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

15 th Annual
Undergraduate Research Conference

Wednesday, April 27, 2022
4:00 PM
Plant Hall/Fletcher Lounge

Welcome!

2022 **Undergraduate Research Conference**

About the Conference

The University of Tampa Undergraduate Research Conference allows students to present, original, empirical research within any area of the disciplines represented by the College of Social Sciences, Mathematics and Education. At the third event held in April 2008, prizes for 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., (2022, April). Investigations into the psychology of time perception. Poster presented at the Spring 2022 CSSME Undergraduate Research Conference, Tampa, FL.

For more information about this and previous conferences, including all past abstracts, please search "CSSME research" at www.ut.edu.
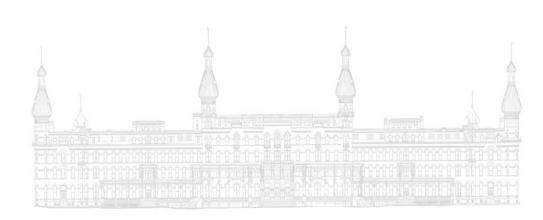
A Word of Thanks

2022 Undergraduate Research Conference

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

Mary Anderson
Stephen Blessing
Kathryn Branch
Meredith Elzy
Suzanne Ensmann
Sara Festini
Yvonne Franco
Cynthia Gangi
Leslie Jones
Erin Koterba
Jonathan Lewallen
Benjamin Marsh
Morgan McAnally
Sara Orban
Khyam Paneru
Denis Rey
Michael Stasio
Ryan Welch
Aimee Whiteside
Erica Yuen

Presenters

Last Name	First Name	Poster #	Department	Page #
Alectus	Robyn	1	PSIS	6
Bansil	Jessica	2	PSIS	6
Batlle	Anna	3	PSY	6
Benedict	Jaley	21	PSY	12
Bindra	Amrita	51	EDU	22
Bogus	Melanie	4	PSY	7
Boucher	Kelly	5	CRM	7
Bovio	Alexandra	6	PSY	7
Boyle	Patrick	33	PSY	16
Buckely	Molly	7	EDU	8
Caserta	Kimberly	35	PSY	17
Castaño Barbeito	Mariana	8	PSIS	8
Charen	Rebecca	9	EDU	8
Chavez	Micaela	3	PSY	6
Christopher	Ava	10	EDU	9
Conness	Benjamin	40	PSY	19
Contreras	Mikayla	11	PSY	9
DeCoteau	Alice	51	EDU	22
Demers	Kayla	12	PSY	9
Epstein	Nicole	42	PSY	19
Esparza	Sylvia	14	PSIS	10
Fassett	Carson	15	PSY	10
Falletta	Christina	51	EDU	22
Ferdinand	Philip	2	PSIS	6
Ferguson	Lydia	16	PSIS	11
Fiorenza	James	17	PSIS	11
Flatt	Jordan	18	CRM	11
Gaudio	Amelia	19	PSIS	12
Giangrasso	Kimberly	2	PSIS	6
Gilroy	Emma	34	PSY	17

Presenters

Last Name	First Name	Poster #	Department	Page #
Gwillym	Amanda	20	PSIS	12
Hahn	Aprill	34	PSY	17
Harris	Vanessa	6	PSY	7
Henault	Michelle	12	PSY	9
Herrmann	Alexandra	21	PSY	12
Hussein	Aiya	4	PSY	7
Hyde	Olivia	22	EDU	13
Iorfino	Brianna	11	PSY	9
Jackett	Shelby	23	PSIS	13
Kartashova	Anna	24	PSIS	13
Knapp	Sean	25	MAT	14
Little	Kelsey	51	EDU	22
Lopez	Britney	15	PSY	10
Lovett	Brianna	26	PSIS	14
Mahoney	Rylee	27	EDU	14
McNally	Charis	28	EDU	15
Michelson	Sara	29	EDU	15
Miller	Kendall	30	EDU	15
Meiser	Amelia	11	PSY	9
Moore	Rylie	31	PSY	16
Mryczko	Danusia	32	PSY	16
Nerogic	Abigail	21	PSY	12
Nessralla	Cady	2	PSIS	6
Nunez	Brandon	33	PSY	16
Paukert	Sydney	35	PSY	17
Paul	Madison	34	PSY	17
Peck	Delaney	15 and 21	PSY	10 and 12
Ponticello	Isabella	35	PSY	17

Presenters

Last Name	First Name	Poster #	Department	Page #
Quint	Miranda	35	PSY	17
Rightley	Olivia	36	EDU	17
Rivera	Amanda	37	EDU	18
Roca	Andrea	38	PSY	18
Rodriguez	Alexandra M.	39	PSY	18
Rojas	Rachele	4	SOC	7
Rothe	Destin	21	PSY	12
Rumley	Jane	35	PSY	17
Sandone	Madelyn	40	PSY	19
Santer	Jenna	40	PSY	19
Sass	Lauren	15 and 41	PSY	10 and 19
Scott	Emma	42	PSY	19
Segal	Noah	43	MAT	20
Sherwood	Courtney	38	PSY	18
Shelp	Haily	44	PSIS	20
Shore	Carly	31	PSY	16
Smucker	Mackenzie	45	PSIS	20
Sparks	Ayden	21	PSY	12
Spath	Emmie	12	PSY	9
Stavro	Martin	46	PSIS	21
Steller	Kelsey	42	PSY	19
Strauss	Katie	47	PSIS	21
Swartz	Maggie	48	PSIS	21
Doan-Trombly	Lily	13	PSIS	10
Tursi	Louis R.	4	PSY	7
Wallace	Tashira	49	PSY	22
Walters	Tristan	32	PSY	16
Wilbourn	Kali	50	EDU	22
Wimpfheimer	Chloe	51	EDU	22
Yiengst	Seaaira	11	PSY	9
Zihal	Daniel	49	PSY	22

Abstracts

1. The Economic Effect of Marijuana Legalization
Author: Robyn Alectus

How can the legalization of marijuana affect a country's economy? Others have believed that the laws and restrictions around marijuana are essential because they are used to protect the public from the potential risks that come from using the drug. I argue that with proper regulation and taxation marijuana legalization can lead to economic growth. I will test my theory by comparing the GDP from before and after a change in marijuana policy within a country. I have found that there is a significant postive relationship between a country's GDP and the marijuana laws. Legalizing marijuana can lead to economic growth.

2. The Velvet Pulpit: An Examination of First Ladies Public Remarks and Speeches
Authors: Mary Anderson, Ph. D., Jonathan LeWallen, Ph.D., Jessica Bansil, Philip Ferdinand, Kimberly Giangrasso, and Cady Nessralla

First Ladies are unique as women in politics in that they often are expected (or assumed) to symbolize national womanhood in a way that a male judge's or legislator's wife—or a female judge or legislator themselves—is not. Our goal is to understand First Ladies as women in politics without "domesticating" them, and in doing so we make two arguments. First, that First Ladies make choices about whether and how to inhabit their ceremonial and domestic roles. Second, that First Ladies use their "velvet pulpit" to inhabit different roles as ceremonial figures, policy actors, and partisans before different audiences. Using an original dataset, we find variation in both the roles that First Ladies adopt and when they appear before different audiences, which highlights the First Lady's unique position as a strategic actor in the executive branch, within her party and in American politics.

3. Selective Attention Differences in Bilinguals and Monolinguals During the Dichotic Listening Task
Authors: Anna Batlle and Micaela Chavez

This study examined auditory selective attention in monolingual and bilingual individuals using the dichotic listening task. Thirty undergraduate students took part in the study, including Spanish-English bilinguals, monolinguals, and monolinguals with an elementary Spanish proficiency level. Using a pair of headphones, participants listened to English audio in their left ear and Spanish audio in their right. Participants then filled out a questionnaire with questions about both audios. A study done by Soveri et al. (2020) used the dichotic listening task to examine attentional controls in bilingual individuals. The study demonstrated that bilinguals have an easier time directing and suppressing auditory attention than monolinguals. We hypothesize that bilinguals will have an advantage over monolinguals at blocking out the Spanish audio and a better comprehension of the English audio.

Abstracts

4. The College Student's Identity Status and Social Media Presentation
Authors: Melanie Bogus, Aiya Hussein, Rachele Rojas, and Louis R. Tursi

Due to the majority of social media users being emerging adults (Coyne et al., 2013), our study examined the relationship between identity and self-presentation on social media during the emerging adulthood era. We had 101 participants, all of which reported using at least one social media platform. Our participants completed a survey and our findings suggest that age is the biggest predictor as to how emerging adults interact with social media. Rather than basing self-presentation on identity status, based on Marcia's Identity Status Model, the way one progresses through the emerging adulthood era best supports self-presentation.

5. An Exploration of Trauma Experienced by Sexual Assault Survivors: coping mechanisms and therapeutic innovations
Authors: Kelly Boucher and Kathryn Branch, Ph. D.

The purpose of the current research is to examine the literature on the effects of trauma experienced after a sexual assault. This study reviewed the academic literature on the disclosure methods used by survivors of sexual assault, coping mechanisms used after an assault (e.g., prescription drug-use post-victimization), and help-seeking within college campuses. Findings suggest that survivors of sexual assault often report feeling they do not need, nor deserve help. This is due to multiple different misconceptions. When they choose to disclose and seek help, the response of the person being disclosed to is crucial for the survivor's recovery. Many primary care providers or physicians do not know how to support survivors of sexual assault. This research also explored various techniques that have been used to help cope with the effects of trauma (i.e. walking, yoga, coloring, knitting).

6. Memory Retrieval and Familiarity Cues
Authors: Alexandria Bovio and Vanessa Harris

Memory retrieval is crucial for recalling encoded information. Previous studies have shown positive correlations between the familiarity of words and retrieval. More familiar words are more likely to be retrieved later on. The current study tests this hypothesis among psychology majors and non-majors. These participants will view a list of words related to psychology and then be asked to remember the words. The same will happen with a list of non-psychology-related terms. We hypothesize that the psychology students will remember more words from the psychology list than from the non-psychology list. We also hypothesize that psychology students will recall more words from the psychology-related terms list than the non-psychology students. Lastly, we hypothesize that there will be no significant differences between the two groups in retrieval for the randomized list.

Abstracts

7. Foundational Skills to Decode Sight Words
Author: Molly Buckley

This study examines ways a preservice teacher applied evidence-based literacy strategies to teach her Kindergarten students to decode sight words. Literature has shown that decoding sight words is important because it helps students become faster, more fluent readers, thus supporting their long-term success (Rawe, 2014). Four strategies were implemented throughout the course of a 14-week semester, including, playing to learn, sounding out words and letter sounds, spelling basic sight words, and using different technologies to decode sight words. The study is significant to educators, as they are a critical resource to lead learners' literacy development in early childhood. Moreover, this study provides teachers, like me, with detailed, research-based strategies for decoding sight words in their classroom, a skill set I will have to develop as a future educator.

8. NGOs and Social Media
Author: Mariana Castaño Barbeito

How does foreign direct investment affect education? In the eighteenth to nineteenth century, investment was largely made in the context of colonial expansion. During the early twentieth century, a majority of the world infrastructure was due to FDI. Many researchers have argued that FDI is a way to flourish the economies and societies of developing countries. While, others argue that FDI is a form of neo-colonialism where developing countries (i.e., former colonies) depend on developed countries. Findings show that the consequences of FDI primarily depend on the production type and the resources needed. This study of the effects of FDI on education, which examines cases from 2000-2010, finds no statistical significant relationship between FDI and education

9. Foundational Literacy Instruction in Early Childhood Education
Author: Rebecca Charen

This study examines ways a preservice teacher applied phonics and phonemic awareness strategies with her kindergarten students. Research on phonics and phonemic awareness depicts the importance of having a strong foundation in order to become a confident and successful reader later in life (McCarthy, 2008; Murray, 2012; Zoski & Erickson, 2016; Zucker & Invernizzi, 2008). Four strategies were implemented throughout the course of a 14-week semester, including, multisensory, cut and paste, morpheme instruction, and a table sort. This study is significant to educators, as they are a key resource to aid in the childhood development of reading foundational skills. More-over, this study provides me, as a future educator, with detailed, research-based strategies for facilitating founda-tional reading skills in the classroom, a need present throughout the literature.

Abstracts

10. Self-regulation Strategies in the Classroom
Author: Ava Christopher

This study examples ways a teacher applied self-regulation strategies with her kindergarten students, alongside her collaborating teacher. Three differentiated strategies were implemented throughout the course of a 14- week semester. These strategies include goal setting, technology, and writing. This study is significant to educators, as they are a key resource to aid in the childhood development of self-regulation skills. This study provides teachers with detailed research-based strategies for facilitating skills in the classroom.

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11. The Association Between Young Adults' Social Media Usage and Friendship Quality
Authors: Mikayla Contreras, Brianna Iorfino, Amelia Meiser, and Seaaira Yiengst

In recent years, new forms of communication, such as social media, have been on the rise (Popoola, 2014). This research aims to study how Instagram can play a significant role in the qualities of friendships during emerging adulthood. A convenience sample of 111 participants completed a survey regarding the quality of their friendships and personal social media usage. Subjects were required to be between the ages of 18-29 and an active user of Instagram. Results suggest that aspects of friendship such as self-validation, intimacy, and satisfaction were all inversely correlated with internet usage. Looking further into the data, gender differences showed varied reasonings for social media use. These findings were contrary to our initial hypothesis, stating that Instagram would have a positive effect on the quality of friendships.

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12. Rating Social Media Video Posts about Mood Distress
Authors: Kayla Demers, Michelle Henault, and Emmie Spath

The current study serves as a manipulation check for a previous research project. Participants were randomly assigned to view 1 of 3 mock social media (SM) posts, each with a different message regarding mood distress and help-seeking on campus. The videos represented one of the following: A. SM approval, B. SM disapproval, or C. SM neutral. We hypothesized that participants who viewed video A would rate SM feedback as positive, B as negative, and C as absent. Students signed up for the study using SONA systems and received course credit for completion. The survey was completed on Qualtrics in a computer lab. Participants signed consent forms, completed the PANAS before and after watching the video. After watching the video, participants completed 2 questions to verify video participant's mood and categorized type of feedback about help-seeking. Group comparisons will be presented.

Abstracts

13. Are Democracies Better for the Environment?
Author: Lily Doan-Trombly

This paper investigates the impact level of democracy has on environmental policy efficacy, and therefore the health of the environment. My hypothesis is as level of democracy increases, CO_2 emissions decrease. I focus on the years 1960-2014 and 215 countries. Using a linear regression model, this model calculates the statistical significance between the Polity IV scores awarded to, and CO_2 emissions in parts per million (ppm). The data shows that there is statistical significance between level of democracy and environmental policy efficacy. It also supports that as democracy increases, CO_2 emissions decrease. Therefore, the data supports my hypothesis. Additionally, the data shows that anocracies tend to have the least amount of CO_2 emissions. In the future, this phenomenon should be studied.

14. Wealth and Conflict Behavior: A Casual Analysis
Author: Sylvia Esparza

With the rise and fall of many great nations, there has been a demonstrated evident pattern of transforming wealth into power. The correlation between wealth and power has long been debated. However, can wealth and power go hand in hand with conflict? This proposal seeks to add a positive development to the understanding of wealth and conflict by exploring if an increase in a country's wealth leads to an increase in conflict behavior. When one state has a rapid increase in wealth, might it overvalue its position? Or might the other state undervalue the up-and-coming state's position? If either of these things happens, war should be more likely. Using cross-country data and regressions, the statistical models do not lend support to our hypothesis, and we find no relationship between economic growth and conflict behavior.

15. Associations Between Sexual Orientation and Identity Status During Emerging Adulthood
Authors: Carson Fassett, Lauren Sass, Delaney Peck, and Britney Lopez

Researchers have studied the identity status of emerging adults (EAs) but missing from the literature is its link to sexual orientation. Thus, our research highlights the relationship between EAs' sexual orientation and their ego identity status in this developmental span. The levels of exploration and commitment performed define this period. By studying what ego identity status characterizes EAs during sexual orientation exploration, we predicted that their status would begin in a state of instability and solidify by the time this developmental period has ended. Subjects (N=133; 69.9% female; age: M=21.5, SD=2.3) were administered three surveys via Qualtrics. Results indicate that sexual orientation matters more in their level of commitment rather than in their exploration. Age had little to do with exploring identity, but it mattered when it comes to exploring sexual orientation.

Abstracts

16. What is the Relationship Between Race and Employment in Latin America?
Author: Lydia Ferguson

In this research, the relationship between race and employment will be analyzed to determine if the relationship is significant in Latin America. This is important because Latin America has a history of racial inequality, which may impact employment as well. The purpose of this study is to analyze three Latin American countries through case study analysis, with the intention of finding whether or not race plays a role as to whether someone is employed. This is conducted through using a scale to measure race as the independent variable. Then, the dependent vari-ables are employment status, income rate, and receiving government assistance. It is hypothesized that those with higher races will have higher unemployment status and lower income.

17. Idiosyncrasy of the State and God: an Analysis on Religiosity and Ideology in Latin America
Author: James Fiorenza

In this research paper, I will be analyzing the relationship between the religiosity of Latin America in terms of popular religion and religiosity of its followers, and how it has impacted and continues to impact the political systems of Latin America in terms of ideology. I will be conducting a case study following the development of my hypothe-sis, my research of my case nations and the collecting of all needed data. After this, I will compare all my data and establish a well-developed conclusion which accurately conveys and demonstrates this data. I expect to find a correlation between religiosity of Latin America and revolutionary ideology. I am participating in this research to understand the intense and rapid political evolution of Latin America in the past century-and consequently be able to predict future development of ideology in Latin America.

18. An Analysis of Trauma Responses and PTSD Prevalence among Sexual Assault Survivors
Authors: Jordan Flatt and Kathryn Branch, Ph.D.

Sexual assault survivors endure many unique and troubling consequences following their assault. Trauma and PTSD symptoms and diagnoses have been identified by previous research to be a common issue among survivors. There is also research detailing the ways in which varying social systems, such as the mental health and medical fields, law enforcement, and educational systems, as well as individual factors impact the trauma endured by survivors. Various sources of community discourse allow for observation of survivors' personal experiences as well as how support systems can react. The common PTSD symptoms and coping mechanisms relevant to this topic are outlined as well. Along with this, treatment options for living with and healing from trauma vary from psychological interventions to contemporary clinical and non-clinical interventions with trauma-informed and survivor-led focuses.

Abstracts

19. Comparative Abortion Rights Data Collection Project

Authors: Amelia Gaudio and Ryan Welch, Ph.D.

What explains a country's commitment to abortion rights? Recognizing that different rights have different theoretical pathways, scholars have turned their attention to theorizing and testing specific rights in human rights studies. Recently, more scholars have taken women's rights more seriously. Women's rights, though, represent a bundle of political, economic, social, and cultural rights, and so the same issues that plague general human rights study apply to them. Scholars know very little about the extent to which countries around the world protect abortion rights. A large reason for our collective ignorance stems from a lack of cross-national abortion data over time. We fill this gap. Relying on information from several sources we build a time-series cross-national database on abortion laws for every country from 1945 to the present.

20. United States Foreign Direct Investments' Effect on Human Rights in Latin America

Author: Amanda Gwillym

How does the United States' foreign direct investment affect human rights in Latin America? Scholars have contested if the foreign direct investment is inherently correlated with host countries that disregard human rights since it enables multinational firms to pay low wages to their workers or if multinational firms are attracted to countries that have good human rights records because those countries have access to higher-skilled workers and their investment is secure. This paper examines if the latter hypothesis is correct. I tested this argument by running a linear regression model. I found that the relationship between United States foreign direct investment and the human rights records in countries in Latin America is not statistically significant. The relationship between United States foreign direct investment and population size and human capacity is statistically significant.

21. Improving Help-Seeking for Psychological Distress in College Students

Authors: Alexandra Herrmann, Jaley Benedict, Delaney Peck, Ayden Sparks, Destin Rothe, Abigail Nerogic and Erica Yuen, Ph.D.

Many college students struggle with mental health difficulties but do not ever seek professional help, despite the existence of evidence-based treatments. This experiment investigates how viewing an informational/promotional brochure regarding mental health resources will affect help-seeking factors in college students, including knowledge of resources, levels of stigma, attitudes toward seeking help, willingness to seek help, and intention to seek help. Participants in the experimental condition read a brochure about mental health resources on and off campus. Participants in the control condition read a brochure about general University of Tampa facts. This poster will present the preliminary results and implications of the study.

Abstracts

22. The Effects of Arts-Integration on Sight Word Recognition
Author: Olivia Hyde

This study examines ways a pre-service teacher utilized art integration to teach literacy with her kindergarten students. Sight word reading is the fastest and most efficient way to read words, however few studies specify how arts-integration can support this initiative (Miles, Rubin, & Gonzalez-frey, 2018). The four strategies used were implemented over a course of 14-week semester, including, colorful markers, water colors, play dough, and puffy paint. This study is important to educators, as sight word recognition is a foundational skill that promotes fluency and automaticity, and art integration is a crucial vehicle for young learners. This study was significant to me as a pre-service teacher as I pursue creative ways to improve my students' reading ability.

23. NGO Accountability
Author: Shelby Jackett

NGO accountability in their host countries is characterized by the methods used by governments and NGOs to ensure transparency and trustworthiness within the organization. The purpose of this research is to examine how various NGOs are held accountable within the countries they work in. Through the use of comparative case study analysis, this paper aims to determine whether accountability measures such as legislation and legal sanctions impact the function and operations of NGOs within their host country. This research examines the aims of governments in conjunction with their motives for NGO accountability measures. The expected outcome of this research is that NGOs are more accountable when governments implement legislation to ensure transparency and trustworthiness, yet this only works when the governments' motives are not intended to restrict NGOs from operating within their country.

24. Foreign Aid and Its Effects on the Economy: The Impact of The UN Peacekeeping Missions
Author: Anna Kartashova

Does foreign aid lead to economic stability? The research focuses on the military foreign assistance in the form of the United Nations Peacekeeping Forces and its effect on the economic stability of the post-conflict state. The model that is used in research includes the statistical analysis of the control variables representing social factors and government expenditures to illustrate close to the real-world scenarios of post-conflict societies. The research looked at the effects of military assistance through time, making an analysis based on three and five years after the UN peacekeeping mission. The fifth year yielded greater significance regarding the effects of UN peacekeeping forces, while the third year showed only some indicators of development.

Abstracts

25. Strange yet Practical Word of Fractional Calculus
Authors: Sean Knapp and Morgan McAnally, Ph.D.

Mathematicians and Physicists often use the derivative to calculate instantaneous changes. For example, velocity being the first derivative with respect to time and acceleration being the second derivative with respect to time. The objective of this project is to apply fractional derivatives and derive other types of derivative operators. The general power rule is derived for fractional derivatives using gamma functions and factorials. From this, we compare the graphical representations of fractional derivatives with regular derivatives and also derive the Grun-wald-Letnikov fractional derivative operator. We also draw a connection between derivatives and integrals and derive the Cauchy integral in the form of a fractional integral. Finally, the infinite square well problem is solved using boundary conditions and the fractional Schrodinger equation.

26. Treaty Compliance and the Protection of Disability Rights
Author: Brianna Lovett

When states ratify international human rights treaties, they obligate themselves to implementing the principles enshrined in the document. What influences signatory states to following through with their commitments once the treaty is signed? Scholars who have previously studied mechanisms for treaty compliance typically point to either norm enforcement via shaming and sanctions from the international community or to internal pressure via domestic actors as the tools for compelling governments to uphold treaty obligations. In this paper, I test whether the presence of a particular domestic institution—an independent NHRI—positively correlates to the protection of disability rights. The results show a statistically insignificant relationship between these two variables, but support previous findings around other factors influencing human rights protection.

27. Feedback Driven Instruction on Letter-Sound Correspondence
Author: Rylee Mahoney

This study examines ways a preservice teacher learned to drive literacy instruction using student feedback to aid in her Kindergarten students' development with letter-sound correspondence. Research on letter-sound corre-spondence depicts the importance of having a strong foundation to become a successful reader (Gates & Yale, 2011; Evans, Bell, Shaw, Moretti, & Page, 2006; Reeb, 2011; Stein, 1982). Eight strategies were implemented throughout the course of a 14-week semester following the topics of digraphs, trigraphs, identifying initial and final sounds of words, and direct instruction. This study is significant to educators, as it is a key resource to aid in the development of letter-sound correspondence. Moreover, this study provides teachers with evidence-based strate-gies for facilitating letter-sound correspondence in their classroom.

Abstracts

28. Data Driven Literacy Instruction for Kindergarten Students
Author: Charis McNally

This study examines ways a preservice teacher learned to drive her literacy instruction using data to support two Kindergarten students. Few studies detail teachers' journeys as they go about in applying literacy strategies with their young learners in the elementary classroom (Schifter & Natarajan, 2014; Wilson, 2017). This study highlights this. Eight strategies were implemented throughout the 14-week course, including, pop-it vowels, color the sight words, shaving cream spelling, sight word paper cups, CVC word building, digraph matching, cookie jar digraph activity, and digraph coin and match. This study is significant to educators, as they are a key resource to aid student literacy development. Moreover, it highlights the use of detailed, research-based strategies for facilitating literacy development through data-driven instruction, a need present throughout the literature.

29. Differentiated Strategies for Decoding Sight Words
Author: Sara Michelson

This study examines ways a preservice teacher applied strategies to help kindergarten students decode sight words independently. Despite numerous studies on the general significance and methods for teaching students sight words, the use of differentiated strategies is critical to meeting each individual McGee student where they are, in order to ensure they become successful readers (Saxena, 2017; Murray, 2012). Four differentiated strategies were implemented over a 14 week semester including word phones, matching, word searches, and multisensory activities. This study is significant to educators because the ability to support students in their decoding of sight words is one of the first steps in forming strong readers. This is important for me, as a preservice teacher, because finding students' needs and remediating them, backed by data, is something that I will need to do in the future.

30. Implementation of Multisensory Strategies for Letter-Sound Recognition
Author: Kendall Miller

This study examines a pre-service teacher supporting two kindergarten students in a 14 week academic period to develop letter-sound recognition. The purpose of this study is to help both students learn letter-sound recognition from multisensory instruction. This is important because "Letter sound recognition is an important skill for young learners to comprehend and is also one of the first major steps in learning to read" (Holt 2019). The strategies included using an alphabet book, play-doh letters, letter cards, and shaving cream letters. This study is important to the world of education because it shows how beneficial multi-sensory instruction can be for students who are developing the skills needed to read, focusing on letter sound recognition. This study is important to me because I was able to use multisensory strategies and learn more about letter sound recognition.

Abstracts

31. How Gender-Biased Vocabulary Affects Memory Recall
Authors: Rylie Moore and Carly Shore

This memory and recall listening task measures the effect that gender-biased vocabulary has on on the ability to recall varying words. The feminine, masculine, and neutral conditions contain lists of words that are comprised of vocabulary that has been stereotyped to that specific category (e.g. "mascara" on the feminine list and "jump" on the neutral list). Each participant was shown all three word lists separately. After each word list, participants were asked to recall as many words as they could. This task is driven by the belief that individuals can remember words they have been socialized around and relate to more easily. Therefore, we hypothesize that participants will recall more words from the list that aligns with their gender identity. We also hypothesize that all genders will perform equally on the neutral word list.

32. The Effects of Media Coverage of COVID-19 on Stigma Levels
Authors: Danusia Mryczko, Tristan Walters, and Cynthia Gangi, Ph.D.

The current study examined how reports on racial health disparities in the coronavirus pandemic impact beliefs and attitudes about race. Participants (n = 390) read one of five news articles about COVID-19 symptoms and prevalence rates. The control article focused on two states with the highest infection rates. The experimental articles focused on higher prevalence rates in Latino and African-American persons. The reason provided for the disparity varied by condition- no explanation, underlying health conditions such as obesity, low socioeconomic status (SES), or experiences with prejudice and discrimination. Greater levels of stereotyping of Latino and African-American persons were found when underlying health conditions were offered as the reason for the health disparities. Reports that emphasized SES led to decreased stereotyping and less stigmatizing attitudes towards the virus.

33. The Reality with Mood and TV
Authors: Brandon Nunez and Patrick Boyle

The current research examines the experienced mood of the viewer following their viewing of reality television episodes, based on perceived fairness. Participants were shown two videos, one that is perceived to be less fair than the other, in order to determine whether the video's fairness affects the way the participant feels. Participants were more likely to report a negative or neutral response when the video was seen as less fair. In contrast, participants were more likely to input a positive or neutral response when the video was seen as more fair. With the combined findings, these data suggest that a positive mood creates a positive correlation with the fairness in editing in reality TV. This research may serve to show that mood in relation to fairness may affect a way television ratings may improve.

Abstracts

34. How the Stroop Color and Word Test is Regulated by Semantic Networking
Authors: Madison Paul, Aprill Hahn and Emma Gilroy

The Stroop Test assesses the ability to inhibit cognitive interference, which occurs when the processing of a stimulus feature affects the simultaneous processing of another attribute of the same stimulus. The current study assesses the relation between semantic networks and cognitive interference. The consistent condition contains the words being presented in the color they represent (e.g., the word red in the color red) and the semantic condition has an emotion presented in the color they represent (e.g., the word sadness in the color blue). The inconsistent conditions have the words presented in a different color (e.g., "red" in green ink or "sadness" in red). The purpose is to test their speed at naming the color rather than saying the word. We hypothesize that participants will take longer to go through the lists in the beginning trial but get progressively faster.

35. Instagram Usage and The Effect on Emerging Adults' Expression of Themselves
Authors: Isabella Ponticello, Sydney Paukert, Jane Rumley, Miranda Quint and Kimberly Caserta

The use of Image-based social media sites such as Instagram are on the rise, particularly among emerging adults. Previous research focuses on the frequency of Facebook usage and the expression of self online, but few studies have investigated Instagram. This study focuses on the frequency of Instagram usage among emerging adults between the ages of 18 and 29. 110 participants (85 females) completed an online survey investigating their frequency of Instagram usage and how they portray themselves on this site. Results suggest that there is a strong correlation between heavy Instagram users and displaying their ideal self versus their actual self online. Gender differences also emerged: females with higher Instagram usage were found to be more likely to portray their ideal selves on Instagram, whereas males were more likely to portray their actual self on Instagram.

36. The Relationship Between Literacy and Social Emotional Learning
Author: Olivia Rightley

This study examines the different ways a preservice teacher uses social-emotional learning strategies to promote literacy through letter acquisition with a kindergarten student. LaBelle (2019) discusses that social-emotional learning can promote resiliency in students, therefore potentially helping them overcome challenges as they become readers. This was important to my participant, specifically because he struggled with self-confidence which was hindering his ability to learn letter names and sounds. LaBelle's insight was applied to adapt four strategies: goal setting, positive affirmations, letter clips, and letter hunting. This study will provide important data that teachers can implement with students who struggle with self-confidence in literacy. Moreover, this study provided me with research-based strategies that could be integrated into letter acquisition.

Abstracts

37. Recognition Skills to Help Decode Sight Words
Author: Amanda Rivera

This study examines the different ways a preservice teacher applied evidence based literacy strategies to teach her Kindergarten students to decode sight words. "A child's ability to decode words is a very important part of becoming a fluent reader. Being able to read high frequency/sight words without hesitation will help your child better understand what is being read" (Pressley 2002). The four strategies that were implemented throughout our 14 week semester included sounding out letters and word sounds, playing games to learn, spelling out different sight words, and using technology to decode sight words. This study is significant to all educators, as they are a vital resource to guide learners' literacy development in their early childhood educational years. This study also provides teachers with thorough research based strategies for decoding sight words in their classroom.

38. Short-Term Memory Capacity in Monolinguals and Bilinguals Based on a Digit and Word Span Task
Authors: Andrea Roca and Courtney Sherwood

Short term memory is the ability to retain information for a short period of time. Past research has demonstrated that number of languages spoken may affect short term memory. Bilinguals have extra information encoding processes that monolinguals do not undergo, where information may need to be translated into the native language to be fully encoded into memory. We used a digit and word span tasks to analyze short term memory on bilingual and monolingual individuals. We tested Spanish and English speakers and English only speakers. The purpose of the study on these two populations was to get a better understanding of their short term memory capacity. We hypothesize that monolinguals will have a larger short term memory capacity than bilinguals in both tasks.

39. Do Face Masks Degrade our Ability to Remember Face-Name Associations?
Authors: Alexandra M. Rodriguez and Sara B. Festini, Ph.D.

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, face masks have become a required item of attire. Face masks obstruct the bottom portion of our faces, preventing others from fully processing all facial features upon meeting someone new. The present study examined the influence face masks have on memory predictions and memory performance for new face-name associations. Participants studied face-name pairs (half included a face mask) and provided item-by-item memory predictions (judgements of learning, JOLs). Participants completed subsequent recall and recognition memory tests. Both experiments demonstrated that face masks impaired memory for newly-learned names, however, the magnitude of the impact was under-predicted by participants. Therefore, the presence of a face mask negatively influences memory performance to a greater degree than expected. Results have implications for real-world settings.

Abstracts

40. Apathy in ADHD: Predictors of Boredom in College Students with Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder

Authors: Madelyn Sandone, Benjamin Conness and Jenna Santer

Proneness to boredom is related to impulsivity, inattention, and purposelessness (Tam et al., 2021). We explored predictors of boredom proneness in 24 college students with and without ADHD. Students completed flanker, visual arrays, and sustained attention to cue (SACT) tasks and the Short Boredom Proneness Scale. Participants with ADHD show greater boredom proneness, $t(7.94)=-4.76$, $p=.001$, $d=2.33$, and scored worse on the SACT, $t(22)=2.20$, $p=.039$, $d=0.86$, relative to controls. Group differences were non-significant for flanker ($p=.052$) and visual arrays ($p=.548$) tasks. Multiple regression analyses reveal that flanker ($b=0.39$; $p=.030$) and SACT ($b=-0.47$, $p=.012$) scores significantly predict boredom proneness, $F(3,20)=6.92$, $p=.002$, $r2=.44$, but visual arrays scores do not ($b=-0.08$, $p=.641$). This suggests that those with poor executive attention control likely have higher boredom proneness.

41. Gender More Effective Cross-Race Effect Mitigator than Commonly Tested Ingroups

Author: Lauren Sass

In this study, we tested whether placing same-race and other-race faces into a loose social ingroup with subjects would mitigate the cross-race effect. Moreover, we assessed whether the own-gender effect–wherein people remember faces of the same-gender better than faces from the other gender–mitigated the CRE more strongly than the loose social ingroup. Eighty-eight White subjects studied 16 faces (White, Black, male, and female faces) half of which were presented with a blue (or green) background to indicate ingroup status. Afterwards, their memory for the faces was tested using a standard recognition accuracy test. While ingroup status did not mitigated the CRE, face gender did in female subjects. In short, White male faces were remembered better than Black male faces, but White and Black female faces were remembered equally well.

42. The Relationship of Identity Status, Self-Esteem, and Self-Compassion within Emerging Adults

Authors: Emma Scott, Kelsey Steller and Nicole Epstein

While there are numerous studies that link Marcia's theory to self-esteem, the results have been inconsistent as to whether there is evidence to support it. The goal of this study was therefore to determine whether identity status, self-esteem, and self-compassion tied together within emerging adults. The majority of our participants were seniors in college, with an average age of 21.65 years old. Subjects were asked to complete a brief questionnaire through Qualtrics, which included three separate surveys about self-esteem, self-compassion, and identity. Individuals committed to identity have higher levels of self-esteem and self-compassion than individuals who are still exploring an identity. Age had no link to these findings. Therefore, being committed to an identity is tied to the psychological well-being of emerging adults.

Abstracts

43. Analysis of Life Insurance Claims

Authors: Noah Segal and Khyam Paneru, Ph.D.

Around 54% of Americans have some life insurance plan, so understanding the patterns and differences between groups of individuals can give insightful information and predict a future claim of an individual. In this study, we explored life insurance claims from the available data in the Society of Actuaries (SOA). We investigated the relationships between the general information of policyholders and their life insurance claim amounts. Statistical techniques such as multiple linear regression and ANOVA were used to create a model to predict the claim amount of individuals. We also developed a model to investigate the policy duration (how long an individual would maintain a life insurance policy). The project results revealed insightful relationships and an understanding of how policyholders' claims differ.

44. Environmental Policy making and CO2 Emissions

Authors: Haily Shelp

In my research I will address how environmental policymaking affect CO_2 levels. Past researchers have pointed to lack of public opinion or education of CO_2 as the culprit of high CO_2 emissions while others have pointed to economic and industrial growth. I believe that environmental policymaking that is driven by political effectiveness is responsible for the control of CO_2 emissions. Political effectiveness is the ability of the public to feel like their individual opinion or vote impacts legislative outcome. The two variables I tested were poleff_SFI and co2; After running a linear regression I was able to conclude that political effectiveness and CO_2 emissions have no significant correlation.

45. International Tourism Impacts on the Environment and Sustainability

Author: Mackenzie Smucker

The following research seeks to answer the question of how international tourism effects environmental sustainability. Tourism is an increasingly growing sector of many economies that provides positive and negative effects. This sector of the economies is very adaptable to the economic environment. This allows for the tourism to be used as a potential developmental tool for certain countries. One of the negative effects is the impact on environmental sustainability. I argue that there is significant impact from tourism on sustainability. In order to test my argument, I ran a regression model using tourism arrivals and carbon emissions. Seeing this relationship, the model shown is a linear regression to project the significance of tourism and sustainability. The end result demonstrated inconsis-tent results. In theory there is a relationship to be shown but results remain inconsistent.

Abstracts

46. Do Not Resist: How Police Militarization Increased Repression's Likelihood Across 98 Countries
Author: Martin Stavro

How does police militarization influence government use of repression? Theoretical work is split as to whether police militarization increases or decreases repression. Prior studies in the United States and Latin America suggest police militarization increases state violence but do not strictly focus on repression. This article argues that police militarization generates an increased threat perceived by state authorities, necessitating correction. Since militarized police are predisposed to problem-solving through force, the state's correction increases repression. To evaluate the theory, this study conducts an international analysis with existing datasets covering 98 countries from 1994 to 2010. Employing ordered logit analysis, the data supports the conclusion that police militarization increases the likelihood of government repression.

47. How Does Access to Education Affect Economic Development
Author: Katie Strauss

In this research paper, the effect education has on economic development in Latin America is explored through factors such as average years of schooling, educational funding, number of schools, attendance and more. Variables such as gross domestic product, average salary, and populations in degree required jobs aid in exhibiting how influential access to education truly is on economic development. Multiple hypotheses are presented as a result of strong research on the topic of education in Latin America. Cases on three countries in Latin America are covered in detail. These cases and hypotheses are analyzed one by one based on factual history in each location to validate or nullify each hypotheses truly demonstrating whether and how access to education affects economic development.

48. How Do Varying Levels of Education in Latin America Impact the Wealth Disparity?
Author: Maggie Swartz

Education has a tremendous effect on many areas of life globally. The global south, specifically Latin America, has fallen behind many industrialized nations in terms of educational programs and achievements. This research seeks to discover the effect education has on the wealth disparity in Latin America. The wealth disparity in many countries has proven to be extremely polarizing, oftentimes leaving the lower class with little to few opportunities for economic advancement. In many societies education is the ticket to obtaining a well-paying affluent job and this research will seek to discover if the same holds true in Latin America. I will use three variables consistently throughout this study, including massification, privatization, and accreditation to measure the level of education in each country.

Abstracts

49. Daily Word Puzzles and Stress

Authors: Tashira Wallace and Daniel Zihal

Stress levels in college students tend to be high, given their hectic schedules. Many do either cardiovascular ftness or some other physical activity to reduce stress. In this experiment, we wanted to examine a different method of stress reduction, word puzzles. In our experiment, two groups will complete puzzles that differ in difficulty level over two days. Each group will complete their set of allocated word puzzles for the day and then follow up with a survey gauging their stress level and how the puzzles may have affected it. We expect to see more of an influence in the groups that are doing the hard set of puzzles as this should excite the brain more and require more attention. We do not expect to see much of a decrease in stress level in the simple puzzles group as they require little to no higher level of brain activity.

50. Strategies for Comprehension Improvement

Author: Kali Wilbourn

This study examines ways in which a preservice teacher, alongside her collaborating teacher, applied strategies to further develop two second grade students' comprehension skills. Comprehension skills are significant in the reading process as "meaning is constructed when readers make connections between what they know and what they are reading" (McLaughlin, 2012, p.432). Throughout the course of a 14-week semester, the following four strategies were practiced: comprehension bingo to build background knowledge, sketch notes, repeated reading, and encouraging wonderings before, during, and after reading. This study is important to the world of education as teachers are critical to reading development. Furthermore, this study educated me on the importance of comprehension and provided me with various strategies that I can implement in my future teaching.

51. Exploring Student Learning with a Gamified Social Engagement Discussion Board

Authors: Chloe Wimpfheimer, Christina Falletta, Amrita Bindra, Kelsey Little and Alice DeCoteau

This presentation showcases an interdisciplinary study exploring the student experience with Yellowdig, a gamified social engagement discussion board. Our research questions are: What is the student experience using Yellowdig, a disruptive technology designed with social media and gamification? How does this interaction affect self-regulation, cognition, and satisfaction? Data was collected using a Qualtrics questionnaire with closed and open-ended questions administered to both undergraduate and graduate across over a dozen courses at the University of Tampa. Additionally, observational data and course artifacts were collected from the consenting students. Through the lens of disruptive innovation theory, our initial findings suggest that instructors may leverage Yellowdig to foster engagement, satisfaction, and critical connections.