

## **Fifth Annual Psychology Research Colloquium, Metropolitan State University**

November 21, 2015, Midway Center, Room P

Presenters, Projects, and Abstracts

### **Oral Research Presentations:**

#### **Megan Siedschlag – “The Role of Sexism in Perceptions of Domestic Violence”**

This study examines the role of sexism on perceptions of domestic violence, dependent on offender and victim gender, and manipulating level of violence as a moderator. A significant interaction is expected between participants' scores in benevolent sexism and their scores in perceptions of domestic violence.

#### **Ann Cook – “Preferred Group Modality for Encouraging Client Participation in Detox Facilities”**

Recidivism of substance abuse is problematic and costly for county detox facilities. Engaging residents in group activities provides opportunities for brief intervention. Identifying modalities which encourage participation is vital for increasing motivation and desire for change. This study suggests groups identified as leisure activities are more likely to encourage participation.

#### **Brittney Rademacher – “From Gaye to Grey: Sexual Behavior and Relationship Satisfaction”**

It is hypothesized that an increase in positive sexual behavior will increase relationship satisfaction. A self-report survey including constructs of relationship satisfaction, sexual behavior, sexual frequency and basic demographics were administered to participants. Regression analysis shows that both sexual behavior and frequency are associated with relationship satisfaction.

#### **Katelyn Schwieters -- “Are you plugged in? Development and validation of a plugged in scale”**

The current study investigates a new phenomenon, conceptualized as “plugged in.” Plugged in individuals share characteristics of addiction, dependency, and obsession towards their smartphones. This repeated use is linked to higher stress levels. Results revealed a final instrument that reliably captures the construct of “plugged in.”

#### **Patrick Curme -- “Predicting Attitudes Toward Gay and Lesbian Prospective Adoptive Parents”**

An investigation of biases and attitudes towards gay and lesbian couples in a proposed adoption scenario used individual difference variables and a novel orientation-blind attitudes scale to better understand the underlying sources of prejudice towards gay and lesbian prospective adoptive parents.

#### **Aaron Szczech-Johnson – “Do Beliefs in Conspiracy Lower Political Participation and Voting?”**

This study investigated conspiracy beliefs, locus of Control, internal and external political participation efficacy as predictors of political participation and voting intentions. Conspiracy beliefs were unrelated to political participation but predicted decreased voting intentions.

### **Student Poster Presentations:**

#### **Molly Holland: “Positive Thinking and Memory”**

This research project is about positive thinking and memory. I was interested in the amount and content of things people remembered when they were primed to feel positively. I recorded how participants felt, played some of them a song to see if their emotions changed, and then gave them a short memory questionnaire.

#### **Anthonie Collins: “Investigating the relationship between isolation and affect”**

Long-term isolation has negative effects on mental health and social behavior. This study examined the effect of short-term isolation on affect. The results showed no difference in negative affect between the isolation group and the non-isolation group but significantly different higher positive affect scores for the non-isolation group.

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### **Student Poster Presentations (continued):**

#### **Masno Abdulaya, Natasha Okorafor, & Elizabeth Shadeko: “Memory for faces under distracting conditions for older and younger adults”**

This experiment investigated a relationship between age and memory; participants viewed a set of unfamiliar faces accompanied by a distractor task: listening to music or tapping. Surprisingly, older participants scored better on the memory test than younger participants, while scores in the tapping group were higher than the music group.

#### **Brittany Bobleter: “Mood and Food Choices: the effect of presentation on selection”**

In this study participants were assigned to either a frustrated (unorganized survey) or not frustrated (organized survey) group. In the organized group more people chose an unhealthy snack from a menu where the items were pictured; in the unorganized group people chose unhealthy snacks from both menus.

#### **Eugenia Akem: “Investigating the relationship between motivation and frustration”**

In this study participants were grouped into a low or high motivation category based on their survey responses and then given an easy or difficult geometry problem. Participants working on the easy task and those with high motivation scores had higher levels of frustration but there was no significant interaction.

#### **Cante Walking Elk: “#NotYourIndian”**

This study investigated the effect of Native American-themed sports mascots (pictures of the logos or pictures of fans dressed up as the mascot or logo) on self-esteem in a Native American sample. Self-esteem was slightly higher for the group that saw photos of fans but this difference was not significant.

#### **Lukas Adams: “Investigating the relationship between music and anxiety”**

Participants’ anxiety was manipulated by a scripted high- or low-anxiety scenario. They listened to one of three types of music (reggae, classical, and rock) and completed a measure of state anxiety. Scores were highest in the low anxiety group following the classical music and high anxiety group following reggae music.

#### **Adrianna Del Real, Mark Zownirowycz, & Jamie Luttrell: “Cultural Transformations in Guatemala: One Fruit Tree at a Time”**

The current mixed-methods qualitative study examined the relationship between participation in an international community service project with perceptions of the importance of community service work projects. A significant correlation was determined between perceptions of “connectedness” to one’s community and CSW activities as important for all communities.

#### **Andrea Dunn: “Asking for help and anxiety”**

In this study participants were given a short or long time limit to solve a Sudoku puzzle of moderate difficulty. Participants in the short time limit group had higher scores on an anxiety survey and were less likely to ask for help than participants in the long time limit group.

#### **Suggested citation format:**

**AuthorLastName, F. M. (2015, November). *Title of presentation goes here.* Paper/Poster presented at the Metropolitan State University Psychology Research Colloquium, St. Paul, MN.**