

Third Annual Psychology Research Colloquium, Metropolitan State University

November 23, 2013, Library, Room 302 (EcoLab)

Presenters, Projects, and Abstracts

Keynote Speaker:

Dr. Kim Halvorson – “What causes dual-task costs?”

Why dual-task costs are reduced with ideomotor (IM) compatible tasks? In a series of experiments, I tested the way in which task structure affects dual-task performance. The results suggest that in some cases, typical dual-task costs arise from task structure rather than from limitations associated with central processing. Dual-task costs cannot be predicted solely on the basis of the relationship between the stimuli and the responses; the relationship between the tasks, or the task pairing, plays a critical role in whether the tasks overlap and performance is impaired.

Student Research Presentations:

Theresa Skaar – ““Use it or Lose it”: An analysis of social vs. solitary activities on life satisfaction in older adults”

The purpose of the study was to investigate the impact of social activities on the quality of life in senior adults ages 65+. The study supports the idea that overall life satisfaction is rated higher in those seniors participating in social activities vs. solitary activities.

Desiree Phillips – “Forgiveness, Interdependence, and Closeness in Romantic Relationships”

The purpose of this study was to assess the quality of romantic relationships after a transgression. Based on the first 40 responses, significant correlations exist between relation strength & the forgiveness measures. When the full sample is obtained, I will explore constructs of hurt and/or length of relationship.

Kazune Hokazono – “Sorry Seems to be the Hardest Word: A Cross-Cultural Investigation of Forgiveness in Japan and the United States”

This cross-cultural study investigated the cultural effect of forgivingness between Japan (collectivists) and the United States (individualists). A survey used the Forgivingness Questionnaire and the Transgression Related Interpersonal Motivations Scale. Analyses revealed that people in Japan and the United States differ in how they view, and practice forgivingness.

Val Wilwert -- “Generation Me and the Environment: The Impact of Entitlement on Conservation Behaviors”

Research suggests that individuals demonstrating higher levels of entitlement report feeling that they deserve more than others. In a survey of attitudes and environmental conservation behaviors, it was found that participants that scored higher in measures of entitlement were less likely than low-entitlement individuals to participate in different forms of environmental conservation behaviors.

Katherine Arndt-Gerwig – “Efficacy of Antidepressants”

Do second-generation antidepressants (SGA's) improve self-reported depressive symptoms or overall well-being? Our meta-analysis of the results of secondary outcome measures used in clinical trials of SGA's found no significant difference between SGA's and placebo on self-reports of symptoms, nor pooled measures of global mental health, functioning, quality of life, autonomy, and self-esteem.

Tierza Loskota – “Investigating The Relationship Between Social Dominance Orientation, Previous Experience, and Present Attitudes Towards People With Physical Disabilities”

The current study examined the relationship between an individual's experience with physical disabilities, social dominance orientation, and their present attitudes towards physically disabled individuals. Participants were 54 undergraduate and graduate college students. A regression analyses demonstrated that previous experience and SDO are useful predictors of attitudes towards physically disabled people.

Student Posters:

Eric Cheney, Tina Olson and Emily Simers: “Conformity and Underage Drinking”

Peer pressure during high school years is often the cause of underage drinking. We were interested in whether or not those who were willing to conform in an experiment were the same people who participated in underage drinking. Our results showed a significant negative correlation between conforming and underage drinking.

Anita Clark and Megan Siedschlag: “Letter Priming and Cognitive Performance”

Our experiments tested the effects of letter priming on cognitive performance and whether test anxiety played a role. We hypothesized that positive letter priming would enhance test scores whereas negative letter priming would decrease test scores. We also hypothesized that priming would affect subjects with test anxiety at a higher rate. The data collected indicated neither letter priming nor test anxiety contributed to test performance.

Farrell Farr: “Spacing Effects and Learning Retention”

Do different study techniques affect performance on academic tasks? Results showed that a spaced-study technique in which a cognitive task interrupted the study period hindered performance in the context used in this experiment.

Stephen Johnson and Genevieve Marault: “Yes You Can! The Effect of Encouragement”

It's long been believed that encouragement improves performance, but does it? Our 32 subjects were given the same task to complete three times, and randomly received subtle encouragement before one of the trials. After controlling for progressive and carryover effects, we found that subjects felt less frustration and they improved (decreased) their performance times substantially after receiving encouragement.

Eva Kidder and Grace Melander: “The Effects of Group Work on Helpful Behavior”

Attitudes, cultural perspectives and motivational factors are known contributors of helping behavior. This study hypothesized helping behavior could be affected by group work. The motivation of this research strives to predict facilitation of helpful behavior in society, through an evaluation of environment where helpful behavior is most existent.

Felipe Martinez, Jason Nurse and LaToya Nins: “Facial Expressions”

Do people find it harder to recognize certain facial expressions when placed in a high induce situation versus a happy induced situation? We set out to test this theory. We generated the hypothesis that emotion affects a person's perception of another's facial expression

Jalyn Mruz: “False Memories on Priming”

The research is centered around the priming of false memories. Can priming cause a false memory? Will people remember words that aren't listed if they are given less strict rules for recording their results?

Karissa Rolstad and Rhiannon Sauter: “Gender Differences and Honesty”

Men have been known to be more competitive creatures and see others as a challenge whereas women tend to value interpersonal relationships, which may promote men to exhibit deceptive behavior more often than women.

Savannah Sproul: “Music & Exercise Performance”

This study investigated the effect music has on exercise performance to determine if participants were able to exercise longer when listening to music opposed to no music. The results showed that study music genre influences exercise.

Suggested citation format:

AuthorLastName, F. M. (2013, November). *Title of presentation goes here*. Paper/Poster presented at the Metropolitan State University Psychology Research Colloquium, St. Paul, MN.