and Personality Traits as Predictors for Democratic Support

Allison Payton (PSC)

This research seeks to answer the question can demographic and personality traits predict whether or not a person supports democracy? I plan to answer this question by analyzing original survey data conducted in Nabdam, Ghana. I use the Big Five model to analyze personality traits and use education and gender for demographic traits. Governments that transition from authoritarian regimes to democratic ones are very fragile and prone to reverting back to those regimes. Knowing the demographic and personality traits such of those who support democracy and those who do not can benefit NGO's working in developing nations to promote democracy and focus their efforts in more problematic populations. This research contributes to existing literature on democratic consolidation with novel data and adds new types of variables that can be used to predict populations who will support democracy.

73. How do Legal Restrictions Affect the Effectiveness of NGOs?
Luciana Paz (PSC)

The purpose of this research is to answer the question: How do legal restriction affect the effectiveness of NGOs? With a most similar system design, I have evaluated the level of legal restrictions and the repercussion these legal barriers create for NGOs. Governments argue that legal restrictions are necessary to promote NGO accountability, protect state sovereignty, or preserve national security. As a result of this idea two scenarios arise : 1) NGOs are not able to execute the project they want to execute, so NGOs only execute projects that serve the agenda of the government 2) NGOs do projects they want risking dissolution and harsh penalties. These two scenarios are considered to see whether NGO effectiveness increases or decreases as legal restrictions increase or decrease.

74. It's Not My Fault: The Effects of Learned-Helplessness on Emerging Adults
Taylor Pecci & Talia Shuman (PSY)

Learned helplessness has been shown to be stable across time in children (Fincham, Hokoda, & Sanders, 1989). However, there has been no research examining vulnerability to learned helplessness in emerging adults. In this study, 35 participants completed one of two anagram lists and a questionnaire that measured levels learned helplessness. List A was easy, and List B was impossible. Both lists had the same last word. We expect to find that emerging adults are resilient against attempts to induce learned helplessness. Both groups will have similar amounts of students attempt the last question. Those with the easy list will rate the last question as being more difficult than those with the difficult list because they are comparing it to the easier questions. These potential results indicate that emerging adults have acquired a resistance against developing learned helplessness.

75. Education Foundation to Reduce Gun Violence
Mai-Anh Pham & Kiana Hughes (PSC)

Scholars have suggested in recent years that the lack of education has been proven as a leading determinant of crime. In contribution to this dialogue, this project examines to what extent education influences crime, particularly gun violence. The concept of education is defined as the extent to which states exhibit the characteristic of individuals completing high school or higher education. The concept of gun violence is defined as the extent to which states exhibit the characteristic of individuals killing individuals using a firearm. The hypothesis is that in comparing states, those who have a higher graduation rate are more likely to have a lower gun murder rate in comparison to those who have a lower high school graduation rate.

76. NGOs in Authoritarian States: The Impact on Revolutionary Movements
Lexie Pierre (PSC)

This research seeks to determine if the work carried out by nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) effects the outcome of revolutionary movements. While there is much research on both NGOs and revolutions, the correlation between the two has not been widely explored. This research will include case studies of three South American countries which have experienced revolutions. Additionally, the output of the NGOs involved will be measured to demonstrate their effectiveness and influence over the success of the revolutions. The output will also be used to determine access to resources provided by support organizations. Therefore, the case studies and the output measurement will be used to validate or reject the hypotheses presented. The substantiation of these hypotheses suggests additional components which affect the outcome of revolutions.

77. Does Gender Affiliate with Response to Gun Control in the United States?
Alexus Quintana & Allie Stow (PSY 200)

The goal of this study is to gain further understanding of gender and opinions on political topics, such as gun control. Data is still currently being collected and this study is still in progress. We are aiming to understand if gender has any effect on the way one responds to political opinion questions. In this study we will give participants, both male and female (Expected N= 50, 25M/25F), a survey that asks questions on their views of gun control. The main hypothesis for this project is that gender will affect the response of gun control in the United States.

78. Can Students' Cursing Habits Predict Academic Performance?
Sarah Raymond & Steve Racinski (PSY 200)

Recent research has argued that cursing is a sign of intelligence rather than a lack of sufficient vocabulary. This study in progress aims to see if there is a correlation between cursing and academic performance. In the current study (expected N = 50 individuals), participants are asked to rank themselves in how often they curse in their daily lives and how they perceive the use of curse words in conversation. Participants are also given one minute to write down as many curse words as possible. Academic performance was measured using GPA reported by participants. The main hypothesis is that increased cursing is not an indicator of academic performance, and that higher rates of cursing may actually correlate with lower academic performance.

79. Food Choices and Environmental Sustainability
Helmi Risku-Norja, Sirpa Kurppa, & Juha Helenius, (IST)

The food choices and diets humans eat not only have large health factors but they also have a tremendous amount of environmental burdens. The diets and lifestyles in which many people have adopted today are rendering our world dry of natural resources and a multitude of other issues. A potential strategy to reduce both the rate of many human non-communicable diseases and prevent environmental deterioration might lie in promoting the consumption of plant-based instead of animal foods. Plant ‚Äìbased diets in comparison to a meat-based diet are believed to be more sustainable because many think that they use much fewer natural resources and are less taxing on the environment.

80. Corruption in NGOs
Katie Russo (PSC)

Non-governmental organizations take on the responsibility of assisting those in need through different forms of relief. This kind of organization tends to work with countries that are underdeveloped economically, politically, and socially. These types of countries tend to be located in the Global South. In order to accomplish their goals, NGOs must generate funds from donors so that they can carry out their operations. When individuals donate their personal money to NGOs, they are trusting and expecting that their money be put to good use; however, how can we be sure that this is always the case? In this research paper, I examine NGOs that have experienced monetary corruption as a result of greedy and powerful individuals. I expect to find that NGOs who have extensive budgets along with a large employee foundation are more likely to have experienced severe cases of corruption.

81. Survival of European Monarchies
Giselle Scott (IST)

From around the 7th century to the 10th century, monarchies began to rise up in different countries around the world. Since then, humans have seen monarchies rise and fall time and time again. There are however some monarchies that never fall and hold on to the crown for what can seem like forever. But one could ask how are some like literal brick walls sitting on their thrones and not budging a bit, and how do some monarchies fail so bad that their own people end up revolting against them, this is the question here. To get that answer, throughout this paper I will be going through a brief history of monarchies and then analyzing the longer reigning monarchies in Europe to see where their strengths were. Then analyzing the shorter reigning monarchies to see where their weaknesses were to come up with a hypothesis on what makes a monarchy a great and lasting one.

82. Algebra in Wonderland
Miranda Serna & Angela Angeleska (MAT)

Charles Lutwidge Dodgson is a late 19th century English mathematician, who worked as a professor at Oxford University and published over 250 works. His most famous publication, however, is the novel Alice's Adventures in Wonderland, published under his pen-name Lewis Carroll. In this project we study Lewis Carroll's work and life as a mathematician, which he is barely known for. In addition, we focus on the mathematical content "hidden" in Alice's Adventures in Wonderland. Different areas of math, including abstract algebra, mathematical logic, Euclidean and Non-Euclidian geometry are all present throughout the book. We extract those scenes from the book, and try to explain the relevance and possible connections to mathematics.

83. Changes to Sexual Satisfaction in Response to Sex Education
Ekaterini Sheridan & Sophie Hartzler (PSY)

Previous research shows that sex education has a positive effect on sexual satisfaction. This study in progress (expected N = 115) explores the effects of education on women's attitudes towards their own sexuality and which approaches to sex education may be effective. Sex education can take a biological approach, which primarily focuses on anatomy and reproduction, or a sex-positive approach, which is inclusive and dynamic. Participants responded to the New Sexual Satisfaction Scale and the Comfort with Sexual Communication measures, watched a sex positive, biological, or control video, then completed the same scales as to expectations for future sexual behavior. The main hypotheses is that women who watch the sex positive video will score higher on both the NSSS and CSC regarding future sexual encounters.

84. Does It Matter What Kind of Sexist You Are? Impact of Sexism on Perceptions of Peer Sexual Harassment in an Academic Context
Lauren Silverlieb-Seltzer & Kimberly Cummings (PSY)

Glick and Fiske (2001) identified different forms of sexism towards women (hostile, benevolent, and ambivalent) that maintain gender inequality. The current study investigated whether sexism predicted perceptions of two forms of peer sexual harassment in an academic context: gender harassment and unwanted sexual attention. Analyses revealed partial support for our hypotheses that compared to benevolent and nonsexists, ambivalent and hostile sexists would be less likely to perceive sexually harassing behaviors as severe, offensive and inappropriate, would have less sympathy for the victim, indicate that the victim has less anger toward the harasser and that the harasser has more respect for the victim, be less likely to indicate that sexual harassment had occurred, and recommend less severe penalties for the harasser.

85. *Gender and Party on Climate Change*
Julia Sivertsen & Joshua Walker (PSC)

Our research question is going to be focusing on how an individual's party identification affects the way he or she believes in human caused climate change. The concept of this question is to figure out how an individual's party identification, and environmental interests affect one another.

86. *What Impact do Pets and Animals On Campus Have on College Students?*
Brendan Smith & Amanda Darmochwal (PSY 200)

This study in progress aims to investigate the effects that animals on campus have on students. The study aims to see if there is a correlation between being around animals and factors relating to success in an academic setting such as grades, homesickness, and campus involvement. In the study (expected N=50) participants complete background data about themselves, then answer questions related to animals and the factors listed above. The hypothesis is that those who positively associate frequently with animals on campus will have higher perceived values of personal success for themselves and feel more comfortable in an academic setting.

87. *Rapid Urbanization and its Effects on Public Health*
Marisa Spiotta (IST)

By 2050, it is expected that two-thirds of the world population will reside in urban environments. While urbanization has led to advancements in health, showing notable increases in life expectancy, there are other matters to consider when it comes to the public's well-being. Factors such as dense populations, pollution, and high stress pose risks to living conditions. Increased poverty also lends substantial concern, as it accumulates populations in poorer conditions, coupled with limited accessibility to health care. By comparing data to assess factors such as poverty, pollution levels, psychological health, and public healthcare, the correlation between degrees of urbanization and its effects on public health and well-being will be explored. Outlying factors to consider include certain regions' predispositions to deadly diseases or differences in public health care systems.

88. *The Influence Personality has on views towards Gender Equality in the Netherlands*
Alexandra Strickland (PSC)

This research will be looking at how personality impacts one's opinion with regards to gender equality. The focus country is the Netherlands. Understanding the Big Five in terms of personality can help to explain which communities are open to gender equality, or potentially which personality traits make a society closed off to the idea. The research will be using the World Values Survey. The research will compare personality to how individuals feel with regards to men having more rights than women, earning more, making better leaders, and how independent women should be and how fulfilling being a house can be. This work will hopefully add to the information political scientists have with regards to political psychology. Understanding one's acceptance of gender equality using personality can be potentially extrapolated in the future to understand other social issues.

89. Cultured Gender Roles
Daniela Suasnavar (IST)

This project consists of research on a large variety of countries that can be described as considerably culturally different, to see how the strength of their socialized gender roles may influence progress for women's rights in that specific country. In a cultural society, there are ways that males and females interact and socialize, and are even percieved in a society. There are also gender roles that each person must play in order to fit their cultural and societal standards. After looking through sources like the World Values Survey Data and Gender Inequality Index, I found that the norms of the gendered roles and how they are taught to act around one another has significantly created standards, but there is also a definite progression being made.

90. How Does Music Tastes and Preferences Relate to a Person's Behavior, Sense of Motivation and Goal Achievement?
Lindsey Sutela (PSY 200)

The type of music that a person listens to can be a reflection of their personality and behavior. This study in progress examines the connection between the genres of music people prefer and their sense of motivation or goal achievement in particular, as measured by the Behavioral Inhibition system (BIS) and Behavioral Activation System (BAS) scales. Participants (expected N = 100) will complete the Music Genre Preference Scale, the BIS/BAS scales, followed by a background questions about age and gender. Hypotheses are that a) those who enjoy generally intensive or upbeat music genres such as rock, rap, pop or hip hop may be more likely to move towards goals and score higher for BAS (lower for BIS) and b) those who listen to generally less intensive or less upbeat music such as classical, country, show tunes, and indie may score lower for BAS (higher for BIS).

91. What Does Funny Really "Meme"? The Psychology Behind Humor, Happiness, and Associated Physiological Responses
Savannah Voci & Sarah Housman (PSY)

This study explores the relationship between facial muscle contractions and emotional responses when presented with humorous, positive stimuli. Each participant was presented with ten memes, rating each on a Likert scale based on how humorous they found the meme to be. Split into two groups, a pen was positioned in each participant's mouth to either facilitate or inhibit the facial features present when a person smiles. We hypothesized that overall, the memes will elicit a more humorous response and rating with participants in the smiling, facilitated state than they will in the frowning, inhibited state.

92. Internet News Vs. Political Knowledge
Andrea Waters, Andrew Platt, & Alexis Vegafria (PSC)

This study focuses on analyzing the context of how obtaining political news and information directly from Internet affects overall political knowledge in individuals, as compared to those who obtain information elsewhere. The independent variable in this study is Internet news and the dependent variable is the amount of political knowledge in an individual, which varies with different news sources.Through the use of data set NES 2012 and variables Preknow3, Disinvolv_message, and pol_act we will measure an individual's knowledge on a 0 to 1 point scale. The scale relates to one's basic knowledge about the government and activities in politics. The goal of the study is to shed light on the nationwide reliance of Internet news and focus on how reliable or unreliable this source of news can be.

93. *Trust in Government: Southern against Non-Southern States in the US*
Hayden Williams (PSC)

People across the globe have many things that show not only how divisive and dissimilar to each other we are to one another, but if there were but one thing that all humans have in common is that we all are citizens of some country which means we are all under a governments thumb. Yet, not everyone feels the same way about their government particularly the people in the United States. The goal of this paper was to examine factors of trust in the federal government, in the United States, and see if there were any trends in if the south was more mistrustful of it than other states; data was drawn from the NES2012 data set in SPSS. By combining some of the questions in the survey such as how often can you trust the government in Washington to do what is right I was able to create a scale that rates a person's level of trust and then compared people in the south to those in the non-south.

94. *Does Environmental Activism Shape Public Opinion?*
Brian Wright (PSC)

The objective of this research is to produce a comparative case study analysis on the correlation between environmental activism and public opinion. This paper discusses the various methods of environmental activism and social movement behaviors. By comparing recent current events within the United States using the most similar system design, I hope to evaluate each case study fairly. Additionally, the goal of this paper is to add to the gap of existing research on the topic, since there is a lack of information on how environmental activism shapes public opinion. By maintaining a smaller level of analysis on events in the United States, I hope to add to existing studies on environmental activism. Using this method, I would like to examine several factors that influence public opinion on environmental issues and whether environmental activism plays a role in influencing positive change.

95. *Personality Effects on Political Participation in Germany*
Jamie Xarras, Katie Russo, & Rachel Armellino (PSC)

Political scientists have spent a lot of time and energy researching why some people actively participate in politics, while others choose to be less active. In their findings it has become evident that Germany high political activity. We explore why this may be the case by focusing on the amount of activity and inactivity in Germany to see if this could be a factor. This will be a useful tool for political leaders in order for them to activate the emotions of inactive versus active participants in their campaigns. To measure the level of political participation in individuals, we are going to use factors such as lobbying, voting, campaigning, the amount of leisure time people have and how they spend it, and the ways in which people choose to educate themselves and others on politics. What we expect to see a distinction between personalities of inactive and active political participants.

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