

Spring 2013 CSSME Undergraduate Research Conference

May 1, 2013

1. Factors that Exemplify Support or Opposition to Gay and Lesbian Adoption

Camille Arce-Persia & Chloe Knowling (GWA)

Gay and Lesbian adoption is a controversial issue. Digging deeper, it is fascinating to discover the various factors, which determine whether an individual is more or less likely to support Gay and Lesbian adoption. Such factors we examine include level of income, level of education, party identification, religion (importance of religion to the respondent- on the individual level) and finally, region (South). Using data from the National Election Survey (2008) indicates that there is in fact a relationship between all the variables and that each relationship is significant. Results suggest that an individual's education, income, party identification, religion and region all play a role in their tolerance and level of acceptance towards gay and lesbian adoption in a positive and negative manner.

2. Personality Traits and Health Habits

Alex Barker & Patrick Justin (PSY)

This study investigated the relationship between social phobia and condom use self-efficacy among undergraduates. Students in various introductory courses ($N = 26$) completed the Social Phobia Scale (SPS) and also a general health questionnaire that contained items from a validated condom self-efficacy scale. We hypothesized that students with higher scores on the SPS would score lower overall on the condom self-efficacy scale. We also predicted that low scores on two items in particular from this scale ("I could talk about using a condom if I were unsure of my partner's feelings about condoms" and "I could say no to sex if my partner refused to use a condom") would be related to higher levels of social evaluative fears.

3. Expectations of Privacy and Government Use of Domestic Drones

Robert Barton & Rafael Ayala (CRM)

Several attempts have been made to conceptualize the term "privacy" with the earliest record of a right to privacy dating to 200 C.E. Although the word "privacy" is not explicit in the United States Constitution, the United States Supreme Court has interpreted several of the amendments as affording a right to privacy. Justice Harlan in *Katz v. United States* (1967) established a two-part test to determine when individuals have an expectation of privacy: First, an individual must exhibit an actual (subjective) expectation of privacy; and second, the expectation must be one that society is willing to accept as reasonable. The test calls for an empirical answer. Yet few studies explore the views and perceptions of individuals. Our research examined the views and perceptions of individuals about the expectation of privacy and the government's use of domestic drones.

4. Sense of Community and Political Behavior in Ghana

Robert Barton, Natalie Berezin, & Jason Turk (GWA)

Sense of community may come from different contexts for different people. For some it may be their neighborhood or place of worship, for others it may stem from their place of work or their voluntary associations, and this has been shown to influence various types of political behaviors (Anderson 2009, 2010). While previous work demonstrates that a sense of community affects political behavior and attitudes in the US, nothing has been done to demonstrate how this applies to other states. In this paper we extend that line of research to examine how sense of community influences political behavior in Ghana. Using a random sample of 200 people in three villages in Ghana, gathered in the summer of 2012, we examine to what extent sense of community affects Ghanaian political behavior.

5. Religion and Social Issues

Polina Bayramova & Melody Jacquay (GWA)

One's religious values and positions on social issues, one's moral beliefs and party identification – is it true that these factors play an important part in determining one's voting behavior or not? Our research examines to what extent religion and demographics influence policy positions on social issues. We have discovered that beyond religion, other factors, such as one's income, level of education, gender and level of income play a vital role in determining one's policy positions.

6. Outcomes of Different Forms of Administration in the Tower of Hanoi Test

Leif Benner & Kelsey Marchioni (PSY)

The purpose of this study was to examine whether or not people would perform better on a computerized version of the Tower of Hanoi puzzle or on the classic wooden version. Past research found that individuals tended to perform better on the computerized version with respect to both moves and time (Noyes, J. M., & Garland, K. J.). The two versions of the test were administered randomly to two groups of University of Tampa students, 24 in total (10 M, 14 F). Our results show that participants made significantly less moves on the physical test compared to the computerized version, while there were no differences in time. This contradiction to previous research suggests that the physical test drew on greater working memory and mental representations than the computerized version, possibly due to the ease at which a trial and error method could be applied to the computerized version.

7. Factors Influencing Voter Turnout on an International Level

Lisa Bero & Martin Conroy (GWA)

What affects voter turnout rates, especially on an international level? What are the countries with the highest voter turnout rates doing to get their citizens to the polls? While there are many factors influencing voter turnout, our research focused on the concept of wealth. It's no secret that wealth plays a huge role in politics whether it's in terms of political campaigns, interest groups, or political agendas. In the words of Russell H. Conwell "Money is power, and you ought to be reasonably ambitious to have it" and money, power, and ambition are all elements of politics. Using the World Data Set, we examine the relationship between GDP and voter turnout.

8. Personal Traits and Views on Alcohol

Leanna Bonlarron & Marchella Frascello (PSY)

The purpose of this study was to explore the relationship between alcohol consumption, drinking expectancies and social evaluation in undergraduate students ($N = 65$). Participants enrolled in Introduction to Criminology courses completed a brief background data form, the Social Phobia Scale, and the Alcohol Expectancy Questionnaire. We hypothesized that there would be a positive relationship between social fears, alcohol consumption and expectancies that alcohol would lower anxiety in social situations. Results will be discussed in terms of the expectancy theory.

9. Sexuality and Religiosity: Are Heterosexuals More Religious than Homosexuals and/or Bisexuals?

Alexandra Bosco, Emma Badger, Nina McNeill, & Anna Haragan (SOC)

Gay rights is a growing issue around the US, specifically as relates to same-sex marriage. A related but less-often discussed topic is the religiosity of homosexuals. Using Dr. Ryan T. Cragun's *Chapel Data Survey Set, 2011*, we examine the religiosity of homosexual students at The University of Tampa. The survey included a sample of 557 students as well as a number of questions related to religiosity. Our statistical findings suggest that overall, being heterosexual differs from being homosexual and/or bisexual in terms of religiosity.

10. The Circular Effects of Mistreatment: Why Ethnic Groups Continue Abusive Behaviors

Christina Budd (GWA)

Despite research done by others in regard to causes of mistreatment, I will look into the reasoning behind why an ethnic group who has been mistreated in the past has been provoked to mistreat and create conflict with another ethnic group. The aims of the research I will be conducting is to discover if different variables including minority protection, migration, and cultural assimilation contribute to why the mistreatment of an ethnic group has caused them to start conflict with another ethnic group. I will seek to fill in gaps of this worldly issue. I theorize that my selected variables have all led to circular effects of ethnic mistreatment within the countries I will be researching.

11. Brand Name Perceptions

Lovell Burrell, Elizabeth Joyce, & Kimberly Reeves (PSY)

This experiment looked at how people would perceive certain aspects of bread based on the brand name. The two fictional brand names investigated were Toasty and Slenderbread. The present experiment had four hypotheses; that females would indicate a greater likelihood of purchasing Slenderbread than men, that the brand name Slenderbread would be perceived as healthier than Toasty, that the brand name Toasty would be perceived as crunchier than Slenderbread, and that the name brand Toasty would be perceived as more tasty. Fifty participants

were surveyed and the results indicated that participants did perceive Toasty to be crunchier than Slenderbread and did perceive Slenderbread to be healthier than Toasty. No significant differences in perceptions of taste were found and women and men did not differ in purchase intentions for Slenderbread.

12. The Ultimate Influence of Stress

Gregory Byer & Alyssa Hughes (PSY)

We examined if stress had an influence on memory and decision making skills. The experimental group listened to “Her Morning Elegance” by Oren Lavie, a very calming song, and read from 5 very relaxed scenarios. The control group listened to “Underwater Bimbos from Outer Space” by Every Time I Die while reading a series of very upsetting, stressful and uncomfortable scenarios. They also listened to “Off the Heezay” by Bring Me to the Horizon, another very aggressive screamo-genre song. The two groups then took the same matching-tile puzzle game and their time and tries to complete the puzzle were recorded. The results show that even though the control group took less time to complete the puzzle, they made more errors along the way. Although this differs from our original hypothesis, it shows nonetheless that the stress-pooled subjects were affected by their scenario and music and sacrificed greater error for a quicker completion.

13. Reasonable Expectations of Privacy and Technology

Victoria Caniano, Zachary Iacovino, Matthew Lauzon, & Todd Parke (CRM)

This research examined expectations of privacy across three fields of technology: Internet-monitoring, DNA-testing, and GPS-usage in cellular phones, specifically measuring whether respondents expected privacy in a variety of scenarios. Controlling for situational demographic characteristics, we found that individuals’ perceptions about their expectations of privacy while using technology varied.

14. Music and Memorization

Brittany Cannon & Tiffany Smith (PSY)

This project focuses on how music affects memorization. In past studies researchers have found that music had little to no effect on one’s memorization (Lesiuk, 2005; Jancke & Sandmann, 2010). Other studies have found that listening to Mozart while doing memorization tasks had increased learning abilities (Schellenberg, 2001). In the present study participants were instructed to look at slides that contained images of food for 20 seconds. This was then repeated three more times with different music scenarios. The types of music used were Mozart, Rock & Roll, Pop and No music. The hypothesis stated that the no music condition would have a minimal effect on memorization while the Rock & Roll condition would have a greater effect. Results showed that music had an effect on the images recalled, $F(3,1)=4.06, p=.008$. The Mozart condition produced the most images recalled ($M=7.17$), while the Rock & Roll condition produced the least amount of images recalled ($M=5.96$).

15. The Effects of Color on Taste and Flavor Perception

Kristina Cappello, Ladijah Cross, & Gabi Haynes (PSY)

Previous research suggests that color has profound effects on flavor and taste perceptions. This study examines how differences in color can influence the perceived flavor and taste attribute of a food product. 50 students from the University of Tampa sampled apple juice in its original color (light brown) or manipulated color (red). Students then completed a survey about the flavor, taste attributes (sweet, sour) and likability of the product. As predicted in our first hypothesis, 38 percent of participants misidentified the products true flavor as fruit punch, cranberry, and strawberry kiwi – typically red associated flavors. However, no significant differences were found between beverage color and perceived sweetness, sourness, or product likeability.

16. Ons is Almal Broers: The Status of Racial Politics in Post-Colonial African Society.

Ariston Carter (GWA)

This paper focuses on the effects of post-colonial policies and their influence on racial relations in former British colonies in southern Africa. Different policies will be examined, such as family policy, economic policy, and agricultural policy. By examining and utilizing a multitude of resources, I expect to prove that development in racial relations in each country has developed in drastically different ways, as result of various factors, such as percentage of educated population, employment rate, wealth, access to natural resources, foreign investment and competition, etc. These findings constitute an important part of Africa’s future. Societies that are plagued by social conflicts,

especially racial, deter foreign investment, distract legislators from focusing on other important issues, and eventually create a broken and visibly separated society.

17. An Evaluation of a Child Abuse Prevention Program Stephanie Chu & Stephanie Sabga (SOC)

The purpose of this evaluation research was to evaluate the effectiveness of an interactive puppet show presented by the Kids on the Block Program. Third grade students watched the puppet show and were then asked to write letters to the puppets explaining three things they learned from the show. Letters were randomly selected from Hillsborough County schools to form a sample. These letters were then content analyzed to evaluate whether or not certain themes from the show were mentioned in the letters. The results showed that 85.34% of students who wrote letters mentioned at least one theme from the puppet show. We conclude that a majority of students are learning about child abuse and the program is effective.

18. Traffick Jam: Fighting Sex Trafficking in Industrializing States Sierra Collazo (GWA)

Human trafficking is the second most profitable criminal industry in the world, after drug and arms trafficking. While all forms of slavery are appalling, sex trafficking is by far the worst because it affects the most vulnerable people (women and children, primarily). My research will be exploring how industrializing states combat sex trafficking of women and children. By “industrializing states,” I am referring to states which have already undergone the initial process of development and are rising economies. I will be focusing on why sex trafficking remains so prevalent, particularly in countries with this status, and what these states are doing to combat it. I will look into the cultural norms, poverty, and gender roles that allow sex trafficking to continue, and the resources and public awareness campaigns (if any) available to law enforcement and victims in the attempt to end trafficking. In addition to examining industrializing states, I will compare their response and social climate to that of a post-industrial state which, theoretically, should have the policies and resources necessary to eradicate this issue altogether.

19. The Impact of Brand Name on Perceptions of an Athletic Shoe Cami Cremata, Carolina Donastorg, & Alyssa Hughes (PSY)

This study investigated how perceptions of athletic shoes would differ based on brand name. We surveyed 50 participants regarding their impressions of two fictional athletic shoe brand names: Cheetah and Plush. We believed that Cheetah would be associated with a more male-based market and Plush with a female-based market. We assessed eleven variables including perceived comfort, gender appropriateness, speed, athleticism, power, and likelihood of purchasing the shoe. Our results showed that Cheetah was perceived as more appropriate for males than females and it was associated with becoming a better athlete and being faster, and that Plush was perceived as being more comfortable than Cheetah, which partially supported our hypotheses of how the two brand names were going to be perceived.

20. Facial Recognition in the Homesick College Student Logan R. Cummings, C. Ryan Williams, & Deletha P. Hardin (PSY)

It is likely that many UT students experience homesickness, particularly when they are transitioning to the new environment. This is especially likely because so many students are international students or come from other regions of the US. Research has examined the consequences of homesickness, but has not examined the effect on students' perceptions of others. Perhaps students in transition see familiar faces in their new environment in order to cope. This study sought to determine whether homesick students, as compared to non-homesick students, would misidentify non-familiar faces. We also expected that compared to non-homesick students, homesick students would have faster reaction times to pictures of familiar people. Students judged photos of individuals to determine whether or not they were people they knew. Students provided 6 of the photos that were incorporated into the materials. Participants also completed a scale measuring homesickness. Neither hypothesis was supported; however, improvements to the research are discussed.

21. Gun Control Evan Cusson, Mariana Herrera, & Craig Renjifo (GWA)

Our research project consisted of learning about opinions on gun control. Using data from the National Election Study 2008, we examined the question: “Should the Federal Government make it easier, harder, or the same, to purchase a firearm?” We hypothesized that opinion on gun control, is influenced by age, gender, number of children living in the house hold, prior military experience, and region of residence.

22. *Country of Origin Stereotypes*

Brian Floyd, Kathy Guvercin, & Jordan Maltese (PSY)

This research examines country of origin stereotypes on consumer perceptions of an automobile. This experiment provided 60 male and female participants with a short description of a fictional car set to be released in 2014, with half the surveys indicating the car was manufactured in Japan and the other half saying in America. The descriptions were kept exactly the same across all surveys. Perceptions of quality, safety, value, and purchase intentions were assessed. The results did not support the hypotheses that country of origin would affect the consumers purchase intentions or the consumers perceptions of the product.

23. *Women’s Movements Advancing Women’s Political Representation: A Perspective from sub-Saharan Africa*

Emma Foreman (GWA)

In many parts of the world, women are excluded from many realms of politics, particularly representation in legislative bodies. This is often due to the patriarchal social norms present in many societies. Various approaches exist to mitigate this problem, some more successful than others. Different methods to open political windows for women include taking advantage of the political opportunities present at the end of a period of armed conflict and implementing electoral gender quotas in legislative bodies. Specifically in sub-Saharan Africa, we see a trend towards women’s movements and organizations utilizing these tools as vehicles to advance women’s political representation and overcome these patriarchal social norms. This paper will discuss how women’s movements and organizations take advantage of these mechanisms to overcome patriarchal social norms and increase women’s political representation in sub-Saharan Africa.

24. *The Impact of Formal Music Training on Categorical Perception*

Brittany Haines & Clarissa Davis (PSY)

Categorical Perception is how speech stimuli are organized within auditory systems. There is a categorical boundary between specific speech sounds. The difference between two sounds is the time between the release of the air and the beginning of the vibration (Voice Onset Time (VOT)). After listening to an ordered set of “rake” and “lake” stimuli, we had participants listen to a random sequence of speech stimuli “rake” and “lake,” where each stimulus was changed slightly from the stimuli before it. We hypothesize that musicians are able to better discriminate between two sounds better and have a higher confidence level than non-musicians, if two speech sounds are presented. We predict that musicians will perform better on discrimination and have a higher confidence level, because musicians are trained to carefully hear and produce the release of the air and the beginning of the vibration of a musical note.

25. *Perfectionism, Story Narratives, and Body Image Concerns*

Gabriela Haynes, Jessika Guerard, & Mike Stasio (PSY)

This investigation aimed to replicate and to extend data from a poster (Haynes, Brown, & Belanger, 2012) presented at a previous CSSME Undergraduate Research Conference. The current study sought to recruit a representative sample of women ($N = 162$) from among general psychology courses. Most (62%) were first year students. Participants completed a measure of perfectionistic self-presentation, read a story narrative with either body focus vs. neutral focus, and then completed measures of body image concerns and perfectionistic thoughts. Results showed that, contrary to prediction, the type of story narrative participants read had no effect on subsequent measures of either body image concerns or perfectionistic thoughts. Otherwise, body image concerns were significantly correlated with all 3 perfectionism subscales—*Self-promotion* ($r = .32$), *Non-display of Imperfection* ($r = .41$), and *Non-disclosure of Imperfection* ($r = .37$).

26. *Color and Perception of Flavored Water*

Chelsea Hofer, Brie Walton, & Paige Driapsa (PSY)

This study explores the relationship between the effect of color intensity on the perception of flavor; including if the product was made naturally, if the product is healthy, the intensity of sweetness, and whether or not the product had a strong flavor. All of the participants were students at the University of Tampa. The participants were asked to look and taste the colored flavored water and complete a survey, asking about their demographics and a four question survey about the product. It was hypothesized that the lighter color water would be perceived as healthy and more natural whereas the darker color water would be perceived as sweeter with an intense flavor. The results suggest that there is no significant difference of flavor and sweetness between the light and dark samples whereas there was a statistically significant difference of the product being perceived as healthy and as natural.

27. Does Beauty Matter?

Sean Houseman & Toula Markopoulos (PSY)

Perceptions of trustworthiness of the information, attitude toward the car, and purchase intentions of participants were measured based on whether or not the information about an automobile was received from an attractive or unattractive salesperson. It was hypothesized that participants will have more favorable attitudes toward the car, greater perceptions of trustworthiness, and will be more inclined to purchase the car from the more attractive, rather than less attractive individual. There were a total of 50 participants. It was found that there was no significant difference in measurements of trustworthiness of the information, attitude toward the car, and purchase intentions of participants regardless of whether or not the salesperson was attractive versus unattractive. Contrary to predictions, a marginally significant effect for perceptions of vehicle safety was found with participants indicating the car was safer when the information was delivered from an unattractive vs. attractive salesperson.

28. Mental Processing through Dichotic Listening: Sarcasm and Sincerity

Camilla Johnston & Camila Cremata (PSY)

Past research suggests that the individuals pick up on sarcastic tones through their left ear and thus their right hemisphere of the brain. The research further suggests that, sincere tones are more easily analyzed through an individual's right ear and thus their left hemisphere of the brain. This study explores individual's analysis of certain sarcastic and sincere statements through a dichotic listening tasks. The study hypothesizes that those who listen to sarcastic statement through the left ear will rate the statement more sarcastic than those who listen to the statement through the right ear. Further hypotheses propose that those who listen to sincere statements through the right ear will rate the statement more sincere than those who listen to the sincere statement through the right ear. Participants listened to different phrases (sarcastic or sincere) through different ears. Results show that sincere statements did not prove to show any difference between different hemispheres but sarcastic statements did. There was also a significant effect with the tone of the statements.

29. Smoking, Drinking, and Social Phobia

Camilla Johnston & Kelly Stevens (PSY)

Social Phobia is a condition in which an individual becomes very anxious in situations where he or she may be subject to scrutiny by others while performing a specific task (Mark & Gelder, 1996). Past research has suggested that behaviors involving smoking and drinking are linked with social phobia. This study further investigates these relationships among college students. Students in two introductory psychology classes at the University of Tampa ($N = 76$) were asked to fill out three scales: Social Phobia Scale, Worry-Reduction Alcohol Expectancy Scale and Smoking Expectancies Scale for Adolescents. Researchers hypothesized that those who more frequently engaged in drinking and smoking behaviors would have higher social phobia scores than those who smoked and drank less.

30. Social Phobia and Physique Anxiety in Dancers versus Non-dancers

Stephane Kraft & Dayna Matouk (PSY)

This study explored the relationships between social phobia, physique anxiety, and competition anxiety among undergraduates. General Psychology students, as well as Beginning Dance students at the University of Tampa ($N = 66$) were asked to complete the Social Phobia Scale, the Social Physique Anxiety Scale, and the Sports Competition Anxiety Test. We hypothesized that higher scores on the social phobia scale would be related to more physique anxiety. We also hypothesized that dancers will have more competition anxiety and physique anxiety than non-dancers.

31. Feature analysis and Change Blindness

Victoria Lopez (PSY)

This study investigated the relationship between number of images presented in a given scene, change blindness and reaction time. A convenience sample was used ($n=12$). Participants completed a computer program that measured reaction times for finding the changing stimulus on various screens with changing number of stimuli. The stimuli consisted of line images and neutral images. It was hypothesized that the target stimuli in the line drawings would have a higher reaction time than target stimuli in the more natural drawings. Also, increasing the number of distractors would also increase the reaction time.

32. Perfectionism, Body Image, and Social Phobia

Victoria Lopez & Margaret Cook (PSY)

A correlational study was run to investigate relationships between perfectionism, body image, and social phobia as they related to college students. Freshman level students ($N = 63$) completed the Social Phobia Scale (SPS), the Perfectionistic Self Presentation Scale (PSPS) and the Body Image Scale (BIS). It was hypothesized that a positive correlation would be found between perfectionism and social phobia scores. Similarly, it was predicted that body image concerns would also be positively correlated with social phobia scores.

33. Women's Empowerment: Level of Education for Women and how it Influences their Participation in Parliamentary Governments

Monica M. Mansour (GWA)

In this paper, I will explore women's empowerment, particularly focusing on women's education and how it affects women's involvement in parliamentary governments. Women have made tremendous progress in their fight for equality but in most countries, women are underrepresented in official government positions. By focusing on women's empowerment, I will determine the outcome of level of education for women and how it affects their interest in running for office. I will claim that women's empowerment begins with education but through the "role model effect" of educated women in power, others will be inspired to be involved in politics as well. The role model effect is the motivating force for women to be empowered through education and eventually parliamentary governments.

34. Sorry I'm Not Sorry: Why Apologies Matter

Rachel Meade (GWA)

When solving any conflict, there are two important little words: "I'm sorry." Sure, a quick apology may solve a conflict between yourself and your roommate, but how do apologies work on the global scale? Are some apologies more effective than others? What makes an effective apology? I will explain apologies in regards to wartime atrocities, especially regarding Japan and its ever tense relations with China and Korea. A few months ago, tensions rose in China and Japan over a bunch of rocks inhabited with sheep, the Senkaku/Diaoyu islands. The rest of the world looked on in disbelief. Many experts say in order for the Senkaku/Diaoyu islands issue to be resolved, Japan must formally apologize. I will also delve into the comfort women issue between Japan and South Korea and Germany's apologies post World War II. I will look into all the factors that go into apologies and what effect they have had on relationships between nations. I think everyone will be shocked to see that two little words really can make all the difference.

35. Future Pro-Environmental Policies

Samantha Milano & Phillip Guerrettaz (GWA)

Environmental constraints continue to be an issue of concern for the United States and global community. In order to better understand the variables associated with pro-environmental policies, we analyzed education, partisanship, income and region from the American National Election Study to determine what demographic characteristics impact people's view towards protecting the environment.

36. Foreign Language Anxiety and Social Evaluative Fears in the Spanish Classroom

Carolina Montes (PSY)

This study investigated the relationship between foreign language anxiety and social evaluative fears among undergraduates at The University of Tampa. Elementary Spanish students ($n = 53$) and advanced Spanish students ($n = 56$) completed a brief background survey, the Foreign Language Classroom Anxiety Scale (FLCAS) and a measure on Social Phobia Scale (SPS). The main hypothesis was that the FLCAS and SPS would have a positive correlation. Students with higher scores on foreign language anxiety were expected to also have higher levels of

social evaluative fears. In addition, students in advanced Spanish courses were expected to report higher foreign language anxiety scores than elementary Spanish students.

37. Monolingual Vs. Bilingual Comprehension in a Dichotic Listening Task

Carolina Montes & Mary Thomas (PSY)

A study was conducted to see how bilinguals and monolinguals would process information differently in a dichotic listening task that involved both English and Spanish. Previous research has shown that bilinguals experience more interference with tasks that involve two languages (Castro, Oliveira, & De Sousa, 2000). We did this study with undergraduate students at the University of Tampa. Participants were asked to focus their attention to an English story playing in their right ear, while a story in Spanish played in their left unattended ear. Participants were then given a brief comprehension test on the English story. As we predicted, bilinguals had a significantly lower mean score on the comprehension exercise than monolinguals, showing their awareness of the language would distract them from focusing on the English story. Our hypothesis that bilinguals would pick up on the language change in the left ear more than the monolinguals was not supported in our findings however.

38. Testing Supreme Court Decisions on Expectations of Privacy

Morgan Parker, Pranav Lokin, Natalie Berezin, Leah Barney, & Kristine Zambito (CRM)

In determining whether individuals are afforded expectations of privacy, the United States Supreme Court adopted a two-prong test. Expectations of privacy exists if (1) the individual “has exhibited an actual (subjective) expectation of privacy,” and (2) society is prepared to recognize that this expectation (objectively) reasonable. The research for this project examined whether reasonable individuals held views similar to the United States Supreme Court regarding expectations of privacy in a variety of settings, controlling for perceptions related to safety, past illegal experiences, legitimacy of authority as well as respondents’ residential status and the proximity of the intrusion.

39. The Impact of Illegal Immigration on the Labor Market of the Host Country

Walter Pimentel (GWA)

This paper’s main goal is to examine the effects of illegal immigration on the labor market of capitalistic, democratic, nation-states with manufacturing economies. This will be done through a comparative method called “most similar systems design” or MSS. The most similar systems strategy consists on finding two or more very similar social systems. It is based on matching up and then comparing two or more systems that share a whole range of similarities (political, social, demographic, economic, cultural) but also differ in at least a couple of important aspects. These are called the independent variables. The characteristics the countries share can, in theory, remain constant and can therefore be considered irrelevant in explaining a particular social or political occurrence that varies between the systems. This is called the dependent variable. These two variables make the findings more legitimate and constant in societies that are similar in nature.

40. A Comparative Analysis of the Causes of War

Victoria Rader (GWA)

What causes one country to point inter-ballistic nuclear missiles at another or to invade another, forcing the latter’s natural citizens to leave their homes? In a world where warfare is becoming increasingly devastating, we need a better method of dealing with it. Can we predict it? If we can predict which countries will go to war, can we take steps to prevent it? My approach to answering these questions was to comparatively analyze 3 case studies of countries that are currently at war. I learned, through my research, there are some common factors among my case studies, to include that all of the countries have been to war with one another before. The larger implication of rooting out the cause of war is that if we can predict it, we can solve it. Like finding cancer in its early stages, we can cure the problem at its source.

41. The Iranian Nuclear Program: A Dynamic Challenge for American Foreign Policy

Todd Reasonover (GWA)

This paper seeks to identify how the Islamic Republic of Iran is using the construction of the international system to advance its nuclear weapons program. By analyzing and evaluating the various international relations theories in regards to this issue, and focusing on the motivations of the state and the political biases and structure of the international system, one can determine the possible reasons for Iran to seek such weapons. As non-proliferation norms are on the rise, and the intentions for Iran’s use of such weapons are unknown, the stakes could not be higher.

Because the very pursuit of nuclear weapons technology by even one state changes the power dynamics of the international system, this paper will also seek to identify potential policy options for the United States in response to Iran's nuclear program, and evaluate the overall effectiveness of such policies in the ever changing international world order.

42. Is there a relationship between the number of sexual partners someone has had and their health?

Amy Rose, Rachel Boucher, Jessica Yingling, & Robert Zimmerman (SOC)

Sex is a popular topic, particularly sexual health. One question that has not received a lot of research interest is whether there is a relationship between the number of sexual partners an individual has and their overall health. Most prior studies on this topic focus on the probability of acquiring an STD and examine risk factors like: age at first sexual experience, number of concurrent or sequential sexual partners, use of barrier methods of contraception, partner choice, prevalence of the disease in a community, access to health services for treatable STDs and biological factors, such as cervical ectopy. Having multiple sexual partners represents an important behavioral risk factor for STDs among adolescents and young adults, especially if they fail to use condoms correctly and consistently. Most teenagers do not have multiple concurrent sexual partners; however, because many adolescent relationships are of short duration, teenagers often have multiple sequential partners. Using data from the 2011 Chapel Survey we examine the relationship between number of sex partners and general health.

43. Do Countries that Vote against the United States Interest in the United Nations Trade Less with Developed Nations?

James Shepard (GWA)

This paper is designed to illustrate the correlation between a country's vote against US interests in the UN and that country's level of trade with the US and other developed nations. The three countries in this paper are Saudi Arabia, Syria, and Iran. My research shows that there is a decrease in trade when a country impedes US interests unless there is a strong possibility of the US being restricted from resources that are possessed by that country. In circumstances like this, diplomatic negotiations are usually what are desired in order to settle disagreements. In some cases though, political restlessness might also play a role. The research is showing that most of the time there is more going on behind the scenes than simply voting yay or nay.

44. To be Violent or not to be Violent, that is the Question.

Yasaman Sherbaf (GWA)

There are many factors when it comes to determining how a protest can be successful. Even so, the factors being looked at in this research are the use of violence and widespread support in the protest. Protests occur everyday through various areas within the world. Protests have no preference, they can be violent, nonviolent, effective and/or ineffective. However, there is always a reason for citizens to take to the streets and demonstrate their frustration with an ongoing situation in their nation. Therefore, nonviolent protests and the widespread support of the protests are the units of analysis, the main focus of the research paper. In determining how to know how violent or nonviolent a protest is, one must look at the statistics of the protests, the numbers. Yet, there is more to it than just numbers, there is the social media, the culture, the reason for protesting, which will all demonstrate how successful or unsuccessful the protest was.

45. Ignite, Unite, or Divide: Internet Globalization and Political Protests in Unstable Government's Abroad

Erin Shields (GWA)

The focus of this paper targets the effectiveness of the Internet's role in political protests in unstable governments abroad. Recently there has been much discussion about how a "Social Media Revolution" has catalyzed many successful protests in the Arab Spring Movement. I first conduct a literature analysis of those experts who study political protests and their suggestions for why protests are either successful or unsuccessful; and how the Internet plays a current role in today's uprisings. The research conducted focuses on the following variables; Internet accessibility, government censorship, stability of government, and the economic and political aspects that contribute to mass uprisings. What makes a protest successful? The case analysis will test the hypothesis of the theory I draw, and will focus on Iran, Tunisia, and Egypt specifically. Does the Internet give a new voice and promise to the oppressed citizens of unstable nations?

46. Examining Proactive Interference on Semantic Coding

Andrew Shimkus & John Warren (PSY)

This study examined the effect of proactive interference, semantic coding and number of items memorized on short term memory. In addition, this experiment manipulated the number of words given to two groups, while changing word categories in the final trial. This was done to test the idea that an increase of items to memorize would cause proactive interference to disrupt participants' ability to recall words in a similar category, thus showing a smaller percent of words they remembered. Also, this study tested the hypothesis that the interaction between the number of words and number of trials would interfere with the release from proactive interference, as normally seen in the three word trials. It was found that increasing the number of words decreased the percent of word recalled correctly. Yet there was still release from proactive interference, even in the five word condition.

47. The Effects of Disease Testing on Moral Perceptions

Lorena Snodgrass & Cynthia Gangi (PSY)

Many people decline an HIV test out of fear that their testing intentions will be suggestive of promiscuity, homosexuality, and/or drug addiction (CDC, 2002). Prior research has corroborated the validity of this fear by demonstrating that people judge test-takers as *less moral* than those who decline testing. The current research explored the impact of test results on this stigma by having each participant read a vignette about a man who either declines an HIV test, accepts the test and has unknown results, or accepts the test and finds out he is HIV-negative. Participants judged the person who chose to get tested and received a negative result as *more moral* than the other two scenarios. These results suggest that HIV testing is not invariably associated with negative judgments. In some cases (i.e., when testing leads to a favorable outcome), it can improve judgments of one's moral character.

48. Determining the Correlation between Homosexuality and Religious Orientation

Jonathan Suire, David Soter, Bruce Mizener, & Juan Gonzalez

Statistical analysis on the level of self-reported religiosity based on sexual orientation at The University of Tampa revealed that there was no statistically significant difference between heterosexuals and homosexuals. Furthermore, findings also showed that there was not statistically significant difference with regard to religiosity. The aforementioned two variables, and more, point toward sexual orientation as being an unreliable predictor of religiosity

49. Enhancing Cognitive Skills in Students

Michael Tsiaklides, Lauren Easler, & Kenneth Kohutek (PSY)

The literature supports findings that cognitive skills are an integral ingredient of a child's overall success in the academic setting. There is also evidence that these skills can be taught thus increasing the likelihood of success in mathematics and language skills. The purpose of this study was to assess the efficacy of the Children's Cognitive Enhancement Program (CCEP) in increasing cognitive skills in school age children. This program was designed to assist in the development of cognitive skills, including scanning, inductive reasoning, and problem-solving. The CCEP is unique in that it utilizes challenges which are "hands-on" physical/kinesthetic manipulatives. It was hypothesized that, upon completion of the CCEP, there would be significantly positive changes in the following scales from the Woodcock-Johnson Test of Cognitive Abilities: Spatial Relations (#3), Concept Formation (#5), and Planning (#19). Findings from this study supported the research hypothesis. The findings along with recommendations for future studies are discussed.

50. The Broadcast Media: The Persuading Factor in Election Decisions?

Cyndi Weiner (GWA)

There is a wide understanding that televised media has an impact on the beliefs of its viewers. This idea is especially true when it comes to voter intention during political elections. The purpose of this paper is to prove that media exposure affects the outcome of elections. In a case study analysis, comparing the 2008 US Presidential election, the 2005 United Kingdom Parliamentary election and the 2009 Bundestag election, I set out to prove that the more mass media a voter is exposed to, the more likely the election outcome will reflect the views of the televised news broadcasts. I believe that the availability of information and the content of information in televised news broadcasts will be the main factors persuading voters to elect certain parties and candidates. This research is important because it is current, and it covers the campaign and election process as a whole, rather than individual voter intentions.

51. The Relationship between Openness to Experience and Creativity for the Visual Learning Style

Samantha Byrne, Amber Ellison, & Krystal Kirby (PSY 200)

This study incorporates three topics: Openness to Experience, Creativity, and visual learning, in order to find how Openness is linked to Creativity and visual learning. Creativity is defined as the "The tendency to generate or recognize ideas, alternatives, or possibilities that may be useful in solving problems, communicating with others, and entertaining ourselves and others" (Franken, 396). We measured Openness using a brief assessment of this factor of the Big Five. Visual learning was measured using the learning styles test utilized by The University of Tampa's Academic Center for Excellence. Correlational analyses indicated that there was no statistically significant correlation between Openness to Experience, Creativity, and visual learning in UT students. However, there was a marginally significant correlation between Openness to Experience and Creativity.

52. Gender Difference in Library Use at The University of Tampa

Alexis Daniel, Andrew Rodgers, & Chelsea Smasal (PSY 200)

The library is a great place to study at universities worldwide, but which gender uses the library more? It was proposed that females study at the library more than males do. After observing the Macdonald-Kelce Library at The University of Tampa on various days and certain times of the day, the number of students of each gender was counted. The only students counted were those studying. It was determined after collecting our data that females do in fact study in the library more than the males do

53. Study Hard!

Angel Hubaykah & Malaika Motaboli (PSY 200)

The purpose of our observational research was to determine which gender listens to music more while studying in the Macdonald-Kelce Library at the University of Tampa. After performing five observational sessions and observing a total of 250 students, we concluded that males listen to music more than females while studying in the library although statistical tests were not significant. However, additional analyses discovered that a statistically significant majority of students, regardless of gender, prefer to study without music.

54. Openness and the Influence of Listening to Music while Working

Mike Leone (PSY 200)

Listening to music while working is popular in the work and class setting. It is possible that individuals who choose to listen to music while working seem to be in positions or have majors requiring more open-mindedness and creative thinking. This study was performed using working individuals, as well as students, to see if there was a correlation between openness and music listening, especially for individuals in majors and occupations requiring creativity. It was expected that people who considered themselves more creative would score high for openness and would listen to music while working. Two surveys were distributed to determine participant's openness and their music listening behaviors. The hypotheses were not supported. The influence of music and its possible relationship to personality should continue to be studied in the future.

55. Personality and Behavior: Correlation between Openness to Experience and Attitudes toward Same-Sex Marriage among University of Tampa Students

Michelle Torrech Pérez, Xelmarie Medina Cáceres, & Bryan Fong Li (PSY 200)

Openness to Experience, a personality dimension that describes how open-minded a person is, has been identified as an important factor in understanding people's level of acceptance towards others. There has been little research about the relation between this variable and attitudes toward same-sex marriage, a debate taking place today. This research examines the relationship between Openness to Experience and attitudes regarding same-sex marriage. It was hypothesized that Openness to Experience would be positively correlated with attitudes toward same-sex marriage. Participants were randomly selected and asked to anonymously complete two questionnaires. The hypothesis was supported; there was a positive correlation between Openness to Experience and attitudes toward same-sex marriage, $r = .429$, $p < .01$. These results can shape views about the relationship between personality and people's attitudes towards same-sex marriage and lead to further research on how different personality dimensions are associated with attitudes towards same-sex marriage and other popular topics.

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., (2012, April). *Investigations into the psychology of time perception*. Poster presented at the spring 2012 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.